

Battle of the Bands: Rules & Guidelines

1. Eligibility

- The competition is open to all bands, regardless of genre

2. Entry Requirements

- All bands must submit the completed entry form by deadline **October 15, 2025**
- Each entry must include a band bio, a link to a demo, and social media handles if applicable
- Each entry form must be accompanied by **\$50 non-refundable entry fee** in the form of cash or check made payable to: The Russell County Bicentennial

3. Performance Requirements

- Each band will be allotted a 10 minute sound check plus 20 minutes to perform a live set
- The set must be performed with live instruments (no backing tracks, pre-recorded vocals, etc.).
- Bands can play original songs or covers
- **(1) Song must be from this list:**
 - ✚ **The Star-Spangled Banner** – National Anthem of the United States.
 - ✚ **America the Beautiful** – A song celebrating the beauty of the United States.
 - ✚ **God Bless America** – A patriotic anthem that expresses hope and prayer for the country.
 - ✚ **This Land Is Your Land** – A folk song written by Woody Guthrie celebrating the American landscape.
 - ✚ **America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)** – A classic patriotic song often sung during American events.
 - ✚ **Born in the U.S.A.** – Bruce Springsteen’s anthem reflecting on American life.
 - ✚ **The Battle Hymn of the Republic** – A historic song often associated with the American Civil War.
 - ✚ **Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue** – Toby Keith's song expressing pride in the American military
 - ✚ **Some Gave All, by Billy Ray Cyrus** A stoic reminder that freedom has a high price and is a patriotic song delivered on Veterans Day and beyond.
 - ✚ **Take Me Home County Roads, by John Denver** A folk song that transcends our nation
 - ✚ **Only in America, by Brooks & Dunn** Our nation is made up of many different people, cultures, and dreams. That’s the beauty of the American Dream
- All performances & attire must adhere to community standards (e.g., no offensive language or inappropriate content).

4. Judging Criteria

Battle of the Bands: Scoring Rubric

Each category will be scored on a scale of **1 to 10**, with **1 being the lowest** and **10 being the highest**. Judges will assign a score in each category based on the band's performance.

1. Musical Talent (Technical Ability, Musicianship, and Overall Performance Quality)

- **10:** Flawless technical ability with exceptional musicianship. The performance is tight, synchronized, and well-executed by every member.
- **7–9:** Strong technical skills and good musicianship, with minor flaws that don't detract from the overall performance.
- **4–6:** Competent musical performance, but there are noticeable issues in timing, execution, or musical complexity.
- **1–3:** Weak technical skills or significant performance flaws that affect the overall musical quality.

2. Stage Presence (Ability to Engage and Entertain the Audience)

- **10:** Charismatic and energetic stage presence that captivates the audience. The band interacts with the crowd and maintains high energy throughout the performance.
- **7–9:** Solid stage presence with engaging moments, though it may lack consistency in audience interaction or energy levels.
- **4–6:** Average stage presence. The band performs well but doesn't fully engage the audience or convey a strong sense of connection.
- **1–3:** Limited stage presence or energy, with minimal engagement or interaction with the audience.

3. Originality (Creativity in Songwriting, Arrangement, and Performance Style)

- **10:** Highly original, fresh, and unique in songwriting, arrangements, and performance style. The band stands out as innovative and distinct.
- **7–9:** Original, though it may draw from existing influences. The songwriting, arrangements, and performance style are creative but not entirely unique.
- **4–6:** Some originality but relies on common musical formulas or styles. The performance may lack a distinct voice or identity.
- **1–3:** Little to no originality. The performance feels derivative or uncreative, with no unique aspects.

4. Audience Response (Crowd's Reaction to the Band's Performance)

- **10:** The audience is fully engaged and enthusiastic, showing clear appreciation through cheers, applause, and excitement.
- **7–9:** The audience responds positively, with moments of engagement, but not as consistently throughout the performance.

- **4–6:** The audience’s response is average or mixed, with some moments of enthusiasm but overall low engagement.
- **1–3:** The audience is largely disinterested or unresponsive to the performance.

5. Overall Impact (Ability to Stand Out and Leave a Lasting Impression)

- **10:** The band leaves a powerful, lasting impression with a memorable performance that sets them apart from the competition. They stand out both musically and in stage presence.
- **7–9:** A solid performance that stands out but doesn’t have a lasting impact or memorable quality.
- **4–6:** The band’s performance is good but forgettable. They may blend in with the other bands or fail to make a strong impression.
- **1–3:** The performance doesn’t leave a lasting impact and is easily forgettable.

Total Score Calculation: Each category will be scored on a scale from **1 to 10**. The total maximum score per band is **50 points**.

5. Competition Format

- Only one band will be chosen as the winner and will headline the event on October 18, 2025.

6. Prizes

- Winner \$1500 plus headline the event on October 18, 2025 @ the Bicentennial Festival
- 2nd Place \$750
- 3rd Place \$500

7. Behavior and Conduct

- All band members and supporters must behave in a professional and respectful manner throughout the competition.
- Any form of harassment, misconduct, or damaging behavior towards other participants, event staff, or attendees will result in immediate disqualification.
- The event organizers reserve the right to remove any participant who violates the rules or engages in inappropriate conduct.

8. Equipment

- Bands are responsible for bringing their own instruments and equipment, unless otherwise specified.
- [Insert any specifics on provided equipment, e.g., sound system, amps, microphones, etc.]

- Soundchecks will be provided before each performance, and all bands must arrive at least 30 minutes prior to their scheduled performance time.

9. Performance Times

- Bands must adhere to the scheduled performance time and be ready to perform promptly.
- Late arrivals or failure to perform within the allotted time may result in point deductions or disqualification.

10. Cancellation & Changes

- If a band needs to cancel their participation after entry, they must inform the organizers as soon as possible.
- The event organizers reserve the right to modify the rules or schedule, if necessary, with prior notice to the participants.

11. Copyright & Permissions

- Bands are responsible for ensuring that they have the legal rights to perform any copyrighted songs or material during the competition.
- By participating, bands grant the event organizers permission to record and use their performances, images, and music for promotional purposes, including social media, websites, and marketing materials.

12. Liability

- The event organizers are not responsible for any injuries or damages incurred by participants or their equipment before, during, or after the event.
- Participants agree to indemnify the event organizers and their affiliates from any claims arising out of their involvement in the competition.

Important Dates:

- **Entry Form Submission with Fee \$50 Deadline:** October 15, 2025
- **Competition Date:** October 17, 2025
- **Location:** Russell County Veterans Memorial Fairgrounds [2000 Lakeway Drive Russell Springs, KY 42642](#)
- **Winner Open for Headliner Date:** October 18, 2025