

Madison's Funniest Comic Competition 2026

SIGN-UP: Begins Wednesday, March 4th, Ends Thursday, March 26th @ 4pm. Sign up is online only. To sign up visit madisoncomedy.com. Contestants and Preliminary show placement will be posted on Monday, March 30th on the Club website (www.madisoncomedy.com) under MFC contest tab.

ELIGIBILITY: Comics must be based in Wisconsin in order to be eligible to compete. 3-5 minute video clip required for audition.

SHOW TIME: 8pm; Doors @ 6:30pm. Seating is a first come first serve basis. We recommend showing up early as these shows do fill up quickly and sell out.

PRIZES:

1st Prize: \$1000 Cash, \$100 gift card to Comedy on State, 20 minute professionally recorded video plus 2-3 clips

2nd Prize: \$250 cash, \$50 gift card to Comedy on State

3rd Prize: \$100 cash, \$50 gift card to Comedy on State

CHECK-IN: All comics performing must arrive and check in 30 minutes prior to showtime. Check in at greenroom. Failure to check-in results in disqualification from the competition.

LINE-UP ORDER: Will be drawn randomly for each week. Order will be posted at 6:30pm the night of the show.

Competition Breakdown:

Round	Date	# of Comics Performing	Time Allotted	Winners Posted
Preliminary 1	Wednesday, April 1st	30	3 Minutes	Thursday, April 2nd @ 5pm
Preliminary 2	Wednesday, April 8th	30	3 Minutes	Thursday, April 9th @ 5pm
Round 1	Wednesday, April 15th	25	3 Minutes	Thursday, April 16th @ 5pm
Round 2 (Semi-finals)	Wednesday, April 22nd	12	5 Minutes	Thursday, April 23rd @ 5pm
Round 3 (FINAL)	Wednesday, April 29th	5	10 Minutes	End of the show

Judging Criteria:

Our panel of judges will follow these guidelines when judging your set. The panel will be announced closer to show dates. Judging will be based on 60% panel judging and 40% crowd voting. Each crowd member will be given one ballot at the beginning of the night to be turned in after all comics have performed.

Time- Comic utilizes allotted time. 30 seconds over/under results in points deduction, 1 minute over or under results in immediate disqualification.

Stage Persona- Comedian has a strong stage presence and unique style

Creative Material- Original jokes

Crowd Reaction- Laughs, gasps, boos, crying, etc.

Memorization of Lines- Jokes not forgotten or stumbled over, no notes on stage

Professionalism- Entering and exiting the stage, works the entire room, head up and projection of voice, mic handling, etc.

Topic Choices- Comedian avoids material that is dirty or offensive for the sake of getting an easy crowd reaction

New Material- No repeat material. Take into consideration crowd and judges may dock points for repeat material.