Solo/Duo       Thursday, August 31, 2017 at 8 p.m.

Rules and Restrictions
1. An act is limited to three consecutive appearances at the IBC, i.e. there must be a break of at least one year after competing in three back-to-back IBCs.

2. Any act, band, or solo/duo, that has won first place at the IBC may not enter a challenge in that same category in the future.

3. An individual musician who has won the IBC as a solo performer may not re-enter as part of a duo, nor can a member of an IBC winning duo then enter as a solo performer.

4. Acts or members of acts may not have appeared on a Blues Music Awards ballot.

5. Bands are defined as any act with three or more members.

6. Individuals may not play in more than one band for this competition. All acts will submit a list of members on the contest application.

7. Members of any band that does not make the finals of this competition are eligible to compete in the solo/duo competition if a slot is available.

8. Acts may compete in only one semi-final round.

9. The deadline to enter the competition is: Sunday, August 27, 2017. To enter the competition contact Dannielle Davis at (615) 506-5073 or dannielle.davis@spacityblues.org.

10. One act from the end of the night will be selected as the winner of the local competition.

11. Acts must submit an application to compete prior to the deadline. Any act that submits an application after the deadline may not be considered for the competition.
12. The Spa City Blues Society will furnish the backline for the band competition. The setup on stage will include a drum kit with snare drum, bass amp and mics with stands. Drummers should bring their own cymbals (Yes, you will need your own cymbals. You might want to bring your own snare drum and throne too). Harmonica players can bring their own harmonica amp. Keyboard players may bring their own keyboards and keyboard amps with stands. Effects racks and other auxiliary equipment are permitted. Guitar players may use their own amps for the local competition.

13. The order of appearance for the competition will be chosen randomly.

14. All acts are expected to check in at 7:00 pm the day of the competition. There will be a brief orientation regarding the competition. Failure to show up for check in and orientation could result in a loss of points or disqualification from the competition.

15. Sets for this competition will be 30 minutes long.

16. The Spa City Blues Society reserves the right to use any contestant's name, voices, pictures, visages and other likeness for the purpose of advertising, publishing and promoting the Spa City Blues Society, International Blues Challenge or the Blues Foundation. The Spa City Blues Society reserves the right to videotape or otherwise record all local contest performances. The Spa City Blues Society shall retain total ownership of all recordings and programs, and reserves the right to edit the program, the right to broadcast the program, the right to copyright the program and the right to license others to use these rights.

17. Local competition band and solo/duo winners agree to the following:
   b. Participate in two fundraisers scheduled between the date of the local competition finals and the International Blues Challenge.
   c. Appear at the annual Hot Springs Blues Festival, Labor Day Weekend, 2017 and Labor Day Weekend, 2018. This will be a paid performance.

18. The Spa City Blues Society guarantees sponsorship of the local competition winners to the International Blues Challenge. The Spa City Blues Society does not guarantee hotels, meals, mileage or any other expenses related to competing in the International Blues Challenge.

19. The Spa City Blues Society will be the final arbiter of all disputes for the local competition.
Scoring Criteria

The Spa City Blues Society will use the scoring criteria that has been established by the Blues Foundation. Categories include Talent, Vocals, Blues Content, Stage Presence and Originality. Additionally, for the local competitions and because they are being used as fundraisers, act's fans will be able to contribute to the scoring through donations in a tip jar labeled for each act.

1. Blues Content: Everyone has his or her own interpretation of what is and is not Blues. Thus, any given panel of judges will include members with varying opinions of the Blues, covering the spectrum of Blues whenever possible, from the most traditional to soul/blues and rock/blues. Bands should pick material carefully. At the Memphis semi-finals and finals, the judges are Blues professionals, not a bar crown, and are likely to be unimpressed with song selections that are uninspired. (Call this, with all due respect to Sir Mack Rice and Wilson Pickett, the "no Mustang Sally" rule.)

2. Vocals: The act's vocal skills.

3. Talent: The act's instrumental skills.

4. Originality: Original work is encouraged. Cover tunes are allowed but playing the recorded version lick by lick is discouraged, will not be looked upon favorably by the judges and will be reflected in scoring.

5. Stage Presence: Over the years, the quality of talent has risen so dramatically that the International Blues Challenge is no longer considered an amateur competition. Most contestants have performed on stage enough to know that they are not simply playing music, but putting on a show. This category rates how 'sellable' an act may be.

6. Tip Jar: The local competition is also a fundraiser. As such, a 'tip jar' with each act's name on it will be placed near the performance area. Fans may vote for their favorite act by putting money in the tip jar. The act with the most money will receive 10 points in the competition scoring; second most, 9 points; third most, 8 points; and last, 7 points.

To reflect the relative importance of each category in the success of an act, an act's score in each category is weighted. Raw scores for Blues Content is multiplied by four (4), Talent and Vocals by three (3) and Originality, Stage Presence and Tip Jar are multiplied by two (2). The total in each category represents the weighted score for that category. Total possible weighted score for the local competition is 160 points.
**Penalty Points**
An act is penalized one point from its total weighted score for each ten seconds that it runs overtime. There is no penalty for using less than the allotted time. At the Spa City Blues Society's discretion, a penalty for excessive time loading in or out will also be applied.

In addition, participants can lose points for non-compliance with administrative aspects of the competition. These include, but are not limited to:
- Application was filled out completely, accurately and before the deadline.
- Act checked in at correct time.
- Act ready to perform at proper time.

These items demonstrate professionalism and seriousness about the competition and the business side of the blues.

**Scoring System for Judges**
This is the scoring procedure for the 2018 IBC.

1. All categories and weighing are as previously stated.

2. Each judge will indicate his/her raw score (a whole number between 1 and 10) in each category and turn that information over to the scorekeeper.
   - 1-3 Typical of a beginning blues band
   - 4-5 Typical of a local weekend band
   - 6-7 Typical of an advanced local band but not yet ready to headline a major blues club
   - 8-9 Typical of the quality of blues artists who headline major clubs
   - 10 Typical of those who play the main stage at major festivals such as Chicago or King Biscuit

3. The scorekeeper will multiply the raw score in each category by the established multiplier to get each judge's weighted score in each category for each act.

4. The weighted score from each category for an act are added together to determine the act's total weighted score for each judge.

5. Any penalty points will then be deducted to obtain the act’s net weighted score for each judge.

6. After all acts have been judged and each act's net weighted score for each judge calculated, each act will then be ranked for each judge based on that judge's order of scores, with the act receiving the judge's highest net weighted score being given a 1, and so forth for that judge. So, in a competition with four acts, for example, each judge ends up with the acts ranked 1 - 4 based on each judges personal scoring habits. This results in the acts final ranking number for each judge.
7. Next, the scorer total the final ranking number from all judges for each act to determine the gross final ranking. That figure is averaged (divided by the total number of judges) to achieve the aggregate act ranking.

8. In case of a tie, the scorer shall calculate the sum of all total weighted scores from all judges for the tied acts. The act with the higher sum of the total weighted scores wins.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Weighted Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blues Content</td>
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<td>X 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vocals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talent</td>
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<td>X 3</td>
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<td>Originality</td>
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<td>Stage Presence</td>
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<td>Tip Jar</td>
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<td>Total Weighted Score</td>
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Judge's Comments:

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Spa City Blues Society
International Blues Challenge Local Competition
Application

Category:  Band _____  Solo/Duo _____

Name of Act: ___________________________________________

Primary Contact Person: __________________________________

Telephone: _______________  E-mail: _______________

Alternate Telephone: _______________

Names of act's members:
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

Number of vocal mics needed: _____

Website (if applicable): _______________________________________

Acknowledgements:
By signing this acknowledgement I verify that I have received a copy of the Spa City Blues Society's Rules and Restrictions and Scoring Criteria for this local competition and that I will abide by them in their entirety. I hereby hold the Spa City Blues Society and its representatives and agents harmless for damages or disputes that may occur during this competition.

________________________________________
Representative of competing act