



Instaband@GROOVE U

The Central Ohio High School Battle of the Bands

OFFICIAL COMPETITION RULES

I. Eligibility

- A. Participant (“Performer”) must be 13-19 years of age at the Time (February 3, 2017–February 24, 2017) of Competition (“Instaband”).
- B. Performers in a band/duo/trio (“Group”) must have at least 50% of Group currently enrolled in an eligible central Ohio high school in order to participate in Competition.
- C. For the purposes of Competition, Performer may only submit himself/herself for consideration only once.
 - 1. If Performer is a member of additional Group(s), Performer may participate with only one Group in Competition.
 - 2. If Performer is a solo artist (“Soloist”) as well as a member of additional Group(s), Performer may participate only as Soloist or only as a member of one Group in Competition – not both.
- D. Performer must submit two songs for review (“Submissions”). Submissions must be in the form of .mp3 files, links to a website (E.g., Sonicbids, Bandcamp, Soundcloud), or online videos (E.g., YouTube, Vimeo). Submissions must contain at least one original song and up to one song may be a cover. Only two songs total may be submitted.

- E. All performances, with the exception of rap/hip-hop and EDM performances, must be done live. I.e., no prerecorded tracks/instrumentation/karaoke. Rap/hip-hop and EDM Performers may perform live with prerecorded tracks, provided:
 - 1. The beats used in the tracks are 100% original compositions. I.e., no covers.
 - 2. The tracks are supplied to GROOVE U at least 48 hours prior to the start of the performance.
 - 3. The rap/hip-hop or EDM tracks are tracks deemed to be of suitable production value and audio quality.
- F. All songs must be suitable for a family audience. I.e., if the song wouldn't be performed uncensored on network television, it is not suitable for a family audience.
- G. Performer must submit a \$25.00 application fee ("Fee"), payable to GROOVE U. Fee covers the entire Group or Soloist, and entitles the Performer to one complimentary ticket ("Comps") per Group member or Soloist to the Final; Comps may not be used during Semifinals. Space at the Final is limited, and thus Comps are subject to space availability. Fee may be paid online via Paypal, over-the-phone using credit card, or in-person using a credit card or check.
- H. Submissions and Fee must be received by 11:59:59 PM EST on December 7, 2016 to be considered for Competition.
- I. In the event Performer's primary and/or secondary contact fail to respond to GROOVE U emails and/or telephone calls within 48 hours, Performer may be disqualified. Please add instaband@grooveu.net to your address book and set your spam email filters to allow GROOVE U emails.

II. Semifinals

- A. There are two Semifinal rounds – East and West.
- B. An independent panel of judges will select the top 10 bands in each Semifinal from all Submissions. Performers for each Semifinal will then be notified via email and/or telephone of Performer's eligibility to compete in a Semifinal.
- C. During a Semifinal, Performer will perform for a maximum of 10 minutes. In general, this means Performer has enough time for two songs. After 10 minutes, stage power to Performer is cut and the performance is over. Running over the allotted 10 minutes may negatively impact Performer's score.
- D. Initial songs performed during a Semifinal must be original compositions. I.e., no covers. In the event of a tie score, Performer will be asked to perform a third song to determine the tie-breaker. The third song can be either an original song or a cover.

- E. No “moshing” or any other sort of crowd violence may be incited by Performer. Performer must remain on stage – no crowd surfing, stage diving, or entering the audience. All clothing must remain on at all times. If the judges determine this rule has been violated, Performer will be immediately disqualified and removed from the facility.
- F. Absolutely no obscene, offensive lyrics or gestures while performing will be tolerated. Performer must be dressed in clothing free of obscenities, drugs, alcohol, sex or other subject matter not suitable for a family audience. Clothing that is overtly sexually suggestive will not be tolerated. It will be the sole decision of the judges to determine what is obscene or offensive. If the judges determine this rule has been violated, Performer will be immediately disqualified and removed from the facility.
- G. Performer will be assigned a time slot (“Slot”) for Semifinal performance and sound check at least seven days in advance. Performers must be on deck at least 30 minutes prior to Slot. If Performer is not ready to go during Slot, Performer is disqualified. No alternate or replacement Slots are available. Immediately upon the conclusion of Slot, Performer must immediately exit the stage with Performer’s equipment.
- H. Abuse or theft of any equipment is grounds for immediate disqualification.
- I. The top four Performers in each Semifinal advance to the Final Round (“Finals”). One, 100% fan-voted Performer (“Wild Cards”) from each Semifinal will also advance to the Finals.
- J. The Final is conducted according to same guidelines outlined above for Semifinals.

III. Technical Info

- A. A large supply of Backline Equipment (“Backline”) will be provided for Performer. Performer will receive a listing of the Backline when Performer is assigned a Slot. No replacement of Backline by Performer will be permitted.
- B. Any specialty gear must be able to “plug-and-play” into the professional sound equipment provided. Performers are permitted to use their own effects pedals, but Performers are not permitted to bring their own instrument amplifiers.
- C. A quick Sound Check will be provided for Performer during an assigned Slot.
- D. A stage crew will be on hand to assist Performer in setting up.
- E. It is Performer’s responsibility to plug-and-play and be ready to perform within the allotted time.
- F. Professional audio technicians are provided to conduct live sound for Performer. Performer may not bring their own audio technicians. Professional lighting will also be provided. Performer may not bring their own lighting technician, and no pyrotechnics or special effects are permitted.

- G. Stage management has final say on all activities on stage. Any Performer going over the 10 minute limit, or disregarding event management's direction may be disqualified and/or powered off.
- H. There are no guest lists. Attendees who are not Performers need a ticket for admittance. Only Performers and event staff will be allowed back stage and in green room. No friends, family, or acquaintances of Performer will be permitted beyond security lines.

IV. Legal

- A. By entering Competition, Performer agrees to be bound by these Official Rules ("Rules"), and the decisions of GROOVE U Ltd that shall be final in all matters pertaining to Competition.
- B. GROOVE U Ltd is making no claim to copyright associated with the words and music contained in Competition. All copyright registrations, disputes, and compliance with US Copyright Law are the sole responsibility of the Performer.
- C. Employees, officers, and directors of GROOVE U Ltd, as well as members of their same household or immediate family are not eligible for Competition. Sponsors, their affiliates, divisions, subsidiaries; participating retailers, their advertising/ promotion agencies, judging organization as well as members of their same household or immediate family are not eligible for Competition. Any third parties associated with the development, administration or supply to this promotion as well as members of their same household or immediate family are not eligible for Competition (collectively "Sponsors and Others").
- D. Instaband contest first place winner will be expected to fully execute a contract with GROOVE U's Elementary Records, student-run record label, in order to receive complete first place prize package of: Studio EP, Music Video, Concert Booking and Graphic Design.
- E. Performer grants Sponsor and Others the right to use his/her individual name, address, biographical information, photograph, audio & video recordings, and likeness, worldwide in any medium, for advertising, publicity & promotion purposes, and for any other such purposes as Sponsors and Others so determines, without further compensation, except where prohibited by law.
- F. The interpretation of these Rules shall be governed by the laws of the State of Ohio. Any and all disputes will be resolved individually, and without resort to class action, in the appropriate courts in the State of Ohio exclusively, and subject to the laws of the State of Ohio. Should there be a conflict between the laws of the State of Ohio and any other laws, the conflict will be resolved in favor of the laws of the State of Ohio.

- G. Sponsors and Others assume no responsibility for computer system, phone line, cellular telephone, hardware, software or program malfunctions or other errors/failures of any kind, delayed computer transmissions, network connections or damage to computers arising out of participation in this Competition. Sponsors and Others reserve the right, at their sole discretion, to cancel or suspend this Competition, should virus, bug or other causes beyond Sponsors' and Others' control corrupt the administration, security or proper play of Competition. Sponsors and Others are not responsible for incorrect or inaccurate entry information whether caused by Internet users or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in Competition or by any technical or human errors that may occur in the processing of votes or entries in Competition.
- H. Any delay or failure in Competition hereunder shall be excused if and to the extent it is caused by the occurrence of a Force Majeure – a cause or event that is not reasonably foreseeable or otherwise caused by or under the control of Sponsor and Others, including: acts of God, fires, floods, blizzards, explosions, riots, wars, hurricane, sabotage terrorism, vandalism, accident, restraint of government, governmental acts, injunctions, labor strikes.
- I. By participating in Competition, Performer releases, indemnifies and holds harmless Sponsors and Others from any and all liability, injuries, claims, damages, losses, or causes of action of any kind, whether to property or person, arising directly or indirectly out of the acceptance, possession, enjoyment, use and/or misuse of the Prizes or component of the Prizes and participation in this Competition including without limitation personal injury, death, theft, property damage, defamation, infringement of intellectual property rights, and claims based on the rights of publicity, misappropriation of personality and privacy.
- J. Prize may not be redeemed for cash, nor is it transferrable or substitutable except by Sponsors and Others with one of equal or greater value.
- K. In the event Winner is a Group, Prize will be distributed equally among Group members.
- L. All federal, state, and local laws apply and all taxes are the sole responsibility of Performer.

**By completing and submitting the online Instaband
Registration Form, you are agreeing to these
Official Competition Rules.**