

## **Blues Artists, What You Should Expect During the 2024 Southwest Florida Regional IBC**

- **All Registered Acts**, (Band Leader or Band Member) should arrive at 12:00 Noon for a brief orientation meeting, (12:00 - 12:30) to explain the process and what to expect. If you decide to leave after that, you (the Artist(s)) will need to be ready to take stage at least thirty (30) minutes prior to your scheduled stage time.
- **Pre-Staging/ load-in** can be done early, at 11:30 AM until 12:00 noon and 12:30 12:50 PM **or between acts (not during a performance)** and load-in-out will be through a designated side door, it will be clearly marked and staffed inside.
- **We will provide a basic backline**, guitar amp, bas rig, mic's, keyboard stand, drum kit, Monitors and PA system, if you have any questions or concerns let us know, "ahead of time".
- **Drummers** bring your usual, cymbals, sticks, throne, snare, ...etc.
- **Keyboard players** bring your keyboard, (we will have a scissor stand to use).
- **Harp Players and Guitarists**, you can bring a specific amp if needed, we will likely have a couple Fender amps on stage as part of the backline.
- **All sets are 20 minutes in length**, "your performance must be completely live", **No background tracks, drum machine, etc.**
- **Solo/ Duo acts** will have **5 minutes for change out**, **Bands will have 10 minutes for change out**, we encourage everyone to work together.
- **Artists and Band members will be given a wrist band when you arrive**, which is good for the entire day.
- **Awards and Award Categories are covered in your Registration/ Agreement.** There will also be a **"People's Choice" award, (which is specific to the SWFBS) we encourage you to ask your friends and fans to come and vote.** The **People's Choice award**, "only garners local bragging rights for the year", it does not get you registered for the Memphis IBC. It is, however, a powerful marketing tool, which acknowledges that you are well liked in Southwest Florida.
- **You will be Judged by an independent panel of judges**, using the same standards established by the Blues Foundation and used during the IBC in Memphis.
- **Winners** (depending on registration participation and category requirements) will be registered for the 2025 "International Blues Challenge" in Memphis, TN. Memphis **dates are slated for January 7-11, 2025.**
- **Send Us a Diagram of your stage plot**, this will help expedite the change out times.

### **IBC Categories:**

Youth Showcase, Solo/Duo, and Band. **“Our IBC Categories will require a minimum of two (2) entries per category”** defined as a competition. Otherwise, categories may be combined resulting in one (1) overall winner (based on the judges overall high score) that would be advancing to the Memphis IBC. In other words, **no one would win simply by default.** **People’s Choice Award, is specific to the SWFBS,** and only garners local bragging rights for the next calendar year. A great marketing tool for your local and regional bookings. Whoever gets the most attendee votes wins “the People's Choice Award”.  
**More About the Memphis IBC:** <https://blues.org/international-blues-challenge/>