

# **Cascade Blues Association**

## **Muddy Award Election Process 2026**

The Cascade Blues Association conducts a transparent and structured process to select nominees and finalists for the annual Muddy Awards. Here is how the process works:

### **Nominations Submission**

1. Active members receive a link to a nomination form to suggest their choices for each category via the email they have on file in the membership records.
2. Submissions are verified using the email address associated with the member's membership data in our files.
3. If an unrecognized email address is used, we attempt to contact the individual to verify and update our records.

### **Data Cleaning and Verification**

1. Duplicate Submissions: If a member submits multiple nominations using the same email, only the first entry (based on timestamp) is counted.
2. Clarifying Entries: When multiple names are listed for a single category (e.g., Bass Player), only the first name is recorded.
3. Name Corrections: Efforts are made to correct spelling errors for accuracy.

### **Selecting Finalists**

1. Nominations are tallied, and the top three nominations in each category are chosen as finalists.
2. Handling Ties: If there is a tie for the third spot, you will see more than three finalists in this category.

### **Audit and Ballot Creation**

1. An independent auditor reviews the data and confirms the ballot is correct.
2. Members receive a link to the official ballot with the list of finalists to cast their votes.

### **Transparency**

A separate list of all nominations (not just finalists) is shared for full transparency. This process ensures fairness, accuracy, and inclusiveness in celebrating the best of the blues community through the Muddy Awards.