

**RULE TWENTY-THREE  
SPECIAL RULES FOR THE  
VISUAL EFFECTS AWARD**

1. The Academy President shall appoint a chair who will preside over an Executive Committee that is composed of active and life members of the Visual Effects Branch.
2. The Visual Effects Branch Executive Committee shall review a reminder list of all eligible films and, through a series of meetings, shall vote to select a maximum of twenty films for further consideration. Achievements shall be judged within the parameters defined by the Visual Effects Branch Executive Committee and on the basis of:
  - a. the contribution the visual effects make to the overall production, and
  - b. the human artistry and skill, fidelity, and technical achievement with which the visual illusions are achieved.
3. Avoiding conflicts of interest: Committee members are considered *conflicted* if they have:
  - a. Worked on the proposed film
  - b. Or stand to benefit from the film's nomination
  - c. Or if they otherwise have a personal or professional conflict of interest that could impair their judgment

*Conflicted* committee members may present relevant information when requested, but shall not advocate for the film. Conflicted members shall abstain from voting on the achievement and shall be excused during deliberation.

4. The Visual Effects Branch Executive Committee will request that producers provide opportunities to view their films through advance screenings. If the film is not available by two weeks prior to the selection meeting, excerpts may be submitted. If suitable materials are not made available, the Visual Effects Branch Executive Committee has the right to deem the film ineligible.
5. The producers of the twenty films under further consideration (or their designees) shall be requested to provide the committee with the following:
  - a. The names and titles of the primary individuals – not to exceed four in number – directly involved with, and principally responsible for, the visual effects achieved and a description of their contributions. **Additional names will not be considered.** The Visual Effects award is a craft award. For that reason, producers, coordinators, and executives are not eligible for this award, unless they acted in the capacity of craftspeople with primary creative responsibility for the achievement.
  - b. Visual Effects Branch Executive Committee supplementary video – not to exceed three minutes in total running time – providing firsthand information from the lead visual effects supervisor regarding precisely what was created as a visual or mechanical effect, to arrive at the finished work.
6. Any disputes concerning the list of designated nominees that are submitted by the film's producers will not be accepted without a formal appeal. Appeals should contain short statements from the individuals concerned, and from team members working directly with the individuals, as appropriate. Appeals must be submitted to the committee by December 3, 2026.

7. The producers of the ten films that will be considered for nomination (or their designees) shall be requested to provide the committee with the following:
  - a. Written descriptions and visual material illustrating the procedures used to create the effects.
  - b. The Bake-Off reel – not to exceed ten minutes in total running time – containing excerpts from the digital release DCP of the motion picture. The Bake-Off reel will present the effects shots in movie order, with minor exceptions allowed. This composition playlist must reference only the theatrical release DCP media essence files. For smoother presentation, audio-only crossfades are allowed, and shall not exceed a length of 0.5 seconds. Producers wishing to submit a film excerpt reel instead may do so, provided the motion picture was originally released in that format. In this case, a duplicate excerpt reel from the composite release print must be provided for archiving. All formats containing narration are required to include closed captioning.
  - c. Intro Before and After reel – not to exceed three minutes in total running time – showing the progression of a minimum of two steps in the creation of a finished shot, from raw plate to finished product, or – in the case of shots or sequences created entirely off the set – storyboards, concept art or previsualization. The audio should be silent (MOS) overlaid with voice-over narration explaining the material that is either prerecorded or provided by an attending designated nominee. The content of this reel should be directly related to the material in the Bake-Off reel. All formats containing overlaid narration are required to include closed captioning.
  - d. A multimedia file version of the composition playlist or excerpt reel for use in the production of the Academy Awards telecast.
  - e. Display artwork used to represent the film on the Academy Screening Room.

If these supporting materials are not made available, the Visual Effects Branch Executive Committee has the right to deem the film ineligible.

8. The producers shall provide the Academy the right to use the excerpts for any voting purposes, and for any nonprofit purposes of the Academy Museum, the Academy Foundation or Academy websites.
9. Visual effects, as an achievement or a craft, shall be determined by the Visual Effects Branch Executive Committee. Eligibility of the submitted body of work and contributor(s) to the achievement, for nomination purposes, shall also be determined by the committee.
10. Active voting members of the Visual Effects Branch shall be eligible to view the excerpts of the ten films under consideration at the annual nominating screening which is required viewing to vote. The screening order of the films will be randomized with exceptions allowed for technical reasons by the projection staff. Written descriptions of the effects shall be made available to all active branch members prior to the screening.
11. The producers (or their designees) may attend the nominating screening, however, only the designated nominees will be allowed to address branch members.
12. Following the running of the excerpts and discussion relative to the achievements, voting shall be conducted as follows:
  - a. A ballot shall be submitted by all eligible voting members of the Visual Effects Branch on the ten films under consideration.
  - b. For each of the ten films, voting members are required to have seen the film or shall abstain from voting on that film.

- c. Five films shall be selected, using reweighted range voting, to become the nominations for final voting for the Visual Effects award.
  - d. Final voting for the Visual Effects award shall be restricted to active and life Academy members. Members shall be required to view the 3-minute Before and After reels to be eligible to vote in the category.
13. Composition playlists and excerpt reels shall become the property of the Academy and be placed in the Academy Film Archive, with the proviso that the Academy will not use the excerpts for commercial gain.
14. Such other rules or procedures necessary for the proper conduct of this award shall be adopted by the Visual Effects Branch Executive Committee, subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.