

91st Academy Award Rules

RULE THIRTEEN

SPECIAL RULES FOR THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM AWARD

A. DEFINITION

A foreign language film is defined as a feature-length motion picture (defined as over 40 minutes) produced outside the United States of America with a predominantly non-English dialogue track. Animated and documentary feature films are permitted.

B. ELIGIBILITY

1. The motion picture must be first released in the country submitting it no earlier than October 1, 2017 and no later than September 30, 2018, and be first publicly exhibited for at least seven consecutive days in a commercial motion picture theater for the profit of the producer and exhibitor. Submissions must be in 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 either “Interop” or “SMPTE DCP” formats. SMPTE DCP refers to SMPTE ST429-2 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).

The audio data shall be formatted in conformance with ST 428-2:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Audio Characteristics and ST 428-3:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Audio Channel Mapping and Channel Labeling.

2. The film must be advertised and exploited during its theatrical release in a manner considered normal and customary to theatrical feature distribution practices. The film need not have been released in the United States.

3. Films that, in any version, receive a nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution before their first qualifying theatrical release will not be eligible for Academy Awards consideration.

Nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution includes but is not limited to:

- Broadcast and cable television
- PPV/VOD
- DVD distribution
- Internet transmission

4. The recording of the original dialogue track as well as the completed picture must be predominantly in a language or languages other than English. ACCURATE, LEGIBLE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SUBTITLES ARE REQUIRED.

5. The submitting country must certify that creative control of the motion picture was largely in the hands of citizens or residents of that country.

6. The Foreign Language Film Award Executive Committee shall resolve all questions of eligibility and rules.

C. SUBMISSION

1. Each country shall be invited to submit its best film to the Academy. Selection of that film shall be made by one approved organization, jury or committee that should include artists and/or craftspeople from the field of motion pictures. A list of the selection committee members must be submitted to the Academy no later than FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2018. Countries submitting for the first time, or which have not submitted for the previous five years, must present a list of selection committee members and application materials for Academy approval by Monday, December 31, 2018, for eligibility in the following (92nd) Awards year. A country need not submit a film every year.

2. Only one film will be accepted from each country as the official selection. Films can be submitted to the Academy as soon as they are selected.

3. The Academy will provide online access to each country's approved selection committee so that the producer of the selected film can supply full production information.

4. The following submission materials must be submitted to the Academy by 5 p.m. PT on Monday, October 1, 2018:

- Completed online submission forms
- 35mm or 70mm film print or DCP with accurate, legible English-language subtitles. The print or DCP submitted for Awards consideration must be identical in content and length to the print or copy used in the film's theatrical release.
- Digital content delivery
- Full cast and credits list
- Brief English-language synopsis of the film
- Director's biography, filmography and photograph
- 3 to 5 representative film stills
- A poster from the film's theatrical release
- Proof of advertising for the film's theatrical release

5. Countries whose films are shortlisted will be required to provide the Academy additional English-language subtitled prints or DCPs, to facilitate voting screenings. Additional materials are due at the Academy by 9 a.m. PT on the Thursday after the shortlist is announced.

6. Films submitted will be retained by the Academy throughout the voting process. By submitting a film, the filmmaker agrees that the Academy has the right to make copies and distribute them for voting

purposes only. The Academy will retain for its archives one print of every motion picture receiving a nomination for the Foreign Language Film award. Additional prints of those films receiving nominations will be returned to the sender at the Academy's expense.

D. VOTING

1. Foreign Language Film nominations will be determined in two phases:
 - a. The Phase I Foreign Language Film Award Committee will view the eligible submissions in the category and vote by secret ballot. The group's top six choices, augmented by three additional selections voted by the Academy's Foreign Language Film Award Executive Committee, will constitute the shortlist of nine films.
 - b. The Phase II Foreign Language Film Award Committee will view the nine shortlisted films and vote by secret ballot to determine the category's five nominees.
2. Final voting for the Foreign Language Film award shall be restricted to active and life Academy members who have viewed all five motion pictures nominated for the award.
3. The Academy statuette (Oscar) will be awarded to the motion picture and accepted by the director on behalf of the picture's creative talents. For Academy Awards purposes, the country will be credited as the nominee. The director's name will be listed on the statuette plaque after the country and film title.

E. ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY RESTRICTIONS

1. In addition to complying with the Awards Rules for the 91st Oscars, all participants in the Awards competition are also bound by the Academy Campaign Regulations concerning the promotion of eligible films and are subject to the penalties provided therein, including the potential declaration of ineligibility by the Board of Governors for violation of those guidelines. The Regulations can be found at Oscars.org/regulations.

F. ELIGIBILITY IN OTHER CATEGORIES

1. Eligible submissions for Foreign Language Film award consideration may also qualify for the 91st Academy Awards in other categories, provided they comply with the rules governing those Categories.
2. Films nominated for the Foreign Language Film award are not eligible for Academy Awards consideration in any category in any subsequent Awards year. Submitted films that are not nominated for the Foreign Language Film award are eligible for Awards consideration in other categories in the subsequent year, provided the film complies with the rules governing those categories.