

INDIE MUSIC FEST

National Judging Criteria

Bands must play **ORIGINAL MUSIC**. Bands/Acts will be scored with points on a scale of 1 to 10 with ten being the highest in each of the categories by a panel of 3 judges. **For example**; if a band scores all 10's in every category, by all three judges, the maximum score a band could receive in **7 primary categories** is 210 points.

Judges **SHOULD** use **FRACTIONAL SCORES** such as **8.5** or **9.3**. **This helps to eliminate ties**. Scoring only in whole numbers or with only a .5 fractional **will result in a large number of ties** with 40 bands.

A panel of 3 judges will judge bands in 7 primary categories.

Musicianship: How well do they play instruments, vocal quality? Can you understand the lyrics/vocals?

Visual Presentation: Stage Presence, clothes, costuming, actions on stage, props, etc.

Originality: Is the band different, unique? Do they sound like every other band of their genre?

Audience Response: Do they capture the audience attention and hold it? Applause is secondary.

Song Writing: How well are the songs written musically and lyrically? No penalty for ALL INSTRUMENTAL.

Professionalism: Set up and break down on time, acknowledgements, introductions, etc.

Overall Entertainment Value: How entertaining was the band? Are they relevant to today's music?

There are no "Rounds" or "Finals." Each band gets to play only one set in the event. Therefore, it is in the best interest of all bands to play to the best of their ability. Your band will be scored with points on a scale of 1-10 with ten being the highest in each of the **7 categories** by a panel of **3 judges**. For example, if a band scores all 10's in every category, by all three judges, the maximum score a band could receive is **210 points**.

The bands with the top three combined judges scores at the end of the event win, and will receive awards/prizes at the end of the event. All scores posted by Judges are final.

Audience Response **does not mean** judges score that category based on loudest applause. It is based on a band capturing the audience attention and holding it with music and charisma. Applause is meaningful in that judges will notice if you have a fan base present, but this is secondary to considering audience response. A high caliber band will hold the attention of all audience members in the venue, regardless of who their favorite band may be.

There is no such thing as "Winner by Applause".

Winner by applause is a "Battle of the Fans", **NOT** a Battle of the Bands.

The only bands that are able to win in a "Winner by Applause" event are the last 3 or 4 bands of the event that still have fans present. We consider this type of event an egregious insult to the first bands on stage in the lineup.. Nuff said!

FINAL CRITICAL NOTES TO ALL JUDGES:

The easiest mistake to make in judging is to pass the following value judgment:

“This is clearly the best band I have ever heard!”

After making this judgment, you might be inclined to score the bands all 10's in the 7 judging categories. If this band was early or first in the lineup, there is no room for scoring a band higher later in the event. In your initial bands scores, be on the conservative side and allow the highest band scores to be a benchmark for later scoring.

When scoring extremely high scores you should ask yourself; “Is this band truly among the best bands in the nation?” If your answer is NO, you must re-evaluate your extremely high overall score so it accurately reflects a band's ability to be signed by a Major Label or Major Indie Label. Thank you in advance for your fair and objective evaluation of ALL acts whether Solo/Duo or Full Band.

It should be just as easy for a truly gifted SOLO or DUO act to win the event as for a Full Compliment Band to win. We are seeking the next great INDIE acts regardless of the composition or size of the act.

NOTE: There is NO PENALTY for: All Instrumental Music.

JUDGES COMMENTS & TIE BREAKERS:

Judges should feel free to make comments on the back of their score sheet for each band. Upon completion of scoring bands, judges should circle a **TIE BREAKER** score in the top scoring line. This is your impression of how the band would score if there was a tie for one or more of the top spots at the end of the competition.

