

RULE TWO ELIGIBILITY

1. Eligibility for Academy Awards consideration is subject to Rules Two and Three, and to those special rules approved by the Board of Governors that follow.
2. All eligible motion pictures, unless otherwise noted (see Paragraph 10, below), must be:
 - a. feature length (defined as over 40 minutes),
 - b. publicly exhibited by means of 35mm film, 70mm film, or Digital Cinema format. Any Digital Cinema exhibition shall use image and sound files packaged as Digital Cinema Packages (DCPs) in conformance with the most recent revision of SMPTE ST 429-2 (D-Cinema Packaging – DCP Operational Constraints) and its normative references, and shall use a 24- or 48-frame progressive scan format and a projector with a minimum resolution of 2048 by 1080 pixels.

A Digital Cinema Package (DCP) shall contain either monophonic audio or discrete channel-based audio. Any non-monophonic audio configuration shall include, at a minimum, Left, Center, and Right channels. A Left/Right configuration alone does not satisfy the minimum non-monophonic audio requirement. Object-based audio may also be present as an immersive audio bitstream.

Immersive audio, if present, shall be formatted and packaged in conformance with the most recent revision of SMPTE 429-19 (D-Cinema Packaging – DCP Operational Constraints for Immersive Audio) and its normative references.

Note 1: Digital Cinema requirements are not satisfied by consumer, broadcast, streaming, or non-DCP file-based delivery formats, including but not limited to Blu-ray, DVD, HDCAM, QuickTime, ProRes, MP4, or other similar formats.

Note 2: Common theatrical audio configurations include monophonic, LCR, 5.1, and 7.1 channel presentations.

Note 3: Use of SMPTE RDD 52 – D-Cinema Packaging, SMPTE DCP Bv2.1 Application Profile – is recommended to improve interoperability in theatrical exhibition environments.

- c. 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 County, Georgia].

A commercial motion picture theater is defined as a brick-and-mortar establishment that operates year-round and regularly screens first-run films for paid admission,

- d. for a theatrical qualifying run of at least seven consecutive days in the same commercial motion picture theater, during which period screenings must occur at least three times daily, with at least one screening beginning between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. daily,
 - e. advertised and exploited during their theatrical qualifying run in a manner normal and customary to theatrical feature distribution practices, and
 - f. released within the Awards year deadlines specified in Rule Three.

3. Films that, in any version, receive their first public exhibition or distribution in any manner other than as a theatrical motion picture release will not be eligible for Academy Awards in any category. Nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution includes but is not limited to:
 - Broadcast and cable television
 - Pay Per View/Video on Demand
 - DVD and/or streaming distribution
 - Inflight airline distribution
 - Internet transmission
 - Episodic series

Motion pictures released in such nontheatrical media **on or after the first day of their theatrical qualifying run remain eligible**. Also, up to fifteen percent of the running time of a film may be shown in a nontheatrical medium prior to the film's qualifying run. (See also Paragraph 11, below.)

Film festivals may provide films online through either a transactional pay wall or password-protected entry, which will not affect the films' eligibility for future Academy qualification. The Academy will allow an exemption for those films that are released online through a festival's online platform, provided the filmmaker(s) submit proof of inclusion in the festival. With these provisions, films will be expected to comply with all other eligibility requirements for the 99th Academy Awards.

4. Eligibility is contingent on the receipt by the Academy of a completed Oscars Submission Form (General Entry). 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. DVDs or DCPs are not accepted in lieu of, or in addition to, the Oscars Submission Form. The Oscars Submission Form must be completed online at the Academy's Awards Submission site and can only be submitted by a confirmed representative of the releasing company or production company. The submission shall include:
 - a. full, complete, and authentic screen credits from opening titles through end credits,
 - b. the name of the commercial motion picture theater where the film has qualified, and
 - c. the dates and times of the theatrical qualifying run.
5. Eligibility for all awards shall be determined by credits as they appear on the theatrical qualifying version of the film and/or as certified to the Academy by the producing companies, but final determination in any event shall be made by the Academy. The Academy shall not be bound by any contract or agreement relating to the sharing or giving of credit and reserves the right to make its own determination of credit for purposes of Awards consideration.
6. In the event of any dispute concerning credits, the Academy reserves the right to declare any achievement ineligible or, alternatively, to reject all claims to credit, list credits as being in controversy, and withhold any award until the dispute is resolved. The Academy is not responsible for resolving credit disputes between an individual, production company, studio or releasing partner.
7. With regard to Generative Artificial Intelligence and other digital tools used in the making of the film, the tools neither help nor harm the chances of achieving a nomination. The Academy and each branch will judge the achievement, taking into account the degree to which a human was at the heart of the creative authorship when choosing which movie to award. If questions arise regarding the aforementioned use of Generative Artificial Intelligence, the Academy reserves the right to request more information about the nature of the use and human authorship.
8. The alteration of an achievement by changing a picture from the version shown in the theatrical qualifying run, upon which eligibility is based, shall subject such achievement to the risk of being declared ineligible by the Academy.

9. Only bona fide theatrical feature works may be considered, and the Academy retains the right to deem any submission ineligible. This excludes from consideration such works as:
 - a. Works which are essentially recordings of performances that were originally produced for another medium.
 - b. Alternate or re-edited versions of completed works which have previously been publicly exhibited.
 - c. Works originally created as episodic television (for broadcast and/or streaming). This may include pilots or material as part of an ongoing, multi-part or limited series.
10. Motion pictures from all countries shall be eligible for the annual awards listed in Rule One Paragraph 3, as long as they satisfy the requirements of the other applicable rules and contain accurate and legible English-language subtitles if released in a language other than English.
11. Alternate and/or additional qualifying methods not listed in Rules Two and Three appear in the Special Rules for the Animated Feature Film award (see Rule Seven), the Animated Short Film award (see Rule Eight), the Documentary Feature Film award (see Rule Thirteen), the Documentary Short Film award (see Rule Fourteen), the International Feature Film award (see Rule Sixteen), the Live Action Short Film award (see Rule Seventeen), the Music awards (see Rule Nineteen) and the Best Picture award (see Rule Twenty).
12. No appeals are permitted. The Academy Board Awards Committee reserves the right to make determinations to maintain consistency across categories.
13. The Academy shall resolve all questions of eligibility and rules.

RULE THREE THE AWARDS YEAR AND DEADLINES

1. The required theatrical qualifying run (described in Rule Two Paragraph 2) must begin between **January 1, 2026**, and **December 31, 2026**.
2. A motion picture first theatrically exhibited **inside** the U.S. prior to the theatrical qualifying run shall be eligible for submission, provided the prior exhibition is a theatrical preview or festival screening after January 1, 2025. No nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution may occur prior to the first day of the theatrical qualifying run.
3. A motion picture first theatrically exhibited **outside** the U.S. prior to the theatrical qualifying run shall be eligible for submission, provided the prior exhibition is a theatrical preview or festival screening, or takes place in a commercial motion picture theater after January 1, 2025. After the start of its initial non-U.S. theatrical engagement, a picture may be exhibited in those same non-U.S. territories on television and other nontheatrical media. **Inside** the U.S., no nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution may occur prior to the first day of the theatrical qualifying run.
4. Each picture may have only one theatrical qualifying run. The earliest theatrical exhibition that meets such definition shall be designated the picture's qualifying run. Inside the U.S., the qualifying run must take place during the same calendar year (as defined in Paragraph 1) of any paid theatrical release in a commercial motion picture theater.
5. For films which have their theatrical qualifying run between January 1, 2026, and June 30, 2026, all Oscars Submission Forms (General Entry and Best Picture) and accompanying full screen credits must be submitted to the Academy by **5 p.m. PT on Thursday, September 17, 2026**. For films which have their theatrical qualifying run between July 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026, entrants must submit all Oscars Submission Forms (General Entry and Best Picture) and accompanying full screen credits to the Academy by **5 p.m. PT on Thursday, November 12, 2026**.

6. For films qualifying after **Thursday, November 12, 2026**, entrants must provide documentation from the qualifying theater by the submission deadline confirming that the film will satisfy all release requirements.
7. **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.