



**2019 Florida Strawberry Festival®  
Battle of the Bands  
Rules, Regulations, Application, Agreement and Entry Form  
Sponsored by the Florida Strawberry Festival  
March 9, 2018  
Preliminary battles located in the Publix Showcase Tent  
Final battle located on the Wish Farms Sound Stage**

Chairpersons: Lee Bakst and Jennifer Morgan, 813-752-9194

**Battle open to “performers” in the following Florida counties: Citrus, Marion, Sumter, Hernando, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Hardee, DeSoto, Polk, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco, Highlands**

Applications available at: [www.flstrawberryfestival.com](http://www.flstrawberryfestival.com)

**MANDATORY TOP 9 FINALIST INFORMATIVE MEETING: TBA**

**\*\*\*If under the age of 18, an applicant must be accompanied by a parent and/or guardian.**

**Application deadline: October 31, 2018 by 5 p.m.**

The Florida Strawberry Festival® (“Festival”) will be hosting its first official Battle of the Bands Competition at the Publix Supermarket Showcase Tent on the Festival grounds. We are looking to find the "berry best" singers/ musicians/ bands in the Central Florida area who are ready to battle it out at this year's Festival! The final battle will take place on the Festival's Wish Farms Sound Stage on Saturday, March 9, 2019, time TBA with over \$15,000 up for grabs!!!

### **Rules and Regulations**

#### **How to enter:**

- A. All performers/bands must provide one dedicated point of contact throughout the contest period to the Florida Strawberry Festival Battle of the Bands Committee contact person. Such representative must have access to a working email address and phone number.
- B. All performers/ bands must provide one representative who shall have full legal authority to act on behalf of the band and its members.
- C. All participating band members/performers must read, agree and complete a signed 2019 Florida Strawberry Festival Battle of the Bands Rules, Regulations, Application and Artist Agreement Form by the specified deadline date. **No late applications will be accepted.**
- D. All performers/band members should carefully review rules and regulations of this battle.
- E. **The entry deadline for submission of completed applications, and additional materials requested, is October 31, 2018 at 5 p.m.**
- F. All application materials, band photos, and bios must be completed and submitted prior to the entry deadline of October 31, 2018.
- G. Application materials can be found online at [www.flstrawberryfestival.com](http://www.flstrawberryfestival.com)
- H. All application materials can be emailed to [jennifer@flstrawberryfestival.com](mailto:jennifer@flstrawberryfestival.com) and/or postal mailed **by deadline** to:

FSF Battle of the Bands  
Attn: Jennifer Morgan  
P.O. Drawer 1869  
Plant City, FL 33654-1869

- I. Only completed entries will be accepted and considered for the 2019 Florida Strawberry Festival Battle of the Bands Event.
- J. Bands/performers are required to provide all requested marketing and promotional materials, which includes a high-resolution JPEG (300 DPI) band photo, biography and demo CD or MP3 file.

**Eligibility Guidelines:**

- A. Only one (1) registration per band, is allowed. More than one registration per band will result in automatic disqualification.
- B. To be considered a “band”, you need at least one musician, to play a musical instrument. You do not need a full band in order to compete.
- C. Performers must be the age of 18 years or above to participate in the Festival Battle of the Bands. If a performer is not 18 years of age, a parent and/or legal guardian must accompany the performer throughout the battle period and must sign all forms on behalf of the underage performer.
- D. All performers/bands must compete on behalf of only one band.
- E. All band members/performers must be regularly performing members of the band and not a “fill in.”
- F. Performers/band names cannot be changed after the registration deadline.
- G. There is no limit to the number of bands that may apply for this competition, however, applications received will be reviewed and, based upon eligibility and specific selection criteria, only a select number of bands will be allowed to participate. Those bands that are selected to participate, no more than 20, will be placed on the Festival website for fan voting. Online fan voting will determine the preliminary battle semifinalists.
- H. All performers/bands will be required to pay a \$200.00 deposit to the Florida Strawberry Festival **upon their selection as a semifinalist to ensure their attendance at the event in compliance with the rules and regulations herein.** Upon completion of the battle(s), in its entirety, the \$200.00 deposit will be refunded if the attendance requirement and all other rules and regulations have been met.
- I. All performers/bands must guarantee that they will be able to perform at the 2019 Festival Battle of the Bands preliminary battles and final battle, in its entirety with the same band member(s) and instruments or shall forfeit the \$200.00 deposit.
- J. At a minimum, one band member must have proof of residency within the counties listed above for the band to be eligible to compete.
- K. There is no specific genre of music required, however, no explicit language will be allowed. All explicit lyrics must be modified or omitted. Use of explicit language will result in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of prize(s) and deposit.
- L. Any distasteful or vulgar behavior and/or damage to the Festival will result in an automatic disqualification at the sole discretion of the Festival management, committee members and/or judges.
- M. Clothing must be free from obscenities. No provocative clothing is allowed. This is a family-oriented event. All contestants are to act accordingly.

- N. No performers/ bands can be employed by the Festival. Publix associates are not eligible to enter the Battle of the Bands competition.
- O. In the unfortunate event any member of a band is not eligible or is disqualified, then the entire band *may* be subject to disqualification.
- P. The use of any illegal substance will not be tolerated. If any band/performance member is suspected to be under the influence of an illegal substance, the entire band/ performer will be subject to disqualification and the proper authorities will be notified. In addition, if any band member(s)/performer is suspected of alcohol use, the entire band/ performers may be disqualified.
- Q. All band members are required to be present at least 30 minutes prior to performance time to check in with the coordinator.
- R. All participants associated with each band, are expected to be courteous and respectful to one another and follow direction given by Festival staff and on-site sound personnel.
- S. Bands/performers will be notified via email or phone of their eligibility and/or acceptance to participate in the 2019 Festival Battle of the Bands event.
- T. Those bands selected for the 2019 Festival's Battle of the Bands event may be asked to submit additional photos and/or biographical info to be used for online voting purposes. Additionally, other marketing information may be requested (i.e. link to website, YouTube video, etc.)
- U. All bands must be unsigned with any recording company, as of January 2018.
- V. Must have a substantial following via social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)
- W. In the event a Top 9 finalist cannot participate, an alternate band/performer will be chosen from the list of selected applicants.
- X. An informative meeting will be held with the Top 9 finalist band/performers representative after the new year but prior to battle(s).
- Y. Eligibility will be determined solely and to the discretion of the Festival's Battle of the Bands' committee based only upon the above-mentioned criteria.

**Format of Show/Equipment:**

- A. The battle(s) will take place at the Florida Strawberry Festival® fairgrounds in Plant City, Florida.
- B. The semifinal and final battles will take place in the Publix Showcase Tent and/or the Wish Farms Sound Stage on Saturday, March 9, 2019, time TBA on the Festival grounds.
- C. The show audience is open to all ages and we encourage each band to bring their fans.
- D. Admission to the Battle of the Bands requires a paid gate admission ticket.
- E. Bands/ performers are limited to members of the band, (1) one tech and (1) one manager or support staff. If additional support staff are needed, notification must be made prior to event to the Festival personnel.
- F. The preliminary battle events will begin at promptly at 6 pm and end at 9 pm in the Publix Showcase Tent. The final battle time will be announced at a later date.
- G. Bands/performers will be randomly assigned a time slot based upon their selection from a drawing held prior to battle(s). If there is a conflict, it must be stated to a Festival representative at the time of selection or the bands/ performers may be subject to disqualification.
- H. All bands/performers must submit a CD or MP3 to the Festival Battle of the Bands Committee no later than Oct. 31, 2018 for board review/approval. For those who are selected to appear at the preliminary battles and final battle, additional demo tracks may be requested by the Festival prior to date of battle(s).
- I. Demos may include both covers and original tracks.

- J. The Festival's Battle of the Band's semifinalists and finalists, must play a minimum of one original song.
- K. Each band will have 60 minutes on stage (set up w/ sound check, play set, take down). Each band is expected to prepare a **minimum** of a 15-minute set list for their time slot and they must not exceed 60 minutes.
- L. The Festival will provide the following on-site:
  - a. 32 channel PA system
  - b. Limited audio production equipment, including: mics and stands, sound monitors, sound engineer, inputs
  - c. Lighting
  - d. Power
  - e. Drum kit which includes snare, kick, two toms, floor toms and two symbols (note: do to time set ups, all bands are strongly encouraged to use the drum kit provided)
- M. The band/performers are responsible for any additional instruments needed for performances. The band/performers are responsible for securing their own equipment. The Festival and its volunteers will not be held responsible for any lost or damaged equipment.
- N. All bands/performers are required to submit a stage plot and input list by Monday, February 25, 2019 by 5 p.m.

**Judging Process and Tabulation of Scores for Preliminary Battles:**

- A. Bands will be judged at the conclusion of their session during preliminary battle rounds.
- B. Judges have been selected based upon their expertise in the entertainment industry.
- C. The five judging areas (which shall constitute 50% of the total points) are as follows:
  - 1. Quality of Performance**
    - evidence of planning and preparedness-SHOW READY
    - how the members of the band interact with each other
    - overall ability to command the audience and stage
    - conformance to competition rules (i.e. time, language, etc.)
  - 2. Musical Proficiency**
    - evidence of technical expertise in voice and/or of an instrument
    - clarity, lyrical content and overall musical performance
    - originality of songs, either covers or originals
  - 3. Stage Presence/ Showmanship**
    - creativity in song choice and/or delivery (covers and originals)
    - professionalism
    - band personality suitable to genre
    - entertainment value
  - 4. Audience Participation**
    - how well the band engages with the crowd and judges
    - evidence of the band creating positive reactions/applause
    - confidence and ability to manipulate the audience's mood
  - 5. Commercial Viability**
    - Uniqueness and original vibe
    - appealing presence
    - authenticity of genre selection

Percentages for the **preliminary battle** scoring will be:

**Judges Score** (based upon above mentioned criteria)- **50%**

**Fan Ballot Votes- 50%** (Each fan will receive one (1) ballot upon entry to the show area. Fan ballot votes must be submitted during or prior to the conclusion of that day's preliminary event. Fans may only vote for bands that played on the day of their attendance.)

Percentages for the **final battle** scoring will be:

**Judges Scores** (based upon above mentioned criteria)-**50%**

**Fan Ballot Votes- 50%** (Each fan will receive one (1) ballot upon entry to the stadium. Fan ballot votes must be submitted during or prior to the conclusion of that day's final event.)

- D. A Festival Battle of the Band's committee member will collect score cards from each judge at the conclusion of each band's set and secure them for tabulation.
- E. Bands that exceed their time slot will have ten points deducted from their total score for every one minute they go over the maximum time allotted. (e.g. 2 mins. exceeded = 20 pt. deduction)
- F. The band is responsible for the timing of their set. The Festival will not monitor or alert a band that they're over or under time. However, a representative will keep track for scoring purposes.
- G. The Festival has the authority to remove any band from the stage due to any item(s), action or language deemed inappropriate or unprofessional.
- H. The Festival has the authority to place a hard stop and remove the band from the stage if they exceed their allotted maximum time of five (5) or more minutes. If more than five minutes is exceeded that band is subject to immediate disqualification.
- I. In the event of a tie, the judges' score cards will be reviewed. The band with the highest score in the Musical Proficiency category will be awarded the winner.
- J. At the conclusion of the preliminary event, and tabulation of scores, the bands with the top three scores will be notified via the Festival website/social media. The top two winners will advance to the final battle and the third-place winner will receive honorable mention but will not compete in the final battle event. All scores from preliminary battles will be voided and scores for the bands selected for the final battle will be reset to zero.
- K. All tabulations of scores for preliminary and final battles will be performed by an independent auditor.
- L. At the conclusion of the final event, and tabulation of all scores, the emcee will announce the winner(s) on the Wish Farms Sound Stage.

**Online Fan Voting:**

- A. Online voting will commence shortly after all applications have been submitted and reviewed for consideration.
- B. Online voting will determine who the Top 9 finalists will be to participate in the preliminary battles. Encourage your fans to vote!

- C. We encourage all our semifinalist bands/ performers to promote the 2019 Festival's Battle of the Bands event through social media, and word of mouth, as audience participation (online voting and battle events) is a factor.
- D. As polls are updated and prior to voting closing, all bands/performers will be notified of their status as a Top 9 finalist.

**Prizes and Awards:**

- A. The prize structure is as follows:
  - i. First place, \$10,000 and trophy
  - ii. Second Place, \$ 5,000
  - iii. Third Place/Honorable Mention, \$1,000
- B. No prizes will be awarded after the third place/ honorable mention.
- C. All winners must complete a W9 form to receive their prize payout.
- D. Any additional prizes will be distributed to the contact person of the band via check. Payouts will be processed and mailed within 7 business days.

**General Terms and Conditions:**

- A. Prizes are non-transferable and non-replaceable.
- B. All applicable federal and state sales taxes are the sole responsibility of the winner(s).
- C. The interpretation of the rules and eligibility are the sole discretion of the Florida Strawberry Festival®.
- D. The Festival reserves the right to modify this promotion at any time, for any reason, subject to all applicable regulatory approval
- E. A list with winning bands/performers name(s) and calculations with scores will be destroyed immediately following announcement of winners.
- F. Winners must show valid picture identification to verify their identity on entry application.
- G. The complete list of winners (preliminary and final) will be posted to all Festival social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) at the conclusion of event(s).
- H. 2019 Festival's Battle of the Bands Rules and Regulations, Application and Artist Agreement form, will be posted electronically online at [www.flstrawberryfestival.com](http://www.flstrawberryfestival.com) .
- I. Participants must be present to win.
- J. No band, band member/performer or any person affiliated with the band shall engage in any solicitation for votes or favorable scores from judges by offering prizes, gifts, products services or any other type of incentive (monetary or non-monetary). Violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification of the band/performer.
- K. Bands are not permitted to sell merchandise at the event(s).
- L. All band members/performers/, as listed on application form, will each receive one gate admission ticket.
- M. All band members/performers, agree that their name, photo, and any information may be used for media and marketing efforts to include, but not limited to; direct mail, radio, TV, social media, websites, etc.
- N. The event(s) will take place rain or shine.



**Application for 2019 Florida Strawberry Festival Battle of the Bands and Artist Agreement**

**Band/ Performers Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Band Members and Instruments Played:** (i.e. John Smith, guitar)

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**Genre of Music:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Primary Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Contact Mobile Phone with Area Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Contact E-Mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Emergency Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Mobile Phone with Area Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Important Date(s):**

- Mid-September, 2018- applications available for submission
- October 31, 2018 @ 5 p.m.- submission of applications, and all other requested materials, is closed
- Mid-October, 2018- online voting begins (specific date and time TBA)
- Late-December, 2018- online voting closes (specific date and time TBA)
- February 25, 2019- preliminary finalists stage plots and input lists are due by 5 p.m.
- February 28, 2019- first preliminary battle, 6 p.m.
- March 5, 2019- second preliminary battle, 6 p.m.
- March 7, 2019- third preliminary battle, 6 p.m.
- March 9, 2019- final battle, Wish Farms Sound Stage, time TBA



### **Artist Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (NAME), members and representatives of all members of \_\_\_\_\_ (BAND NAME), agree to the terms and guidelines for the Inaugural Florida Strawberry Festival Battle of the Bands. I agree that our band will abide by all of the rules that have been presented within the 2019 Florida Strawberry Festival Battle of the Bands Rules, Regulations, Application, Agreement and entry form documents.

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*NAME* (printed)

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*SIGNATURE*

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*DATE*