ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.
CAL STATE SAN MARCOS

ASI Student Opener Competition Guidelines

Student Opener Competition Information

The ASI Student Opener Competition (SOC) is a friendly competition where CSUSM students compete for a chance to perform at Festival 78. This is an opportunity for musically inclined students to perform for their peers.

Winner(s) will open for the headlining act(s) and could be showcased using the same production as the Festival 78 headliners!

Application Requirements & Process

Application Requirements

- At least 1 member of the performing group must be a current, CSUSM student
- Student applicants must be currently enrolled CSUSM student(s) with 2.0 semester and 2.0 cumulative GPA
    - If performer (s) is a band, at least one member must be a currently enrolled CSUSM Student
    - This must be maintained until the conclusion of the Festival 78 performance for the academic year
- Student applicants must be in good academic and disciplinary standing with CSUSM.
- Student applicant (s) must be available to perform on the day of the Student Opener Competition and Festival 78
- Student applicant(s) who competed previous years and DID NOT win can apply and compete again
- Student applicant(s) who win the Student Opener Competition (as a solo performer or as part of a band) can perform again at the Student Opener Competition but CANNOT compete to win again for the next subsequent year.
- Prior winners would only be eligible to be consider as an opener at the Student Opener Competition event, and not an opening act at Festival 78.
- Music Criteria
    - Must have AT LEAST 15 minutes worth of music (with lyrics included)
    - Music Cannot include:
        - Derogatory language toward people, places, or groups/communities
        - Encouragement of violence or mosh pits,
        - Encouragement of items being thrown,
    - Music must be aligned with ASI Viewpoint Neutrality policy and CSUSM Mission, Vision, and Values
- Student applicant(s) must provide technical rider.
- A maximum of eight (8) people are permitted on stage at one time due to space and weight dimensions of stage.
- Any application that does not follow any of these criteria will be rejected and applicant will not be eligible to resubmit

Application Process

- Student applicant(s) apply online on the ASI website. Only one application per performer (s) is needed. If only one member is CSUSM student, then that member must be the applicant.
- Application must include CSUSM student identification information, 15 minutes' worth of music (original or covers), and press kit/marketing materials (if applicable)
- Student applicant(s) must provide technical rider. If an applicant is selected, ASI will work to accommodate technical needs within budget. If not able to accommodate, ASI will meet with applicant about alternatives.
- Must provide music sample as part of application by e-mailing a link, video, etc.

Application Review

- Application is received by ASI Student Engagement Coordinator and ASI Campus Activities Board student lead
- Student/applicant must attend mandatory performance orientation. Only currently enrolled CSUSM student applicant(s) must attend the session if the performing group includes off-campus members.
- Orientation will review the following:
    - Event date, locations, and logistics.
    - Performance criteria. Performers must adhere and agree to stay within criteria during performance:
        - No Derogatory language toward people, places, or groups/communities
        - Encouragement of violence or mosh pits or items being thrown
        - Must be in Alignment with CSUSM Mission, Vision, Values and ASI Viewpoint Neutrality policy
        - No more than 10 minutes of music to be performed. Each performer/group will be allocated 10 minutes for performance.
        - Performers who violate any aspect of the criteria listed above will be disqualified from receiving votes at Student Opener Competition.
    - Review ASI Performance Agreement for events including code of conduct and risk management.
        - Each performer of each group must sign a $0 contract that acts as an agreement between ASI and the performer(s) that include a performance agreement before event attendance and participation.
        - Performers who violate any aspect of the criteria listed above will be disqualified from receiving votes at Student Opener Competition.

Winner Selection at Student Opener Competition Event

To promote fairness and equal opportunity for all contestants, the winner will be determined through a weighted scoring system that combines student voting and judges' scoring.

Student votes will carry greater weight than judge scores to prioritize student voice while still maintaining professional evaluation of performance quality.

- Student Voting = 60% of final score

- Judges' Scoring = 40% of final score

Student Voting Procedures

- Student voting will open immediately after all performances have concluded.
- Voting will occur on ASI-managed iPads using a Qualtrics form.
- Only currently enrolled CSUSM students are eligible to vote.
- Each student may submit one vote only; duplicate votes will not be counted.
    - After voting, wristband will be marked.
- Performers may not vote individually. Each act is limited to one vote per group- student member must be the one to submit vote.
- All votes will remain anonymous.
- ASI staff will oversee and maintain all iPads and voting integrity.

Judging Panel

Judges will include one representative from each of the following:

- ASI Campus Activities Board (Student Representative)
- Office of Communications Representative
- Student Life Representative
- Office of Inclusive Excellence Representative
- Faculty Representative

Judging Criteria

Judges will score each performance using the following categories:

- Stage Presence / Confidence
- Execution / Delivery
- Overall Impact / Engagement

Judge Scoring Process

- Each judge scores each category for every performer.
- These are combined to produce each performer's overall judge score.
- Each judge's score is then weighted (e.g., 40%) and combined with the weighted student voting score.

Judges Scoring Scale

9–10 | Outstanding

- Extremely polished and engaging
- Highly confident stage presence
- Strong emotional connection with the audience
- Few or no noticeable errors
- Performance stands out among all competitors

7–8 | Very Good

- Confident, well-prepared presentation
- Mostly smooth execution with only minor issues
- Maintains audience attention

- Clear strengths in performance quality

5–6 | Good
- Solid performance overall
- Some inconsistencies, awkward moments, or technical issues
- Demonstrates ability but lacks impact or polish
- Competent but not memorable

3–4 | Fair
- Noticeable errors or lack of preparation
- Limited audience engagement
- Hesitant or inconsistent delivery
- Performance needs improvement

1–2 | Poor
- Major issues throughout
- Significant lack of preparation, confidence, or clarity
- Minimal engagement with audience
- Performance does not meet expectations

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

1. Stage Presence / Confidence (scoring scale 1–10)
Judges evaluate:
- Performer's comfort and confidence on stage
- Body language, posture, eye contact
- Audience awareness and connection
- Command of the space

2. Execution / Delivery (scoring scale 1–10)
Judges evaluate:
- Technical quality (vocals, movement, timing, clarity)
- Accuracy, pacing, and control
- Smoothness and professionalism of performance
- How well the performer delivers their intended piece

3. Overall Impact / Engagement (scoring scale 1–10)
Judges evaluate:
- Emotional impact and creativity
- Ability to hold audience attention
- Uniqueness of performance
- Overall cohesiveness and performance impression

Final Judge Score
- Each judge provides three scores (one per category).
  Example:

  - Stage Presence: 8
  - Execution: 7
  - Overall Impact: 9
- Total from each judge will be converted to a percentage of the vote share.

Combining Student Votes and Judges Scores

Judges' Score

- Each judge scores using the 1–10 scale in 3 categories on ASI Student Opener Competition Judging Matrix.
- Each judge's scores are totaled then given to ASI Student Engagement Coordinator

Student Voting

- See above for student voting process
- Example: Performer A receives 25 student votes
  - Weighted Student Score:
    25 × 60% = 15 added to ASI Student Opener Competition Judging Matrix score.

Weighting

- Final Weighted Score = (Student Voting Score × 60%) + (Judge Score × 40%)
  - A higher combined score = better placement.

<u>Final Score & Tie-Breaking</u>

The final score is the combined weight of student voting and judge scoring. The winner will be announced on stage once the scoring process is finalized. In the event of a tie, the ASI President or designee will make the final decision.

After Winner Selection

- SOC Winner meets with ASI to review documents
  - The winning performer/member of the group must sign a contract and code of conduct before event attendance and participation.
- SOC winner will receive $500 in total for payment at Festival 78 event for Festival 78
  - For example, if 5 members of the group, each will receive $100 to total $500.
  - Payment will be processed net30 after the Festival 78 event. If a member is not a CSUSM student, will need to be set up in CSU Buy payment system.
- ASI will coordinate to get each member information submitted to CSU Buy payment system.
  - Payment will be processed Net30 after the Festival 78 event.
- CSUSM student winner must be in good academic and disciplinary standing.
  - If not maintained, group and/or performer will not be allowed to perform at Festival 78 and SOC runner-up will perform at Festival 78.

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ASI Student Opener Competition Judge Scoring Matrix

Scale = 1 - 2 Poor, 3 - 4 Fair, 5 - 6 Good, 7 - 8 Very Good, 9 - 10 Outstanding

	Stage Presence / Confidence	Execution / Delivery	Overall Impact / Engagement	Total Score
Performer One				
Performer Two				
Performer Three				
Performer Four				
Performer Five				
Performer Six				

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ASI Student Opener Competition
Judge Scoring & Student Vote Combine Matrix

Performer	**Judge 1**	**Judge 2**	**Judge 3**	**Judge 4**	**Judge 5**	**Total Judges score**	**Judges weighted score**	**Total Student Vote**	**Student Vote weighted**	**Sum of weighted judges score + weighted student vote**
	#	#	#	#	#	#	# x 40%= #	#	# x 60%= #	#
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										