

THE 2009 SACRAMENTO BLUES SOCIETY BLUES GUITAR SHOWDOWN

Rules

1. Who can enter?

This is an *all-ages* event, open to *all* guitar players. Adult and youth acts may be a trio, duo or solo. Participants are *not* required to be members of the Sacramento Blues Society. Performers are limited to a guitar player with up to two (2) additional musicians on stage. Additional musicians can be bass, drums, rhythm guitar, etc. Both electric and acoustic guitars are allowed.

2. Scoring Criteria

Scoring will follow one simple rule: which band receives the loudest audience affirmation through applause. All applause *must* be human based such as clapping, foot-stomping, whistling, or verbal affirmation. All non-human applause will be disqualified. Non-human applause includes the use of cow-bells, metal whistles, etc.

a. Blues Content: Song selections may be blues covers. Original blues content is encouraged.

b. Vocals: Vocals are allowed, and encouraged.

c. Stage Presence: Stage presence is an asset. 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" a band may be.

3. Use of Back-Line Equipment

The Sacramento Blues Society reserves the right to approve or restrict any and all equipment an entrant wishes to bring on stage. Following the rules established by the Memphis International Blues Challenge, *all musicians will use the back-line amps and drums provided for this event.* This rule is necessary in observing the 5-minute change-out rule. *Guitar and bass players are encouraged to bring their effect pedals and cables.* *Acoustic guitars* will be channeled through the PA via a direct box. *Drummers* should bring their snare, kick-pedal, cymbals and throne.

4. The "Finals" Competition

1. The top three bands will compete in the finals. The audience decides the winner, using an electronic "decibel" meter.

5. Penalties

a. Non-blues oriented acts will not be invited to perform in the Finals.

b. Non-human noise makers, not created by clapping, shouting, etc. If applause is made using non-human noise makers, participants will cooperate in asking the audience to cease. If the designated participants do not cooperate with the Showdown rules, they may forfeit their slot in the Finals.

c. Bands are penalized if they exceed the five (5) minute band change-out time and may lose their slot in the Finals, should they qualify.

d. Band members and audience disobeying SBS and venue rules (such as outside drinks and food, underage drinking) will be asked to leave. Participants will also be disqualified.

Band members *disobeying club and venue rules* will be disqualified (outside drinks and food; underage drinking).

6. Reserved Rights

The Sacramento Blues Society (SBS) reserves the right to record performances for non-profit publicity purposes. Outside recordings at this Event, sanctioned by the performer(s) will prominently acknowledge The Sacramento Blues Society.