

BATTLE *of the* BANDS

APPLICATION & OFFICIAL RULES

1. Bands must submit a completed application form accompanied by a web link including video (YouTube, Google Drive, etc.) of your music and a high-resolution photo of your band to be considered. The 2024 Battle of the Bands 1st place winner is not eligible to participate for 2025.
2. A non-refundable application fee of \$25 is required with application. A returned check fee of \$30.00 will be charged for any check that is not honored by the bank. Additionally, the applicant is responsible for all associated bank fees incurred as a result of the returned check.
3. Only bands from Ohio counties of Defiance County, Williams County, Fulton County, Henry County, Paulding County, and Putnam County may apply. One band member must reside in one of the listed counties to be considered.
4. Bands must have a minimum of 3 musicians. Band members who participate in the Battle of the Bands competition must also attend and perform at the Defiance Rib Fest.
5. All performances must be live. No recorded soundtracks will be permitted.
6. Audio technician, sound, and back line (to include drum kit, 2 guitar amps, 1 bass amp, keyboard, up to 4 microphones, and 2 DI boxes) will be provided for you. No personal microphones or outside audio technicians will be allowed.
7. Performances should not last more than 10 minutes. You may do any number of songs you desire provided your ENTIRE performance is within the 10 minute limit. Performances exceeding 10 minutes will result in scoring deductions. A visible performance clock will be provided.
8. Dates and Locations :
 - August 16, 2025 - Battle of the Bands Competition — at the 1918 Football Field located at 629 Arabella Street (outdoor venue).
 - All selected applicants will perform at this event. The winner, 2nd place, and 3rd place bands will, along with their prize money, receive a contract for a main stage performance at the 2025 Defiance Rib Fest set for Saturday, September 27, 2025.
9. Prize Winnings
 - 1st Place Band—\$1,000 (+\$1,000 Rib Fest Contract)
 - 2nd Place Band—\$750 (+\$750 Rib Fest Contract)
 - 3rd Place Band—\$500 (+\$500 Rib Fest Contract)

**By submitting an application, you are committing to perform if chosen.
10. Bands signed by any national label are not eligible.
11. All music genres are welcome.
12. Bands will be judged by a panel of judges on overall impression, professionalism & stage presence, vocals, audience engagement, and musicianship.
13. Battle of the Bands Committee has the right to reject any application for any reason.
14. No explicit lyrics or inappropriate behavior will be tolerated. Performances and song lyrics must be appropriate for community events.

Applications must be received no later than July 1, 2025

Submit completed applications, including all videos, to Kirstie Mack or Lori Hagerman at Defiance Development and Visitors Bureau; 325 Clinton Street, Defiance, Ohio 43512 or lori@visitdefianceohio.com

