

**RULE TWENTY-TWO
SPECIAL RULES FOR THE
SOUND AWARD**

1. A Reminder List of all eligible motion pictures shall be made available along with a nominations ballot to all members of the Sound Branch.
2. Preliminary voting shall produce a shortlist of ten motion pictures. Sound Branch members shall vote in order of their preference for not more than ten pictures to be considered for the Sound award. The ten motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall advance to the next round of voting.
3. The Academy must receive the names of the individuals responsible for the work through the Oscars Submission Form (General Entry) by the General Entry submission deadline, 5 p.m. PT on November 13, 2025.
4. The Sound Branch Executive Committee will request that producers provide opportunities to view their motion pictures via the Academy Screening Room or advance theatrical screenings. This is required in instances where a title will be released after the preliminary voting cycle opens for shortlist selection.
5. When a motion picture is shortlisted, the sound team responsible for the motion picture selected for Awards consideration shall be required to provide a DCP of one clip reel from their film's release master, highlighting the sound achievements. This clip reel will be screened by the Sound Branch at a nominating screening, prior to nominations voting. For archival purposes, a DCDM must be provided.
 - a. Clip reels must be from the final release version of the motion picture and may be up to ten (10) minutes in total running time per title. Less than ten minutes is permitted.
 - b. Each clip reel must be exactly as it appears in the final release version; no edits or audio manipulation of the clip reel will be permitted, beyond what is technically required to create the presentation reel. Two cuts within the clip reel are permitted, along with one second of black on either side of the cut(s). If the clip reel consists of two or more segments, they must all be presented in the same sequential order as they appeared in the final release version of the motion picture.
 - c. The excerpted clip reel must be presented in the same sound format(s) as used in the final release version of the motion picture. All submissions should be supplied as a fully authored DCP, with NO encryption.
 - d. If the clip reel does not meet these requirements, the producers shall be notified and given an opportunity to make corrections within the deadline period; otherwise, it will not be exhibited.
 - e. The producers shall provide the Academy the right to use the clip reel for any voting purposes, and for any nonprofit purposes of the Academy Museum, the Academy Foundation or Academy websites.
 - f. A multimedia file version of the clip reel shall be provided for use in the production of the Academy Awards telecast.
 - g. Clip reels shall become the property of the Academy and placed in the Academy Film Archive, with the proviso that the Academy will not use the clips for commercial gain.
6. To determine nominations, all Sound Branch members will vote in the order of their preference for not more than five of the motion pictures from the shortlist. The five motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Sound award.
7. No more than six individuals per motion picture shall be named as designated nominees for the Sound award.
8. Eligibility for this award shall be limited to the creative team comprised of, in the following order:
 - a. no more than two production sound mixers

The production sound mixer is the individual who served in that capacity for at least 2/3 of the principal photography schedule. Should there be two individuals whose respective time on the show was less than the 2/3 minimum, the producer must submit a letter to the Sound Branch Executive Committee by the deadline published by the Academy, explaining the eligibility of the designated nominees. The Sound Branch Executive Committee will make the final determination of eligibility.

- b. no more than two supervising sound editors

The sound editing supervisor(s) must have been directly involved in and primarily responsible for the planning, creation, direction and execution of the sound design and editing for the motion picture. The supervisor(s) must be the primary creative decision maker and principal interpreter of the director's vision to the sound editing team. The supervisor(s) must approve the sound effects and their specific placement in the show, coordinate the creation of newly designed sound and Foley effects, and coordinate the editing of both production and post-sync dialogue. The supervisor(s) must participate and contribute during the creation of the pre-mixes as well as be present throughout the entire final sound mix. In the event the above responsibilities are divided, both co-supervisors must adhere to the above criteria.

- c. no more than three rerecording mixers

No more than three eligible co-rerecording mixers who have contributed substantially to the final sound mix shall be designated for Academy Awards purposes. The rerecording mixer(s) must have combined the various sound elements into the final soundtrack under the approval of the director. They must have been present for all creative decisions, and executed any changes, alterations or fixes requested by the director. Rerecording mixers who only provided pre-dubs or pre-mixes, or materials for international versions, are not eligible.

- 9. Should any nominated individual have performed multiple roles on one production (such as supervising sound editor and rerecording mixer), that individual will receive only one citation in the nomination and one statuette.
- 10. The Sound Branch Executive Committee has the right to return any eligibility question to the creative team (including the producer and director) for their resolution. The creative team must demonstrate overwhelming support and consensus for any exception. If the creative team is unable to agree, the Executive Committee reserves the right to deem that title ineligible.

11. Special Circumstances

In the event that a member of the team responsible for the sound of a motion picture is deemed noteworthy but does not conform to the breakdown of roles in Paragraph 8 above, the individuals named in the Oscars Submission Form (General Entry) from the Academy's Submission site may deviate from the aforementioned breakdown in Paragraph 8.

- a. The submission must include those responsible for production sound mixing, sound editing supervision and rerecording mixing of the film. These positions may not be exchanged for a special circumstance request.
- b. A letter of explanation regarding any requested exceptions to Paragraph 8 must be submitted to sound@oscars.org by 5 p.m. PT on Thursday, November 13, 2025.
- c. The letter of explanation shall be submitted by the producer and director and include written support for the exception from all members of the eligible sound team.
- d. The Sound Branch Executive Committee will review the request and accompanying letter(s).

- e. The decision of the Sound Branch Executive Committee on special circumstances eligibility shall be final.
12. The Theater Sound Inspection Committee shall inspect and approve the projection sound systems of the Academy's theaters prior to the annual screening of nominated achievements. No changes may be made in the sound systems after final approval by the Committee. Any standard release print (DCP) that plays on the normal projection sound system of the Academy's theaters requires no special approval of the Committee. Any production that deviates from the normal sound system, or requires modification of the system, must be approved by a majority of the Committee before the final check of the system. Notification of such deviation or modification requirements must be submitted to the Academy at least three weeks in advance of the theater inspection meeting. At the post-nomination screenings (AKA "nomination screenings") movies will be run at the Academy Standard sound level.
 13. Final voting for the Sound award shall be restricted to active and life Academy members.
 14. Such other rules or modifications as may be necessary for the proper conduct of this award shall be adopted by the Sound Branch Executive Committee, subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.