



The Central Delaware Blues Society

A non-profit arts organization * Magnolia, Delaware

You don't play the Blues, you let it out!

PO Box 155, Magnolia DE 19962 * www.centraldelawareblues.com

International Blues Challenge (IBC) Self Produce CD Entry Form and Guidelines (EFFECTIVE 6/2025)

The International Blues Challenge represents the worldwide search for those Blues Bands and Solo/Duo Blues Acts ready to perform on the international stage, yet just needing that extra big break. Each Affiliate of The Blues Foundation has the right to send a band and a solo/duo act to represent its organization at the IBC. Affiliated organizations are required to stage an open, judged, live music competition during the year leading up to the IBC, with the winner of that event representing the organization in the International Blues Challenge held annually in Memphis, TN along historic Beale Street. While Affiliated Organizations are encouraged to follow The Blues Foundation's structure and rules during their local challenges, each organization is free to structure its preliminary rounds as it sees fit, if it is a true challenge between multiple acts takes place resulting in a single band and/or solo/duo act being identified. CDBS has developed a complete set of guidelines for its Local/Regional IBC Challenge, and these guidelines and any updates or additions, are made available to its members and the public via the CDBS Website, social media, newsletters and email blasts, and each entrant to the competition will be provided with a copy of the guidelines upon application to compete. Please see the [BLUES FOUNDATION IBC WEBSITE](http://www.bluesfoundation.org/IBCWebsite) for complete information on The International Blues Challenge.

Please let CDBS know you are interested in submitting a CD by emailing IBC@CentralDelawareBluesSociety.org. Questions can also be addressed to the same email

Schedule

- Application to submit Deadline for a Self-Produced CD: **October 3, 2025.**
- Deadline for submission of CD to The Blues Foundation: As published on their website. The winning CD will be submitted by Central Delaware Blues Society to the Blues Foundation .

Instructions for entering: Please review the Central Delaware Blues Society Local Guidelines (included on this form) along with the information found on the Blues Foundation website for The International Blues Challenge (IBC) BEFORE. Print and fill out the Central Delaware Blues Society IBC website download material or copy and print this page with the band's representative signature at the bottom. (Please print clearly.)

Eligibility Criteria

- This competition is open to Blues Acts.
- Entries for the Best Self-Produced CD are permitted by Blues Foundation Affiliated Organizations only (in this case, Central Delaware Blues Society).
- Each Affiliate is permitted one entry.
- The CD entered may be recorded and performed by an act other than is entered in the current year's International Blues Challenge.
- Compilations are not eligible.
- Only CDs released between November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2025 are eligible for consideration as the 2026 Best Self-Produced CD.
- CDBS will hold a competition to determine the CD it will sponsor for Best Self-Produced CD.
- A performer who has previously been nominated for a Blues Music Award (formerly the W.C. Handy Blues Award) shall not be eligible for this competition. A CD issued in the name of an otherwise eligible performer which also includes the contributions of a Blues Music Award nominee may be ineligible, depending on the extent of the contribution. Please contact The Blues Foundation directly to confirm eligibility.
- A CD on a record label that has been previously nominated for a Blues Music Award (formerly the W.C. Handy Blues Award) shall not be eligible for this competition.
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- At least one member of the Act must be a member of the CDBS prior to submitting an Entry Form package.
- Acts must be located within a 150-mile radius of the CDBS base of Dover, DE.

Submission Requirements

Please submit the following items:

- A completed, signed "Central Delaware Blues Society International Blues Challenge (IBC) CD Entry Form and Guidelines" with confirmation that at least one of the band members being in good standing as a member of the Central Delaware Blues Society. (See: "How do I become a member" on the CDBS Website.) All entries along with supporting materials must sent to IBC@CentralDelawareBluesSociety.org by the deadline.
- 6 Copies of the CD sent to:
 - a. **Central Delaware Blues Society**
P.O. Box 155
Magnolia, DE 19962
- Confirmation that all band members have read the entire Entry Form and Guidelines to include the Entry Form Agreement, Eligibility Criteria, and Scoring Criteria. An authorized signature by a representative of The Act is required at the bottom of this agreement to show compliance.
- Official band name and a short band bio (200 words or less).
- A digital color or B&W band photo with at least 300-dpi resolution.

- A link to the band's website or Facebook page (or any other social media accounts related to the Act).

Failure to send all the required items may forfeit eligibility. Please include everything (except the CDs) in single email sent to IBC@CentralDelawareBluesSociety.org by the deadline. The 6 CDs need to be sent by mail to: Central Delaware Blues Society, P.O. Box 155, Magnolia, DE 19962 and postmarked by the deadline.

Questions can be sent to IBC@CentralDelawareBluesSociety.Org.

Scoring Criteria (also see the CD Scoring Sheet on the IBC page at CentralDelawareBlues.com)

Judges will evaluate each submitted CD on the following characteristics. The criteria considered are listed in order of importance.

- (1) Blues Content**
- (2) Musical Performance**
- (3) Audio Quality and Production Value of the Recording**
- (4) Professionalism and Visual Appearance of Cover Art and Design**
- (5) Credits and Liner Note Information.**

Weighted Scoring (also see the CD Scoring Sheet on the IBC page at CentralDelawareBlues.com)

To reflect the relative importance of each category in the success of a band, a band's score in each category is weighted. Raw scores for Blues Content are multiplied by 5. Musical Performance, Originality and Audio Quality are each multiplied by 4. Cover/Art Design is multiplied by three, and Credits/Liner is multiplied by 2. The total in each category represents the Weighted Score for that category. Total possible weighted score is 220 per judge. The band with the highest sum of Net Weighted Scores is the winner.

Judging

The IBC in Memphis is judged by blues professionals from across the world who have years of experience in listening to, producing, and creating blues music. In a similar manner, CDBS makes every effort to secure the most experienced, knowledgeable, and impartial judges possible from in and around the region. There will be a minimum of three (3) judges and no more than (5) judges for each of the Band, Solo/Duo, and Self-Produced CD Challenges. Where possible, the same judges will be used for each competition. Judges will remain anonymous and must sign a disclosure form (attached to these guidelines) indicating their credentials for being able to judge a Blues competition, and their relationship to the competitors if applicable. Judges with obvious conflicts of interest such as personal or

professional relationships with any act will not be seated to evaluate any of the competitors. Judges are not compensated for their services but may be given a token of appreciation for their time. CDBS aims to keep a list of qualified judges on hand in the event an alternate judge is needed. Judges will be made aware of the scoring criteria in advance. The acts will be evaluated according to the scoring criteria, not compared with the other competing CDs.

Minimum Number of CDs Required at the Local Level

There is no minimum number of CDs required for holding a CD competition.

Central Delaware Blues Society International Blues Challenge (IBC) CD Entry Form agreement:

The undersigned hereby attests that he/she is 18 years of age or older; and is the responsible spokesperson for the individual(s) listed elsewhere on this form and identified below by real or stage name, and herein referred to as The Act.

1. **The undersigned has read, reviewed and agrees to the Central Delaware Blues Society Entry and Local Guidelines for The International Blues Challenge (IBC), including the attachments, BEFORE completing this entry form.**
2. It is agreed by the spokesperson that he/she and each member of The Act, do hereby exempt from all liability, The Central Delaware Blues Society and The Blues Foundation and all persons, organizations and companies that are directly or indirectly associated with the International Blues Challenge.
3. It is further agreed by the spokesperson that he/she and each member of The Act do hereby accept full responsibility for all taxes and restrictions relating to contest prizes received by The Act; further, each member of The Act, listed on the Entry Form, here-within permits The Central Delaware Blues Society the right to make use of his/her/their names, voices, pictures, visages and other likenesses of The Act for the purpose of advertising, publishing and promoting the Blues Challenge through media, including entertainment and music syndicated radio, film and/or television shows presented or produced by The Central Delaware Blues Society or its partners or assigns. In addition, the spokesperson and each member of The Act hereby agrees that The Central Delaware Blues Society will retain total ownership of the program(s), the right to edit the program(s), the right to broadcast the program(s), the right to copyright the program(s) and the right to license others to use these rights.
4. The winning Act from the CD has the option of hosting one of CDBS Thursday Jams in 2026 with the date to be negotiated with the Act and CDBS.
5. The undersigned spokesperson hereby acknowledges that each member of The Act is knowledgeable of and agrees to abide by the terms of the Official Rules and Eligibility Criteria and this document, as set forth by The Central Delaware Blues Society.

Applicants' Printed Name and Signature

Printed Name

Band Name

Signature