



2020 Battle of the Bands Rules & Regulations

You must read and understand the rules prior to registering your band. If the rule is here you can bet that this has been an issue/point of contention at one point in competition, whether this one or another competition.

REGISTRATION:

1. Entry Fee: \$20 Non Refundable. Judges will determine which 24 bands will compete.
2. Deadline: All entries must be submitted by 11:59 pm on January 8, 2020 at www.valleycultural.org/submissions/rockthevalley
3. Please include:
 - a. Link to a photo of band members,
 - b. Short bio,
 - c. Video of your entire band playing a song (see criteria below) on an .mp3 sample of music that must not exceed five minutes (and 5Mb in size) and poste on one of the following social medial platforms.
 - i. YouTube
 - ii. Facebook
 - iii. Instagram
4. Be sure your post is set to Public or judges will not be able to view the entry and you will not be considered.
5. Copy the URL link to your entry on your submission form.
6. We will post all valid links meeting the song criteria to URL Facebook page
7. All registration fees must be paid online through PayPal. No cash or check payments are accepted.
8. If you do not register, you will not be allowed to participate in the event. Once the registration deadline has passed, no additional bands will be added.
9. Registration will be announced soon. Subscribe to the mailing list to be notified of updates. Once the bracket is filled, all subsequent bands will be added to the waitlist.

SONG CRITERIA

1. Contestants may submit an original or cover of an existing song, but all cover songs must be identified as a cover and contain the original song title and the artist version they are covering.
2. Song lyrics must be Family Friendly. Songs with obscene subject matter, use of profanity, or songs of a suggestive nature will not be considered.
3. Each band must play one (1) original and one (1) cover song.
4. All participants must play the song they used to enter the contest, and were selected for.

WHO CAN ENTER?

1. Any type of musical act.
2. All bands must contain a minimum of three (3) members with at least two (2) providing live instrumentation
3. Band members must be at least 18 years old. No Exceptions. You must be at least 18 years old by the night of your performance.
4. This event is open to California bands only. At least two members of your band must reside in California.
5. Proof of residency will be required at the registration meeting on January 13, 2020.

WHO CAN NOT ENTER?

1. Full Time employees of the Madrid Theatre, Trade Show Production, MSS Audio and Valley Cultural Foundation.
2. Out of state bands

REGISTRATION NIGHT

1. All confirmed registrants must attend Registration Night which will be held on Monday, January 13, 2020, at the Madrid Theatre. This night will provide a review of the rules and regulations, then host a blind draw for the night you will perform in the Preliminary round.
2. All registration fees will be paid online through PayPal. No cash or check payments are accepted.
3. You must have your driver's license and proof of California residency with you on Registration Night.
4. To Recap: You must register online by January 8, 2020, **and** attend the Mandatory Registration Night, January 13, 2020.

ROUNDS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

1. All Battle nights are scheduled on Mondays
2. The first round of the Battle of the Bands will begin on Monday, January 27, 2020.
3. The competition will be set up tournament bracket style. There will be up to 6 bands performing each night.
4. Only two bands from each Preliminary round Battle will advance to the Semifinals. Bands advancing to the Semifinals may be shifted to a different date than shown in the bracket, due to schedule availability and/or organizer's discretion.
5. Semifinals will be held on Monday February 27 and Monday March 2, 2020.
6. Semifinal Round will consist of up to 4 bands per night and up to 2 bands from each semifinal night will advance to the finals.
7. The Finals will be held at The Madrid on Monday, March 23, 2020, where the final four acts will perform.

VOTING & JUDGING:

1. In all rounds: A combination of Audience **on line** and Judges Votes determine the winner(s).
2. Audience Votes: Each paid admission will receive one ballot. On each ballot you must vote for two bands from that night's performance. Any ballot with only one band listed or any bands listed more than once, will be void and not included in the vote counts. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
3. Instagram votes: Follow Valley Cultural Foundation on Instagram and vote on line for two bands from that night's performance. Instagram votes must be submitted by 11:59 on the night of the performance. Band will be notified by noon on the following day of their appearance if they will be moving onto the Semifinals.

4. Judges Votes: Each night there will be up to 3 judges. Judges are pre-selected members of the local music community – in some cases from the music industry. Judges will rotate weekly. If a judge has a relationship with a band or band member, they will not be allowed to participate in that evening's event.
5. The identity of the judges is protected until the Finals are complete. Judges ballots are not available for review.
6. In the event of a tie score, the band that receives the greater number of first place votes from the audience, will advance. If there is still a tie, the amount of 2nd place votes will determine who advances.
7. Any ballot suspected of forgery, malfeasance or is not legible will be voided at the organizers discretion.
8. Audience ballots will be available for inspection the following business day at the Valley Cultural Foundation office. Ballots are only eligible for review by band/band members participating in that prior evening's event, by the judges or by the local media. General public are ineligible to review the ballots. Reviews must be conducted in the Valley Cultural Foundations office with a member of our staff present.
9. Each band will receive a 20 minute set. You should pre-plan your sets accordingly. Set-times are strictly enforced.
10. Point Deductions: For each minute your band plays over the 20 minute allotted time slot, you will be deducted 25 points. This is a substantial deduction and could drastically change the night's outcome. If you play 5 or more minutes over your 20 minute set-time, you are immediately disqualified, and subject to the stage manager grabbing you with the hook.
11. Bands are limited to only 1 "one" cover song per set. A parody is considered a cover. Any performance including even a small section from a cover or parodied song, is considered a cover. For example, in The Fuglees song, "Get The Fuck Off The Stage", there is a small musical interlude borrowing from the Lynyrd Skynyrd song "Sweet Home Alabama". That small section of music would count as The Fuglees cover, and they would be disqualified by playing any more covers, or sectional covers of a song.
12. In the event of a challenge regarding a cover song the judges and Battle manager will have the final call. This is an original music competition. 1 COVER LIMIT!!! NO EXCEPTIONS. If you have any questions about the validity of your performance with respect to the cover situation, contact Valley Cultural Foundation IN ADVANCE.
13. Attention Hip Hop acts: Only hip hop acts with original songs will be accepted. The one cover rule still applies.
14. "The Beat Issue": Is a "sample" considered a cover? Yes. If you have Ludacris' beat in your song, and you wrote original lyrics for the performance, that is your cover, and you are not allowed another one. Outside of your one permitted cover/sample, you must perform with original beats.
15. The final outcome of the evening will be weighted by 40% audience vote / 60% judges vote. This percentage is derived in the following way. After points are tallied for the audience vote, the resulting order will be factored in as the "fourth judge". The combined results from the three judges, and this fourth "audience" judge yields the overall results for the judges vote. In this way, the audience technically has 40% weight in its vote, leaving 60% for the three judges.
16. **Votes will be tallied after on line voting ends. Bands will be notified by noon of the following day if they will be moving on. We will tally the votes each evening and announce who advances. The results will be read from the stage roughly 30 minutes after the final performance, or as long as it takes to tally the final results. We will post the final results on our website the following day.**

JUDGING SYSTEM:

1. The judging system is designed to keep the contest open to all skill levels and song choices while keeping the event fair and competitive.
2. Judges will be instructed to ignore "genre bias"...not to reward a band for playing a type/style of music that the judge personally likes, and, conversely, not to penalize a band simply because the music isn't agreeable with the judge's personal taste.
3. There are five categories on which each band will be judged.
4. Each category is worth 20 points.
5. At the end of each performance, the total number of points a band receives from each judge will be added together with the other judges to reach the bands final score.
6. Each judge will be given a scoring sheet for the band. There will be a place for judges to write comments. Once the competition is over, bands will have the opportunity to obtain the scoring forms from the event coordinator.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. PLANNING/PREPAREDNESS:
 - a. Evidence of performance planning; i.e. Choreography, demonstration of the musical/movement or program dynamics, etc.
 - b. Instruments and equipment made ready prior to performance, start on time, stay within time limits for set-up and break-down.
 - c. Evidence of rehearsal, bands know the lyrics, bands appeared ready and prepared to play.
2. ORIGINALITY:
 - a. Do the songs fit the genre, how unique do the songs sound, do the songs fit the set?
 - b. Is the bands appearance original, does the band look original, does the band stand out?
 - c. Does the band demonstrate any level of original improvisational skill? For example, 'jam out' or vocal through an instrument change, repair or equipment failure.
3. INTERFACE WITH AUDIENCE AND OTHER MEMBERS:
 - a. Did the band interact with the audience?
 - b. Did they members interact during the performance?
4. QUALITY OF PERFORMANCE:
 - a. How was the bands confidence and competence?
 - b. Did they look at ease while playing?
 - c. Did they appear to be able to do what they wanted to do?
 - d. How was the bands stage presence, did they use the stage effectively?
 - e. Does the bands attitude appear suitable to their genre?
5. AUDIENCE REACTION:
 - a. Was the audience engaged and appreciative?

PRODUCTION ON BATTLE NIGHTS:

1. All bands and equipment must arrive at The Madrid Theatre during the designated load in time period noted in your advance (6:00pm) for load in. You must be on time. The official standard for time is the stage clock at The Madrid. All of the events times are run from this clock. (Suggestion: Take note of this registration night, and synchronize your watch with the stage clock) We'd like to say NO excuses for being late, but we realize life happens. Within reason, VCF will do the best to accommodate a traffic, flat tires, etc., but we expect you to do your best and plan accordingly to be at the venue on time.
2. You ARE permitted to have a sole representative for your band present during the load in period PROVIDED that representative is IN THE BAND, and has loaded in ALL of your equipment. When we say ALL, we mean ALL equipment. Anything less, and you are subject to disqualification.
3. When you register, you will be asked to fill out the names of each member of your band. On the night of your performance, you must have ONLY the members that you listed on your registration, and ALL the members you listed on your registration, perform. HOWEVER, if you would like to make a change to your lineup for your performance, that change is subject to approval by Valley Cultural Foundation must be made at a minimum of 24 hours PRIOR to your performance or you are subject to immediate disqualification. Another example: you want to add a keyboard player to your band, and he wasn't listed in your registration line-up,

if you notify us in advance, that will be subject to approval. If you don't notify us, no keyboard player. These rules are here for a reason to keep the event fair and from bands stacking the deck in their favor with guest performers or becoming a 15 piece band on show night to garner more votes.

4. Drawing for the evening's set times you will have the opportunity to sign up for our play time. We strongly recommend that bands coming from a distance take later play times.
5. Any band that has not arrived at the Madrid theatre 30 minutes before play time will be disqualified from Battle of the Bands. There are no exceptions to this rule. You can guarantee the staff, organizers and the other bands are watching the clock.
6. There are 10 minute set-changes allotted. In the event that a set-change runs into the bands scheduled time due to technical difficulties, the following time slots will be adjusted and you will get your full 20 minute time slot. If the set change runs long as a result of an elaborate stage setup, it is at the discretion of the stage manager to either allow the full 20 minutes, or to start the clock before you are ready. We are very good about getting bands on and off, but it behooves you to clear any concerns about your setup with the stage manager PRIOR to your performance. No banners or backdrops.
7. Each band must sign a performance contract which stipulates theatre rules and regulations. Violation of anything on this contract will automatically disqualify your band from the competition.
8. You can bring one (1) roadie and one (1) guitar tech, sorry otherwise there is NO guest list. Which includes no Wives, High School buddies or co-workers. (Band members only!). With that said, other than actual performers, there is NO ONE permitted in the backstage green room area. Additionally, band hospitality is strictly for band members only. Anyone caught giving hospitality foods to audience members or anyone other than members of their band will be disqualified from the competition
9. All bands must use the Madrid Theatres sound and light engineers. No exceptions.
10. Each night there will be a stage manager to assist with set-up and tear-down for each band. The stage manager has the final word on all time challenges.
11. Production information and specifics for the finals at The Madrid Theatre will be advanced with the 4 finalist bands prior to the Finals.

EQUIPMENT:

1. Equipment Provided Each Night: 5 piece drum kit, 3 cymbal stands, hi-hat stand, snare drum (snare stand provided) and single bass drum pedal, all mics and mic cables. (check with Jim or Joe)
2. The use of the provided drum kit is mandatory. If you would like to add to the kit you may do so. Please notify the stage manager at check-in about your intentions.
3. You need to bring: Cymbals (you may want to bring an extra cymbal stand just in case), Hi-Hat Cymbal, Throne, Sticks, Double Bass Pedal (if required), Guitars, Amps, DI Boxes and anything and everything you would need for your show other than what is provided. Not clear about something? Don't wait until the night of the show...ask us in advance, and then everyone's happy.
4. You may bring your own snare drum if you like.
5. Bands are responsible for getting their equipment on and off the stage in a timely manner.
6. Band members are responsible for the security of their personal equipment.
7. Anyone caught stealing, tampering with or removing any of the Battle of the Bands gear or equipment will be disqualified and subject to prosecution.
8. Anyone damaging any equipment owned by MSS Audio, The Madrid Theatre the Valley Cultural Foundation and any other parties are responsible for replacing the equipment at regular price within 10 business days.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Each band's first round performance date will be announced at the Registration meeting on January 13, 2020.
2. Contestants must be available to play between the hours of 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm on any one of the preliminary rounds which will take place on Monday nights, January 27, and February 3, 10, & 17, 2020.
3. Contestant must be available to play between the hours of 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm during the semifinals February 24 and March 2, 2020.
4. Contestant must be available to play between the hours of 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm during the finals on March 23, 2020.

5. Bands cannot switch performance nights once the competition has started. If you have a scheduling conflict you must let us know Registration night. It would be a good idea to bring your upcoming schedule with you.
6. In the event that you cannot play on your scheduled date, although you cannot be rescheduled once the competition has begun, you must notify us as soon as you know. Not showing up and not bothering to call will prevent another local band from being able to enter. And, it's just kind of a bad look for you.
7. The entry fee is NON-REFUNDABLE, regardless of the circumstance.
8. Again, everyone in your band must be at least 18 years old by the time of your performance to even be allowed to enter.
9. Make sure to educate your fans, friends and family to vote for two (2) separate bands, or their vote will be tossed.
10. The entire performance must be violence-free and suitable for families.
11. If a band incites moshing or any other sort of violence in the crowd, the band will be immediately disqualified and the performance will be stopped.
12. The use of any illegal substances will not be tolerated. If any band member is suspected to be under the influence of an illegal substance, the entire band will be disqualified and the proper authorities will be notified.
13. If someone in your band gets kicked out of the theatre on the night of your performance, your band will be disqualified. If someone in your band gets banned from the theatre on any night for any reason, you are subject to disqualification at the theatre's request. In short, don't be a dummy and get kicked out.

MARKETING & PROMOTION:

1. Each band will be responsible for selling 50 tickets at \$10 for each performance. These tickets can be purchased through the Madrid Ticket office. Each Band will be given a code, so Valley Cultural Foundation can keep track of your ticket sales. The tickets will be available for you to pick up prior to the first Battle on January 20, 2020. Encourage your fans to purchase a ticket audience participation is part of the scoring process. The booking staff at the theatre uses this to determine who is bringing the most fans and use this information for future bookings.
2. Bands are encouraged to promote the event via all channels. We will create one Facebook event for each Battle night. We do not want every band making their own FB event and confusing fans. Critical Mass is good, let's all work together. Also, if you bring a ton of people to your show, and your fans are going crazy, this can only enhance the overall crowd's perception of your performance.
3. Radio Spots will run promoting the event on select local radio stations. TBD
4. Flyers promoting the entire event will be printed with the entire first round schedule on them. These will be available to all of the bands. Jpeg and High Resolution PDF's
5. All bands agree to have their name, voice and/or likeness used in any advertising or broadcasting material relating to this contest without compensation or right to royalties for such use.

PRIZES:

1. **Grand Prize — \$1,000 plus Emerging Artist Opening Act on July 4th.**
2. **2nd Place – \$500 plus Emerging Artist Opening Act at Concert on the Green**
3. **3rd Place – \$250 plus Emerging Artist Opening Act at NoHo Summer Nights.**

THE FINALS:

1. The 2020 Rock the Valley Battle of the Bands Finals will be held at The Madrid Theatre on Monday March 23, 2020.
2. Order of slots will follow the same blind draw format at the previous rounds.
3. Set Length: 20 minutes
4. Voting Format: Same as previous rounds
5. More information about the finals will be posted in the weeks ahead.

6.

CONTACTS

Any questions or concerns should be addressed to any of the following people:

Ticketing/Promo – Project Manager Joellen Ammann joellen@valleycultural.org

Battle Manager – info@valleycultural.org

Rock the Valley, CEO – Nora Ross nora.ross@valleycultural.org

Good luck to all the bands!

Organizers reserve the right to adjust, modify and/or clarify the rules of the event at any time for any reason.

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