

**RULE TWENTY
SPECIAL RULES FOR THE
BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR AWARD**

I. ELIGIBILITY

- A. To be eligible for awards consideration for the 99th Awards year, a feature film must fulfill the following qualifying criteria. The eligibility period begins on January 1, 2026, and ends on December 31, 2026.
1. The picture must have been publicly exhibited for **paid admission** in a commercial motion picture theater in one of the six qualifying U.S. metro areas: Los Angeles County; City of New York [five boroughs]; the Bay Area [counties of San Francisco, Marin, Alameda, San Mateo and Contra Costa]; Chicago [Cook County, Illinois]; Dallas-Fort Worth [Dallas County and Tarrant County, Texas]; and Atlanta [Fulton, Georgia], for a run of at least seven consecutive days. Screenings during the theatrical release must occur at least three times daily, in the same theater, with at least one screening beginning between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. daily. The seven consecutive days of the theatrical release are required to occur in one venue. The motion picture must be advertised during its qualifying theatrical release in a manner normal and customary to theatrical feature distribution practices and may receive movie critic reviews. All General Entry requirements must be fulfilled, in compliance under Rule Two – Eligibility.

AND

2. The picture must complete the Best Picture Expanded Theatrical Run criteria, consisting of the following:
 - a. Completed theatrical releases in nine additional markets, separate and in addition to the market being utilized for the film's General Entry qualifying run, resulting in a total of at least ten markets. All theatrical releases must be publicly exhibited in a commercial motion picture theater for paid admission.
 - b. The Best Picture Expanded Theatrical Run must consist of theatrical screenings of at least seven days, consecutive or non-consecutive, with at least one showtime per day.
 - c. The nine additional markets must be included on the list of top 50 U.S. markets, which is available at www.oscars.org or may be obtained from the Academy. In the event that a film is not able to fulfill this requirement, a maximum of two distinct non-U.S. territories may be counted as part of the additional markets requirement pending approval from the Academy.
 - d. A film's Best Picture Expanded Theatrical Run must occur within 45 days, either before or after, the completion of the film's General Entry qualifying theatrical run.
 - e. If the expanded theatrical run extends beyond the December 31, 2026 eligibility period, it must still be completed either within 45 days or by January 21, 2027, whichever date would arrive earlier.
 - i. Failure to complete the Best Picture Expanded Theatrical Run by applicable window listed above may result in the revocation of a film's nomination.

AND

3. The motion picture must meet the requirements of two out of the four Representation and Inclusion Standards. A representative confirmed by the film's motion picture company must complete the submission of the Representation and Inclusion Entry Form (RAISE).
- B. The Academy shall resolve all questions of eligibility and rules.

II. SUBMISSION

- A. For films which have their General Entry theatrical qualifying run between January 1, 2026, and June 30, 2026, all Oscars Submission Forms (General Entry), Best Picture Expanded Theatrical Run information, a completed RAISE form, and full screen credits must be submitted to the Academy by **5 p.m. PT on Thursday, September 17, 2026**. For films which begin their theatrical qualifying run between July 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026, entrants must submit all Oscars Submission Forms (General Entry), Best Picture Expanded Theatrical Run information, a completed RAISE form, and full screen credits to the Academy by **5 p.m. PT on Thursday, November 12, 2026**.
- B. Films entering for Best Picture can only be submitted by a confirmed representative of its distributor or production company. Production companies will be defined as those in the legal billing of the film as "A (insert company name) Production."
- C. Producers must be listed on the entry form in order of legal billing or otherwise agreed-upon contractual position submitted by the film's distributor. All credited individuals with a "producer" or "produced by" credit are required to sign the entry form, to ensure that all parties are properly informed of the criteria and deadlines regarding the film's eligibility and designated award recipients.
- D. For films that have not been released by or have not completed a Best Picture Expanded Theatrical Run by the November 12, 2026, submission deadline, entrants must provide documentation by the final submission deadline confirming that the film will satisfy all release requirements. Documentation must include the following:
- Booking confirmation of a General Entry qualifying theatrical run if one has not yet been completed.
 - Booking confirmation of a Best Picture Expanded Theatrical Run, or a document detailing release plans, including specific dates, markets, and theaters.
- E. **Tuesday, December 1, 2026**, is the last day to withdraw a film from Academy Awards consideration. Withdrawing and/or failure to complete the qualifying standards may risk future awards disqualification.

III. NOMINEES AND AWARD RECIPIENTS

- A. The individual(s) who shall be credited for Academy Awards purposes must have screen credit of "producer" or "produced by." Persons with screen credits of executive producer, co-producer, associate producer, line producer, produced in association with or any other credit shall not receive nominations or Academy statuettes. The nominees will be those three or fewer producers who have performed the major portion of the producing functions. In determining the number of producers eligible for nomination, a bona fide team of not more than two people shall be considered to be a single "producer" if the two individuals have had an established producing partnership as determined by the Producers Guild of America's Producing Partnership Panel.
- B. To qualify as a producer nominee for a nominated picture, the producer must have been determined awards-eligible by the Producers Guild of America for the picture or have successfully appealed the Producers Guild of America's refusal of such eligibility. Final determination of the qualifying producer nominees for each nominated picture will be made by the Producers Branch Executive Committee, including the right to name any additional qualified producer as a nominee.
- C. Films released from January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, must be able to provide proof of submission to the PGA for mark certification or awards-only determination no later than September 14, 2026. Films released from July 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, must be able to provide proof of submission to the PGA for mark certification or awards-only determination no later than November 12, 2026.
- D. Producing nominees for each film will be listed in order based on agreed-upon producer position as

shown in legal billing submitted by distributor and verified by producer(s) on the completed Oscars Submission Form.

- i. Established producing partnerships will be noted with an ampersand symbol (&).
- E. The Producers Branch Executive Committee shall resolve all questions of nominees and award recipients.

IV. VOTING

- A. A Reminder List of all eligible motion pictures shall be made available online along with a nominations ballot to all active and life members of the Academy.
- B. All active and life members of the Academy shall vote in the order of their preference for not more than ten motion pictures. The ten motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Best Picture award.
- C. Final voting for the Best Picture award shall be restricted to active and life Academy members.