



## **SPECIAL RULES FOR FEATURE FILM – GENERAL ENTRY**

### **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 9, below), must be:
  - a. feature length (defined as over 40 minutes),
  - b. publicly exhibited by means of 35mm or 70mm film, or in a 24- or 48-frame progressive scan Digital Cinema format with a minimum projector resolution of 2048 by 1080 pixels, source image format conforming to ST 428-1:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Image Characteristics; image compression (if used) conforming to ISO/IEC 15444-1 (JPEG 2000); and image and sound files packaged as Digital Cinema Packages (DCPs) in the “SMPTE DCP” format. SMPTE DCP refers to SMPTE ST 429-2:2020 D-Cinema Packaging – DCP Operational Constraints and related specifications. (Blu-ray format does not meet Digital Cinema requirements.)

The audio in a Digital Cinema Package (DCP) is typically 5.1 or 7.1 channels of discrete audio. The minimum for a non-mono configuration of the audio shall be three channels as Left, Center, Right (a Left/Right configuration is not acceptable in a theatrical environment). In addition to channel-based audio, object-based audio may also be present as an immersive audio bitstream.

The discrete audio data shall be formatted in conformance with SMPTE ST 429-3:2007 D-Cinema Packaging – Sound and Picture Track File, SMPTE ST 428-2:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Audio Characteristics and SMPTE ST 428-12:2013 D-Cinema Distribution Master Common Audio Channels and Soundfield Groups. Immersive audio, if present, shall be formatted in conformance with SMPTE ST 2098-2:2019 Immersive Audio Bitstream Specification and SMPTE 429-18:2019 D-Cinema Packaging – Immersive Audio Track File and packaged in conformance with SMPTE 429-19:2019 D-Cinema Packaging – DCP Operational Constraints for Immersive Audio,

- 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]; Miami [Miami-Dade County, Florida]; and Atlanta [Fulton County, Georgia],
- 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.
- g. Drive-in theaters are included as a qualifying commercial venue in the above metro areas. Films must run for seven consecutive days with at least one screening daily.



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
- PPV/VOD
- DVD distribution
- Inflight airline distribution
- Internet transmission

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 10 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 95th Academy Awards.

4. Eligibility is contingent on the receipt by the Academy of a completed Oscars Submission Form (General Entry), to be signed by the film's producer or distributor (unless waived by the Academy). DVDs or DCPs are not accepted in lieu of, or in addition to, the Oscars Submission Form. The Oscars Submission Form is accessible online at the Academy's Awards Submission site. The submission shall include:
  - a. full, complete and authentic screen credits,
  - b. the name of the commercial motion picture theater where the film has screened, and
  - c. the dates and times of the theatrical qualifying run.
5. Eligibility for all awards shall first be determined by credits as they appear on the screen 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.
7. 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 Board of Governors.
8. Submissions which are essentially recordings of performances that were originally produced for another medium are not eligible for Awards consideration.
9. 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.



10. Exceptions to the eligibility requirements and methods of qualifying listed in Rules Two and Three appear in the Special Rules for the Animated Feature Film award (see Rule Seven), the Documentary awards (see Rule Eleven), the International Feature Film award (see Rule Thirteen), the Music awards (see Rule Fifteen), and the Short Film awards (see Rule Nineteen).
11. 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, 2022, and December 31, 2022.**
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, or takes place in a commercial motion picture theater after January 1, 2021. 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 takes place in a commercial motion picture theater after January 1, 2021. After the start of its initial theatrical engagement, a picture may be exhibited on television and other nontheatrical media, provided those exhibitions occur **outside** the U.S. **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.
5. The Oscars Submission Form (General Entry) and the film's full screen credits may be submitted to the Academy prior to the theatrical qualifying run, but not later than 60 days after such opening. However, all Oscars Submission Forms (General Entry) and accompanying full screen credits must be submitted to the Academy by **5 p.m. PT on Tuesday, November 15, 2022.**
6. If the film's theatrical qualifying run occurs after December 1, 2022, the name of the qualifying theater and the dates and screening times of the run must be submitted to the Academy by **5 p.m. PT on Friday, December 2, 2022.**
7. **Friday, December 9, 2022,** is the last day to withdraw a film from Academy Awards consideration.
8. Exceptions to the above eligibility periods and submission deadlines appear in the Special Rules for the Animated Feature Film award (see Rule Seven), the Documentary awards (see Rule Eleven), the International Feature Film award (see Rule Thirteen), and the Short Film awards (see Rule Nineteen).

### **RULE FOUR SUBMISSION**

1. "Every award shall be conditioned upon the delivery to the Academy of one print or one copy of every film nominated for final balloting for all Academy Awards. Such print or copy shall be in a format and of a quality equivalent to the film's theatrical release; if a film exists in more than one format, then the version deposited shall be the film print. Such print or copy shall become the property of the Academy, with the proviso, however, that the Academy shall not use such print or copy for



commercial gain. Such print or copy shall be deposited with the Academy and, subject to matters not within its control, shall be screened by the Academy for the membership in advance of distribution of final ballots.” (Academy Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 6.)

2. “Every award shall be conditioned upon the execution and delivery to the Academy by the recipient thereof of a receipt and agreement reading as follows:

I hereby acknowledge receipt of Academy Regulations for use of the Academy Award statuette and the phrase “Academy Award(s)” in advertising. In consideration of the signing of a similar agreement by other Academy Award nominees, I agree to comply with said regulations. I understand that on (date) I may receive from you a replica of your copyrighted statuette, commonly known as the “Oscar,” as an award for (category) – (film title). I acknowledge that my receipt of said replica does not entitle me to any right whatever in your copyright, trade-mark and service-mark of said statuette and that only the physical replica itself shall belong to me. In consideration of your delivering said replica to me, I agree to comply with your rules and regulations respecting its use and not to sell or otherwise dispose of it or any other “Oscar” replica I have been awarded or have received, nor permit it or any other “Oscar” replica I have been awarded or have received to be sold or disposed of by operation of law, without first offering to sell it to you for the sum of \$1.00. You shall have thirty days after any such offer is made to you within which to accept it. This agreement shall be binding not only on me, but also on my heirs, legatees, executors, administrators, estate, successors and assigns. My legatees and heirs shall have the right to acquire any “Oscar” statuette replica I have received, if it becomes part of my estate, subject to this agreement.

I agree that if I have heretofore received any Academy trophy I shall be bound by this receipt and agreement with the same force and effect as though I had executed and delivered the same in consideration of receiving such trophy.” (Academy Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 7.)

3. In submitting a film for Academy Awards consideration in any category, the film’s owners are deemed to have conveyed to the Academy the right to choose excerpts from the film and from all approved and available promotional materials relating to the film, including publicity stills, posters and electronic press kits, which are submitted to the Academy in connection with the film’s Awards consideration, for incorporation by the Academy at its sole discretion, into the Academy Awards telecast for the year in which the film is in competition, and into all other media content produced by the Academy relating to films submitted for Awards consideration, which is not disparaging of those films, for exhibition by the Academy and its licensees in all forms of media until 30 days following the Academy Awards telecast. The owners also convey the right to use excerpts from such films and promotional materials subsequently for any nonprofit purposes of the Academy Museum, the Academy Foundation or Academy websites, in each case subject to the Academy’s compliance with all applicable guild requirements relating to such uses. The owners shall have obtained all the aforementioned rights from the talent appearing in the film, as well as all other represented personnel. Owners of nominated films are obligated, if requested, to submit to the Academy a high-definition digital videotape of the film in either D-5 or HDCAM format and of all approved promotional materials relating to the film, in the highest quality formats available, no later than five days following the Academy’s request for such materials. The Academy will maintain all materials under appropriate security. Owners of films submitted for Academy Awards consideration which receive a nomination must submit a 35mm or 70mm film print or unencrypted DCP to the Academy Film Archive for preservation purposes no later than one year following the nomination announcement. Film prints and DCI compliant DCPs must also be supplied immediately following the announcement to be screened at Academy venues for voting purposes.