



## 94th ACADEMY AWARDS RULES FOR THE GENERAL ENTRY AWARDS

### RULE TWO ELIGIBILITY

1. **Due to the global pandemic caused by coronavirus/COVID-19, all matters of rules and eligibility for the 94th Academy Awards are subject to change based on national guidelines, state-mandated government orders and Academy-determined best practices.** 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 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 audio data shall be formatted in conformance with ST 428-2:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Audio Characteristics and ST 428-12:2013 D-Cinema Distribution Master Common Audio Channels and Soundfield Groups. Immersive audio, if present, shall be formatted in conformance with ST 2098-2:2019 Immersive Audio Bitstream Specification,



- c. for paid admission in a commercial motion picture theater in Los Angeles County (see Section g below for additional 94th Academy Awards qualifying metro areas),
- 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 Los Angeles County 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. With the gradual reopening of theaters, there are two methods of qualification for Awards consideration in Best Picture and General Entry categories for the 94th Academy Awards:
  - 1) Films which are intended for theatrical release, but are initially made available through commercial streaming, VOD service or other broadcast may qualify under these provisions:
    - That the film be made available on the secure Academy Screening Room member site within 60 days of the film's streaming/VOD release or broadcast
    - That it meets all other eligibility requirements

OR

- 2) Films that open in theaters in at least one of the six qualifying U.S. metro areas, depending on theater availability, may qualify under these provisions:
  - That the film completes a qualifying run of at least seven consecutive days in the same commercial venue, 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
  - That it meets all other eligibility requirements
  - Six qualifying U.S. metro areas include: 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]
  - Drive-in theaters are included as a qualifying commercial venue in the above metro areas (must run for seven consecutive days with at least one screening daily)
  - Academy Screening Room would be optional



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 Los Angeles County theatrical qualifying run remain eligible**. Also, ten minutes or ten percent of the running time of a film, whichever is shorter, may be shown in a nontheatrical medium prior to the film's qualifying run. (See also Paragraph 9 below.)

Film festivals that have been impacted by the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic 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 an impacted 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 94th 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 Los Angeles County theater where the film has screened, and
- c. the dates and times of the Los Angeles County 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 Los Angeles County, 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 Los Angeles County qualifying run (described in Rule Two Paragraph 2) must begin between **March 1, 2021**, and **December 31, 2021**.



2. A motion picture first theatrically exhibited **inside** the U.S. prior to the Los Angeles County 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, 2020. No nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution may occur prior to the first day of the Los Angeles County qualifying run.
3. A motion picture first theatrically exhibited **outside** the U.S. prior to the Los Angeles County theatrical qualifying run shall be eligible for submission, provided the prior exhibition takes place in a commercial motion picture theater after January 1, 2020. 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 Los Angeles County qualifying run.
4. Each picture may have only one Los Angeles County 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 Los Angeles County 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 **Monday, November 15, 2021**.
6. If the film's Los Angeles County run occurs after December 1, 2021, 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 3, 2021**.
7. **Friday, December 10, 2021**, 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).

The unprecedented coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic mandated the closure of all Los Angeles County movie theaters as of Monday, March 16, 2020. Until further notice and



for the 93rd Awards year only, films that had a previously planned theatrical release but are initially made available through commercial streaming, VOD service or other broadcast may qualify for awards consideration in the General Entry Feature category for the 93rd Academy Awards under these provisions:

- That the film be made available on the secure Academy Screening Room member site within 60 days of the film’s streaming/VOD release or broadcast;
- That it meets all other eligibility requirements.

When theaters reopen in accordance with federal, state and local specified guidelines and criteria, and on a date to be determined by the Academy, this rules exemption will no longer apply and all films released thereafter will be expected to comply with the standard Academy theatrical qualifying requirements. In order for those films to more easily meet theatrical exhibition requirements, the Academy will expand the number of qualifying theaters to include commercial venues in additional U.S. cities: 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].

With these provisions, **films will be expected to comply with all other eligibility requirements for the 93rd Academy Awards.** Due to the global pandemic caused by coronavirus/COVID-19, all dates for the 93rd Academy Awards are subject to change based on national guidelines, state-mandated government orders and Academy determined-best practices.

### **RULE SIXTEEN SPECIAL RULES FOR THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR AWARD**

1. A Reminder List of all eligible motion pictures shall be made available along with a nominations ballot to all active and life members of the Academy who shall vote in the order of their preference for not more than ten pictures.
2. The ten pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Best Picture award.
3. 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 PGA’s Producing Partnership Panel. To qualify as a producer nominee for a nominated picture, the producer must have been determined eligible for a PGA award for the picture, or have appealed the PGA’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.

4. The Producers Branch Executive Committee shall resolve all questions of eligibility and rules.
5. Final voting for the Best Picture award shall be restricted to active and life Academy members.

**Complete Rules & Eligibility are posted at  
[www.oscars.org/oscars/rules-eligibility](http://www.oscars.org/oscars/rules-eligibility)**