



Snipe Hunt Nationals: Battle of the Bands Official Rules

1. Eligibility & Registration

- **Band Composition:** Bands must have at least 3 members. All genres are welcome, but remember our audience loves that Texas Country and Rock sound.
- **Registration:** Entry forms must be submitted by **April 15, 2026**. There is a \$100 registration fee (which will all be awarded to the Judges Choice winner 70% and People's Choice winner 30%).
- **Originality:** We highly encourage original music. At least one original song must be performed during the 2 *song* set.
- **NO record deals:** Bands or artists must not have had a previous signed record contract.
- **MUST BE ABLE TO PERFORM:** All performers must be available to perform live at the Snipe Hunt Nationals event the following night should they win!
- **Limited to only 15 bands** – participating bands will be chosen from their audition demos.

2. Performance Guidelines

- **Set Length:** Each band is allotted a **10-minute set**. This includes transitions between songs but *not* setup/breakdown.
- **The "Snipe" Requirement:** Every band must include one "Snipe Hunt" reference in their set—whether it's a lyrical shout-out, a themed cover, or a dedicated "Snipe Call" solo.
- **Equipment:** KNES 99.1 will provide a "House Backline" (Drum kit, Bass amp, and PA system) to ensure quick transitions. Bands are responsible for their own guitars, keyboards, and breakables (cymbals/snare).
- **Load-In:** Setup time is strictly limited to 5 minutes. If you aren't ready when the MC calls your name, your set time starts ticking!
- **Professionalism:** Any band member found under the influence of illegal substances or excessively intoxicated will result in immediate disqualification.
- **Equipment Care:** Any damage to the provided house gear (backline/microphones) due to negligence or "stage antics" will be the financial responsibility of the band.

3. Judging Criteria

A panel of trusted music legends and KNES personalities will score bands on a scale of 1–10 in the following categories:

- **Musicality:** Technical skill, vocal harmony, and tight rhythms.
- **Stage Presence:** Energy, crowd interaction, and "Snipe Spirit."
- **Originality:** How unique is your sound?
- **Crowd Response:** The crowd will be able to purchase tickets for \$10 each to vote for their favorite band! (proceeds go towards our First Blessings cause)

The "Tie-Breaker"

- In the event of a tie, we will have a "sudden death" round where each band in the tie plays one final song for the crowd! Judges call is final.

4. Prizes & Glory

- **Judges Pick:** 70% of the cash pot, a trophy, and 15 to 20 spins of a produced song suitable for radio for the month of May 2026, and a featured "Live in Studio" session on KNES Texas 99.1. Opening band for the 12th Annual Snipe Hunt Nationals the following night AND \$1,000!
- **People's Choice:** 30% of the cash pot, a trophy, and 10 to 15 spins of a produced song suitable for radio for the month of May 2026, and a featured "Live in Studio" session on KNES Texas 99.1.

5. Ground Rules

- **Family Friendly:** This is a community event. No profanity or "lewd" lyrics. Let's keep it cleaner than a snipe's whistle.
- **Sportsmanship:** Any "distasteful behavior" toward other bands or the Snipe Hunt officials will result in immediate disqualification.
- **The "Bag" Rule:** In the spirit of the hunt, if a band plays over their time limit, the stage manager is authorized to "bag" them (metaphorically... mostly).