

Battle of the Bands Competition 2025

Terms and Conditions

Central Coast Council (Council) presents the 2025 Battle of the Bands competition (since 2004) in partnership with key organisations (Musicians Making a Difference, Central Coast Music & Arts, and The Skill Engineer) and local businesses (Damien Gerard Studios, and Gina Jeffreys Academy of Music), which forms part of the Creative Engineers program.

Battle of the Bands is a platform that provides feedback and professional development for young people, to showcase their talent, gain stage experience and connect with a live audience. It offers young musicians the opportunity to perform live, receive valuable feedback from industry professionals and compete for prizes that can help them along their music journey.

Beyond the competition, Battle of the Bands fosters creativity, collaboration, and confidence, providing a supportive environment where bands can network, build their fan base and take their music to the next level. Whether it's the bands' first time stepping on stage or a stepping stone to bigger opportunities, this program is a celebration of young people, music and the power of live performance.

The competition component is comprised of a series of rounds, with four (4) heats, followed by two (2) semi-finals, and one (1) final competitive event, followed by the Creative Engineers combined showcase event, to announce award winners of both the Battle of the Bands and Discovered competitions. The competition is progressive with only selected participants advancing through the rounds.

The professional development component is comprised of opportunities throughout the competition (provided as free workshops); as verbal feedback by the panel of judges, allowing performers to develop as they progress through the program; and with the sponsored prizes on offer.

The competition offers various opportunities to win with three (3) Divisions: Kids Clash 10-14 years, Youth Battle 15-24 years and eMergent Sounds Division 10-24 years. In addition, the competition offers a prize to the winners chosen local school with the 'Play it Forward' School Prize which aims to benefit students of the Music/CAPA Faculty to continue to foster a vibrant and supportive musical community of young people.

In 2025 the eMergent Sounds original song competition is being integrated to support emerging talent. Bands submit their original songs online for consideration in the eMergent Sounds Division. The submissions are reviewed by judges to create a shortlist of entries. Shortlisted songs will be available to listen to online for the public vote. Five (5) songs from the Battle of the Bands and five (5) songs from Discovered will be pressed to vinyl on a limited-release album. Release date will be in Youth Week 2026.

Professional development workshops are scheduled throughout the competition for all entrants and performance opportunities provide tools, resources and support through the Youth Services' Music Pathways program.

Beyond the program series, opportunities are presented as part of the Music Pathways Program; to increase participants exposure, broaden their audience base and provide opportunities within the industry with performance opportunities. Opportunities include (not limited to) events such as: Tubular Festival, Lakes Festival, New Years Eve, Australia Day and Central Coast Youth Week Awards.

Table of Contents Index Guide

To explore this document online, simply click on the indexed term for further details.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eligibility 2. How To Enter Competition 3. Entry Requirements 4. Video Recordings, footage, photographs and licences 5. Judging of the Competition 6. Awarding Winner 6.4 BATTLE OF THE BANDS Competition Prizes 7. Complaints 8. Further Information 	<p>Key Details</p> <p>Privacy Notification</p> <p>Attachment 1: Competition Consent Form (under 18)</p> <p>Attachment 2: Competition Consent Form (18-24yrs)</p> <p>Attachment 3: Photo and Digital Consent and Release Form</p> <p>Attachment 4: PRIZE SIGN OFF</p>
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2025 Key Details

Registrations Open	14 April	Enter Online
Registrations Close	13 June	
Heat one (1)	09 May	<p>Location:</p> <p>The Hub Erina Youth Entertainment Venue. North South Rd. Erina Fair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5.30pm: Participant Arrival - 6:45pm Audience Arrival - 7pm Event Start
Heat two (2)	23 May	
Heat three (3)	13 June	
Heat four (4)	27 June	
Semi-final one (1)	18 July	
Semi-final two (2)	25 July	
Final	15 August	
Creative Engineers Showcase Event and Awards Night	12 September	Location: TBA

Refer to Clause 2 'How to Enter the Competition' for details on how to enter the Battle of the Bands program.

All information on how to enter this competition forms part of these terms and conditions. Entry into this competition is deemed acceptance of these terms and conditions.

This competition is run by Central Coast Council ('Council') ABN: 73 149 644 003 of 2 Hely St Wyong. NSW 2259 in-conjunction with Gina Jeffreys Academy of Music (GJAM), Damien Gerard Studios,, Musicians Making a Difference (MMAD), Central Coast Music and Arts Inc and The Skill Engineer Inc.

The Council reserves the right at any time to disqualify any individual who the Council reasonably believes has breached any of the terms and conditions or engaged in any unlawful or other improper conduct calculated to jeopardise the fair and proper conduct of the competition or the reputation of the Council.

Privacy Notification

Some of the information that you are asked to provide on this form is personal information, such as your name and contact information. This information is being collected for the purpose of identification; judgement; communication in relation to; and promotion of this entry in The Battle of the Bands professional development program competition.

1. Eligibility

1.1 Entry is open to:

- a) Bands whose members are aged 10 - 24 years
- b) Entrants that live, study or work in the Central Coast region
- c) Australian citizens or permanent resident of Australia
- d) Unsigned bands

1.2 The Battle of the Bands Competition is comprised of three (3) divisions:

- a) Kid Clash Division: 10-14 years
- a) Youth Battle Division: 15-24 years
- b) eMergent Sounds Division: 10-24years (Entry is open to Bands performing originals).
- c) In the instance where a band member has a birthday during the period of competition, the member is considered to be in the age division according to how old they are before 4 July 2025.
- d) Bands with members in both age brackets must compete where at least 85% of the members fit. Clarification may be sought by Council and will be confirmed with the band.

1.3 Employees of Council and their immediate families are eligible to enter Council competitions where there is independence in the judging (e.g., independent panel members, entries are anonymous etc.) or a random judging process (e.g., barrel draw). Outside of these conditions, Directors must approve the conditions.

1.4 Entrants under the age of 18 must have the consent of their parent or legal guardian to enter.

- a) Entrants under the age of 18 are required to provide proof of consent from a parent or legal guardian with the signed 'Under 18' consent form (Attachment 1) and email through before participation.

1.5 Entrants over the age of 18 must sign their consent to enter (Attachment 2) and email through before participation.

1.6 Entry to the Competition is free.

1.7 Competition entry must be submitted between **14 April** and **13 June 2025** by **11.59pm** Australian Eastern Standard Time.

- a) Entries submitted after the specified dates will not be accepted.
- b) Short-listing of entries may be undertaken dependant on entry numbers prior to the heats.

2. How To Enter Competition

2.1 Completed entry forms may only be submitted online.

- a) Entrants register online.
- b) Applicants receive a confirmation email to confirm receipt of their entry and with information of the next steps to take.

2.2 Allow up to fourteen (14) days following registration to receive an email confirmation of participation or waitlisted status in the Competition.

- a) **A maximum of 20 bands**, can compete in the competition. Once the maximum number of entries is reached, all other entries will be waitlisted. In the instance a registered band drops out or additional spots become available the contact person on the next in line on the waitlist will be notified.

- b) Entrants will need to confirm their acceptance or non-acceptance within seven (7) days.
- c) Entrants will receive documentation that must be completed and returned.

2.3 The confirmation email will include an electronic copy of the Battle of the Bands Terms and Conditions and Council's Digital Media Consent forms for completion; and a link to complete the entrant's performance details.

- a) Return signed and completed forms seven (7) days prior to the assigned heat via the link provided.
- b) A copy of photo identification proof of their birth date (School ID / License) may be requested.

2.4 eMergent Sounds Division Entry

- a) Bands who choose to enter their original song into the eMergent Sounds Division, submit their original songs online (See via the link provided with the Battle of the Bands competition confirmation email).
- b) Uploaded files accepted up until the **31 July 2025**.
- c) Only original songs that are performed in the 2025 Battle of the Bands competition may be submitted.

2.5 Council does not accept any responsibility for any late or lost entries, or any other entries not properly received.

2.6 Council has absolute discretion; and reserves all rights; to verify the validity of all entries to the competition, and to disqualify any entrant who tampers with the entry process or who submits an entry that is deemed to not be in accordance with these terms and conditions.

2.7 Council will not be liable for any damages or loss suffered as a result of entry to the competition.

2.8 Each entrant releases, and hereby indemnifies to the full extent permitted by law, Council, its employees, agents and assigns, from any and all liability which may arise from and/or all claims in connection with their entry, participation or the prize in the competition.

2.9 Council may cancel or vary the competition at any time. Council will not be responsible for any loss or costs incurred by the entrant or businesses in relation to such cancellation or variation.

3. Entry Requirements

3.1 Entries must be complete.

- a) Each band members' full details must be submitted, including name, age, email, contact number and school (if studying) If the band member is under the age of 18, their parent/guardian details must also be submitted.
- b) Each band member must complete the Competition Terms and Conditions, Digital Media Consent forms and return the documents signed (see Clause 1.4 and 1.5). The documents must be submitted during the confirmation stage.
- c) Each band entering the Youth Battle Division must nominate one (1) Central Coast School as a recipient of the 'Play it Forward School Prize', in anticipation that their band win the Battle of the Bands Competition. This information can be entered during the heat confirmation stage.

3.2 All entries must be received within the competition period as outlined in the Key Details table.

3.3 Each entrant can submit a maximum of two (2) entries to the Battle of the Bands competition, where an entrant is in two (2) bands entering the competition.

3.4 In the instance that a band member cannot participate:

- a) The band may perform without that member.
- b) Replacements are permitted if they meet the eligibility criteria and complete documentation as per Entry Requirements 3.1 and 3.2.
- c) Bands who require a member replacement must notify and seek written confirmation by the competition's project officer via email: jennifer.dias@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

3.5 Song selection. Bands should select their playlist with songs that they are proficient in playing.

- a) Song selection can include a mixture of originals and cover versions, or exclusively from one category.
- b) Bands must prepare a ten (10) to fifteen (15) minute set list for each performance.
- a) Band set duration and timeslot allocation will be confirmed by Council at sound check.
- d) **Semi-Finals:** At least two (2) songs must be different to the previously performed heat.
- e) **Final:** Song selection can be a variation of the two (2) previously performed set lists.
- f) **Showcase:** Entrant to sing one (1) song at the Creative Engineers Showcase event. The song duration must be between three (3) and five (5) minutes duration. The song must be one of the songs sung at the final event.

3.6. Song selection must be submitted with their technical confirmation for each upcoming performance and is considered final.

- a) It is Council's absolute discretion to deem an entry unsuitable.
- b) Entrants must not perform songs that contain any offensive, defamatory, or discriminatory content.
- c) No explicit language is to be used in songs. All explicit lyrics must be changed.
- d) Use of explicit language will result in disqualification.

3.7 Council will provide all the necessary backline sound equipment for each event held in The Hub Erina Youth Entertainment Venue.

- a) Council has the following resources available for use during BATTLE OF THE BANDS performances:
 - i. Wireless microphones, covers and microphone stands
 - ii. KORG KROME WORKSTATION 88 KEY and pedal
 - iii. Drumkit
 - iv. Seat/stool
 - v. Backline and AV Engineer.
- b) Each entrant should advise what equipment they will need for their performance, in the technical specification section provided with the upcoming event RSVP confirmation.
- c) Each entrant is expected to provide their required musical equipment to perform, inclusive of guitars, capo, spare strings, plectrums, guitar leads and strap, drumsticks, guitar pedals and music stands, etc.

3.8 Having an audience to connect to is a pivotal moment in a performer's journey, fostering a vibrant and supportive musical community. Bands are encouraged to develop their audience base by letting their respective school(s) know they are entering and that the school may be in the running to win the 'Play it Forward School Prize'.

- a) Guests must book online.
- b) A booking link for audience reservations will be provided to entrants in their confirmation email.

3.9 The First Prize recipient of previous Battle of the Bands competitions cannot submit to re-enter the same division of the Battle of the Bands competition.

- a) Exceptions to Clause 3.9
 - i. Previous First Prize recipients in the Kids Clash Division may submit an entry into the successional Youth Battle Division, even if they are under the age of 15 years.

3.10 Emergent Sounds Division entry requirements

- a) Original songs entered in the eMergent Sounds Division must be performed as part of the current Battle of the Bands competition.
- b) As part of the competition, the entrant agrees to share the competition with their social media networks to maximise engagement with the voting process.
- c) By entering the Competition, the entrant warrants to Council in respect of each song submitted in this competition that:
 - i. They are the author or co-author of the song.
 - ii. They own the copyright in the song and is entitled to submit the musical work as part of and for the purposes of this competition.
 - iii. The song does not infringe the rights of any third party, including copyright and all the efforts have been taken to avoid any such infringement.
 - iv. They have obtained written permission from any co-writer or publisher controlling any rights in the entered song.
 - v. The song is not offensive, inappropriate, defamatory, or is otherwise not against the law.

3.11 By entering the Competition entrants agree to comply with the Terms and Conditions. If a competitor violates the Terms & Conditions, Council reserves the right to disqualify them from the competition.

4. Recordings, footage, photographs and licences

4.1 Digital Media Consent

- a) Each entrant consents to Council uploading recordings onto selected platforms as part of the competition; taking photographs and/or video footage of the entrant for the purpose of the competition.
- b) Photo and Digital Consent Release Form (Attachment 3) must be completed and returned as per Clause 2.2 and 2.3.

4.2 It is a condition of the competition that all broadcast and television rights of a competitor's performance in any stage of the competition are freely available to Council.

4.3 Competition performances as recorded live at the Council venues may be uploaded online by Council.

4.4 Each entrant consents, and provides an irrevocable licence, to Council using and publishing, at its discretion, their entry, including the name, and age of the entrant; and any photographs and/or video footage of the entrant for the purpose of the competition, including but not limited to:

- a) Uploading of the entry on to the Council website: www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/, social media platforms and affiliated sponsors website or social media platforms.
- b) Promotion of the competition in the media, both print and online.
- c) Display and promotion at any event associated with the competition, including the Showcase event / Workshops; and
- d) Other non-commercial activities related to the functions of Council.

4.5 On all the above occasions, Council will credit the entrant, where possible.

4.6 Each entrant agrees that Council will not provide any financial compensation, in relation to any use of their entry or any photographs or video footage of the entrant.

4.7 Each entrant declares that they will not seek now or at any future time any financial compensation from Council in relation to any use of this entry or any photographs or video footage of the entrant.

5. Judging of the Competition

5.1 Judging is conducted by a judges panel.

- a) The judges panel is comprised of one (1) Council staff member and two (2) to three (3) Sponsor representatives across the heats and semi-finals.
- b) The judges panel is comprised of one (1) Council staff member and representatives from five (5) Sponsors at the Final event, to decide the competition winners.

5.2 Judging criteria against which entries will be evaluated, include but are not limited to the following points:

- **Musicality:** Technical proficiency, instrumental skills, vocal abilities and overall musical performance.
- **Originality:** Creativity and uniqueness of music, including original compositions, arrangements, and style.
- **Stage Presence:** Charisma, energy, and engagement with audience during performance.
- **Audience Response:** Crowd's reaction to each band's performance, including applause, cheering and overall enthusiasm.
- **Showmanship:** Entertainment value of performance, including stage movements, interactions between band members, and overall entertainment factor.

5.3 Competition Progression

- a) Up to 20 bands can enter the competition. A maximum of six (6) bands per qualifying heat event.
- b) Up to 12 bands progress to the semi-final events. A maximum of six (6) bands per semi-final event.
- c) Seven (7) bands progress to the final event and Creative Engineers Showcase and Awards night. Up to two (2) places are identified for Kids Clash Division bands.

5.4 Judging Process

- a) Evaluation is conducted using a points system for standalone performances, allowing entrants to advance from heats to semi-finals and ultimately to the final event.
- b) The competition prize winnings are determined by the judges panel following the final event.
- c) Acts achieving the highest scores and/or receiving the most favourable feedback are selected with consideration given to the prizes offered in the competition.
- d) The decisions made by the judges panel regarding any aspect of the competition are final and binding for every entrant.
- e) There will be no correspondence entered into regarding any decision made by the judges panel.

5.5 eMergent Sounds Division Judging and Selection Process

- a) The panel of appointed judges will assess all eligible original song submissions and shortlist selected entries for inclusion in an official **eMergent Sounds Online Playlist**.
- b) Bands' names will be removed for the shortlist process.
- c) The judging panel will select one (1) winner from the shortlisted Battle of the Bands entries, and one (1) winner from the shortlisted Discovered entries.

5.6 The winning song will be determined based on the **eMergent Sounds** original song criteria:

- a) Lyrics
- b) Melody
- c) Arrangement
- d) Overall likeability

5.7 Online Public Voting

- a) Following the Creative Engineers Showcase event, shortlisted entries that form the **eMergent Sounds Online Playlist** will be made public for an online voting period with bands' names included.
- b) Online voting will open on 19 September 2025 and close on 19 October 2025 at 11.59pm Australian Eastern Standard Time.

5.8 Vinyl Album Selection

- a) The online songs receiving the highest number of public votes will be selected for inclusion on a limited -edition vinyl album, to be released as part of the Youth Week 2026 celebrations.
- b) The decisions of the judging in relation to any aspect of the eMergent Sounds song competition will be final and binding upon every entrant who enters the competition. No correspondence regarding any decision of the judging will be entered into.

6. Awarding Winner

6.1 Announcing Winners

- a) Winners' will be announced and awarded at a combined showcase event with finalists from the Battle of the Bands and Discovered competitions.
- b) Following the awards night, names will be published on Council's website.
- c) The school nominated by the Youth Battle Division's winning band will be contacted by Council to arrange payment of the 'Play it Forward: School Prize'.

6.2 Prize Acceptance

- a) Is conditional on signing of Council's release form (Attachment 1).
- b) Prize recipients may be invited to perform as a guest in up to two (2) events (within 12-18months of accepting the prize) as organised by Central Coast Council Youth Services as a condition of accepting the prize awarded.
- c) If the prize remains unclaimed for three (3) months from the time notice is given, Council will have the right to determine another prize recipient, if deemed appropriate.

6.3 Claiming Prizes

- a) To claim the prize, the winner(s) must contact the relevant Sponsor to redeem their awarded prize.
- b) It is the responsibility of both the winner(s) and Sponsor to negotiate a suitable time to book an appointment for the awarded prize.
- c) Prizes must be redeemed within six (6) months of the winner being notified.
- d) The prizes are non-transferable and not exchangeable. Prizes cannot be transferred or on-sold at a premium, offered as a prize or inducement, packaged or otherwise used for advertising, promotional or other commercial purposes. (If tickets) The Promoter reserves the right to refuse admission to the bearer of any prize sold or otherwise provided or distributed in breach of this condition.
- e) If the prize remains unclaimed for three months from the time notice is given, Council will have the right to determine another prize recipient, if deemed appropriate.

6.4 Battle of the Bands Competition Prizes

Awards	Sponsored by Central Coast Council	
Kids Clash Division (10-14yrs)	First Prize	\$750
Youth Battle Division (15-24yrs)	First Prize	\$2,000
	First Place 'Play it Forward' School Prize	\$500
	Second Prize	\$1,000
	Third Prize	\$750
eMergent Sounds Division (10-24yrs)	First Prize	\$500
Awards Prize Pool Value		\$5,500

Prize Details	Sponsored by	
Artist Development Session, includes: - One (1) 90-minute artist mentor session	Central Coast Music & Arts	\$250
Merchandise Pack, includes: - A selection of branded items such as apparel, accessories, and/or promotional materials. Exact contents of the pack may vary and are subject to availability at the time of fulfilment.	Musicians Making a Difference	\$500
Songwriting Development Session, includes: - One (1) exclusive songwriters workshop.	Gina Jeffreys Academy of Music	\$500
Personalised Development Package, includes: - Designed to help the awarded band take their music to the next level. This unique prize includes a development evaluation to tailor the package to their needs.	Central Coast Council	\$500
Content Creation Package (Electronic Press Kit), includes: - One (1) photoshoot - One (1) custom 60-90second video reel.	The Skill Engineer	\$500
Studio Recording or Mixing Package, includes: - The prize may be used for a vocal recording session, song mixing, or a combination of both – depending on the artist's needs and goals.	Damien Gerard Studios	\$2,000
Professional Development Prize Pool Value		\$4,250

6.5 Prize Specifics

- a) The 'Kids Clash' Division' professional development package will be personalised for the band according to their specific needs, with by the competition's Project Officer, Jennifer Dias.
- a) The 'Play it Forward: School Prize' money awarded is to be used in the Music or CAPA Faculty to further enhance their equipment budget or can be used to provide specialised program services to benefit the students. A report from the school is to be provided at Council's request on how the 'Play it Forward School Prize' funds were spent. This information may be used for promotional purposes.

7. Complaints

7.1 Procedure for lodging, addressing and resolving complaints.

- a) If Council receives a complaint from a person/s featured in an entry, or a complaint about the entry, Council may reject / remove the entry from the competition at its absolute discretion.
- b) All complaints must be received in writing with contact details.
- c) No correspondence will be entered in relation to any decision of Council in relation to the Competition.

8. Further Information

8.1 If you require further information, please email jennifer.dias@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Attachment 1: Competition Consent Form (under 18)

Parent/Guardian Consent & Declaration for Battle of the Bands Competition

This section is only required to be completed where the entrant is under the age of 18.

1. I declare that I am the parent/guardian of the entrant.
2. I consent to the entrant entering and participating in the Competition.
3. I have read and agree to the terms and conditions of the Competition.
4. I declare that this entry has been submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Competition.

Name: _____

Phone / Email: _____

Relationship to the Entrant: _____

Entrant's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Attachment 2: Competition Consent Form (18-24yrs)

Participant Consent & Declaration for Battle of the Bands Competition

This section is required to be completed where the entrant is 18 years of age and older.

1. I consent to entering and participating in the Competition.
2. I have read and agree to the terms and conditions of the Competition.
3. I declare that this entry has been submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Competition.

Name: _____

Phone / Email: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Attachment 3: Photo and Digital Consent and Release Form

Public – Photo and Digital Consent and Release Form

Date:	
Project name & location:	Battle of the Bands
Photographer's name:	
Description of photo or subject:	
This form relates to image(s): <small>Photographer to complete</small>	

Privacy Notification:

Some of the information you provide on this form is your personal information, including for example your name, signature and contact information. This information is being collected by Council for the purpose of ensuring that you have provided consent to Council to take and use photographs and video footage of you at an event. The information will be accessible by Council staff. It is voluntary for you to provide your personal information on this form, however if you do not provide the information, Council may not accept that you have provided legitimate consent. You may apply to access or amend the personal information provided on this form at any time.

Central Coast Council uses photographs and video footage of the public on a regular basis to promote services, events and community activities, for both print and online media.

By signing this form:

1. You understand that participation in any photography and video recording undertaken by Central Coast Council at the event or location is voluntary.
2. You consent to Central Coast Council taking photographs and/or video footage of you at the event.
3. You consent to Central Coast Council using and publishing (for example, both in print and online media) any photographs and/or video footage taken of you at the event or location, for the purpose of promoting Council services, events and community activities now and at any stage in the future.
4. You understand that Central Coast Council will not provide any financial compensation to you for participation in any photography and/or video recording undertaken by Central Coast Council at the event or location; and/or for any use of any photographs and/or video footage of you from the event or location.
5. You declare that you will not seek now and/or at any future time, any financial compensation from Central Coast Council in relation to participation in any photography and/or video footage undertaken by Central Coast Council at the event or location; and/or any use of any photographs and/or video footage of you from the event or location.
6. You understand that you may apply for access to any photographs and/or video footage resulting from the event or location that involves you.

Child's Name & Age (if relevant)		Age:
Adult's Name:		
Contact Email:		
Contact Phone:		
Signature:		

Attachment 4: PRIZE SIGN OFF

Battle of the Bands COMPETITION

I _____ of _____ hereby confirm I have received
the following _____ prize for my
winning entry in the Battle of the Bands Competition.

I agree to perform as a guest in up to two events as organised by Central Coast Council Youth Services (2025-2026) as a condition of accepting the prize awarded.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

If the winning artist is under 18 years of age, please complete the section below.

Parent/Legal Guardian Name: _____

Phone / Email: _____

Relationship to the Entrant: _____

Winning Artist's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____