

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ROTTERDAM

Terms and Conditions for participation in International Film Festival Rotterdam 2026

INDEX

PART 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1.1 About IFFR**
- 1.2 Programme outline**
 - 1.2.1 Competitions**

PART 2: SUBMISSIONS

- 2.1 Eligibility criteria**
- 2.2 Submission fees & deadlines IFFR 2026**
- 2.3 Preview copy**
- 2.4 2.6 Incomplete, noncompliant, unpaid and/or late submissions**

PART 3: SELECTED FILMS

- 3.1 Invitation and acceptance conditions**
 - 3.1.1 Invitation**
 - 3.1.2 Screening fees**
- 3.2 Hospitality protocol**

PART 4: PUBLICITY AND PRESS

- 4.1 Announcements and publications**
- 4.2 Publicity materials**
 - 4.2.1 Required publicity materials**
- 4.3 Credits**
- 4.4 Publicity/catalogue writings**
- 4.5 Excerpts**
- 4.6 Promotion**
- 4.7 Video Library**

PART 5: SCREENING AND FILM SHIPPING

- 5.1 Screening formats**
- 5.2 Print traffic and technical specifications**
- 5.3 Scheduling**
 - 5.3.1 Physical screenings**
 - 5.3.2 Online screenings**
 - 5.3.3 Press & Industry screenings**
- 5.4 Screening protocol**



PART 1 - GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 About IFFR

International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) aims to offer a quality selection of worldwide independent, innovative cinema and visual arts. Devoted to actively supporting independent filmmaking from around the globe, IFFR is the essential hub for discovering film talent and for catching the early buzz on many world and international premieres.

IFFR 2026 takes place from 29 January to 8 February 2026.

1.2 PROGRAMME OUTLINE

IFFR's recurring programmes include **Bright Future**, **Harbour**, **Limelight**, **Cinema Regained**, **Short & Mid-length**, **RTM** and **Art Directions**, as well as the **Tiger Competition**, **Big Screen Competition** and the **Tiger Short Competition**. Thematic programmes may be added, varying each edition.

Recurring non-competitive programmes

- **Art Directions**
- **Bright Future**
- **Cinema Regained**
- **Harbour**
- **Limelight**
- **RTM**
- **Short & Mid-length**

Competitive programmes

- **Tiger Competition**
- **Big Screen Competition**
- **Tiger Short Competition**

1.2.1 Competitions and awards

As part of the main festival programme, IFFR presents curated competition programmes to promote talented filmmakers: **Tiger Competition** (for feature-length films), **Tiger Short Competition** (for short & mid-length films) and **Big Screen Competition** (for feature-length films).

Tiger Competition

Eligible for Tiger Competition are directors of a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd feature-length film, that are presented in world premiere at IFFR. An international jury will select a winner, from up to fourteen nominees, who receives an award and €40,000. to be shared between the film's director and producer. In addition, within the Tiger Competition, the jury bestows two Special Jury Awards for exceptional artistic achievement, each worth €10,000.



Tiger Short Competition

Eligible for Tiger Short Competition are directors with a short film less than 64 minutes long. The film should have its world premiere in Rotterdam. During the festival, an international jury selects three winners, who will each receive an award and €5,000.

Big Screen Competition

More details about the Big Screen Competition will be announced at a later date.

IFFR Audience Award

All feature length films that have had their first public screening after 1 January the year prior to the festival are eligible for the Audience Award, chosen by the festival's audience through online voting.

Other Awards

Other awards presented in the context of IFFR may include, but are not necessarily limited to, FIPRESCI Award, KNF Award, NETPAC Award and IFFR Youth Jury Award.

PART 2 - SUBMISSIONS

Submissions to IFFR are open to feature films, creative documentaries, experimental films, short films, and innovative visual productions for digital media. Please take note of all eligibility criteria in the Terms and Conditions before submitting your work.

Participation in International Film Festival Rotterdam—by submitting the work and/or accepting IFFR's invitation – means the acceptance of IFFR's Terms and Conditions by the filmmaker(s), producer(s) and rights holder(s).

The film should be submitted online through the **IFFR entry form** in your personal [Account](#).

2.1 Eligibility criteria

Submissions to the festival are open to feature films, creative documentaries, experimental films, short and mid-length films, and innovative visual productions for digital media.

The following **eligibility criteria** must be taken into account when submitting a film to the festival:

1. All submitted films should be completed after 1 January of the calendar year prior to the festival. For IFFR 2026, this means the film should be completed *after* 1 January 2025.
2. Films previously submitted to the festival and not selected, will not be reconsidered for the 2026 festival.
3. Films that have already screened in the Netherlands are excluded from submission to the festival.



4. IFFR only accepts short and mid-length films with a world, international or European premiere status. This also counts for short and mid-length films from the Netherlands. Short film submissions with a Dutch premiere status will not be considered nor refunded. Exceptions to this rule are at the discretion of IFFR.
5. Student films, with the exception of works made in a post-graduate (Master) year, are excluded from submission to the festival.
6. IFFR considers work-in-progress submissions, provided that the film can be finished in time for the festival. IFFR is not obliged to take into consideration new versions of the same submission.
7. Preview copies of submitted works must be **both streamable and downloadable**.
8. To be eligible for a specific fee type (ie Early, Official or Late), both the entry fee payment and the online submission form must be fully completed before the corresponding deadline.
9. Before submitting your work, ensure that you have thoroughly read our Terms and Conditions.

The following conditions apply in case of digital festival screenings prior to IFFR:

- If the film has been screened **with** geo-block, IFFR's standard premiere status rules apply.
- If the film has been screened **without** geo-block and was available worldwide, a maximum of 1500 views in total is allowed in order for the film to be eligible for IFFR selection.

In both cases, the film may only have been available online for a maximum of 20 days.

If the film does not comply with the eligibility criteria, it will not be taken into consideration for selection. The Terms and Conditions should be read and subsequently confirmed by the applicant before finalising the submission. IFFR does not issue refunds on grounds of ineligibility.

2.2 Submission fees and deadlines IFFR 2026

- Deadline Feature films (64 minutes and longer)
 - **Early deadline:** 13 June 2025 17:00 CEST - € 65 (excl. VAT)
 - **Standard deadline:** 1 September 2025 17:00 CEST - € 80 (excl. VAT)
 - **Late deadline:** 17 September 2025 17:00 CEST - € 100 (excl. VAT)
- Deadlines Short and Mid-length films (up to 63 minutes)
 - **Early deadline:** 13 June 2025 17:00 CEST - € 40 (excl. VAT)
 - **Official deadline:** 1 September 2025 17:00 CEST - € 50 (excl. VAT)
 - **Late deadline:** 17 September 2025 17:00 CEST - € 62,50 (excl. VAT)



- Deadline Art Directions: Immersive Media
 - **Official deadline:** 7 September 2025 - € 40 (excl. VAT)
- Deadline Art Directions: Installations
 - **Official deadline:** 28 July 2025 - € 65 (excl. VAT)

Once the form is submitted and the submission fee is paid in full before the deadline, the entry form will be processed. The provided contact person will receive a confirmation email once the form has been processed. Processing of the form may take up to 4 weeks after the submission has been completed.

2.3 Submission fee waiver protocol

IFFR grants submission fee waivers to residents of countries with international payment restrictions for both credit card and Paypal payments to and from the Netherlands. Countries included in this protocol are listed below. If you are eligible, you can request a waiver code by contacting IFFR Programme Operations at programme@IFFR.com. Granting a waiver code up to the discretion of IFFR.

Waiver protocol country list

Afghanistan	Myanmar
Belarus	Syria
Cuba	Ukraine
Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)	Yemen
Democratic Republic of Congo	
Iran	
Iraq	
Russia	
South Sudan	
Sudan	
Somalia	
Venezuela	

2.4 Preview copy

To complete the submission, IFFR requires a preview copy of the film. A password protected, **downloadable** preview copy should be uploaded to Vimeo. The URL and password should be submitted through the online entry form. The preview link should be available up until 31 December 2025, but preferably until the festival.

The preview copy may be a work in progress, which must be stated in the entry form. The phase of progress should be clearly stated in the description of the preview copy.



All preview copies must be submitted with English subtitles, with the exception of English and Dutch spoken films as well as films with no dialogue.

Please note that submitting a DCP or non-Vimeo copy for previewing purposes should be authorised by the festival. Please contact Programme Operations at programme@IFFR.com.

Once submitted, the preview copy will only be shared within IFFR for the purpose of deciding if and/or in which part of the festival programme the film will be presented. This also includes IFFR's partner and satellite programmes (e.g., VPRO, Volkskrantdag, IFFR in Groningen). Upon selection, a secondary request will be made with the rights holder(s) for early press access to the preview copy. Giving permission to IFFR in sharing a preview copy with journalists for early access is preferred and encouraged, but always optional.

2.6 Incomplete, noncompliant, unpaid and/or late submissions

Incomplete, noncompliant, unpaid and/or late submissions will not be taken into consideration. Please note that entry fees cannot be refunded, and no guarantee can be given as to the inclusion of these entries in the viewing process.

PART 3 - SELECTED FILMS

3.1 Invitation and acceptance conditions

3.1.1 Invitation

Upon selection, IFFR Programme Operations will send an official invitation to the contact person/rights holder of the film. This invitation includes information on:

- The programme or competition the film is selected for
- The festival format
- The hospitality protocol if applicable
- Confidentiality agreement
- Request for confirmation of the invitation

When the invitation in turn is accepted by the rights holder, they subsequently accept the Terms and Conditions as stated in this document.

3.1.2 Screening fees

As a non-profit organisation aiming to promote new films and filmmakers, IFFR does not offer screening fees to its selected films.

Exceptions may be made for archival titles included in retrospective programmes and for audiovisual installations and performances, as IFFR adheres to the Richtlijn Kunstenaarshonoraria and the Fair Pay Code.



3.2 Hospitality protocol

Upon invitation, IFFR will inform the director and/or rights holder of the hospitality protocol. The hospitality protocol will contain variables depending on the premiere status of the invited film, the programme it has been selected for, or matters such as Dutch distribution rights.

Exceptions to, and execution of the hospitality protocol are at the discretion of IFFR.

PART 4 - PUBLICITY AND PRESS

4.1 Announcements and publications

Press releases, announcements to the public and (online) publications about the selection are at the discretion of IFFR.

4.2 Publicity materials

The Publicity Contact Person of a selected film, as registered in the entry form, will receive a request for publicity materials upon confirming participation in the festival. These materials will be used in festival publications and for distribution to press and festival guests.

4.2.1 Required publicity materials

For catalogue and other publicity purposes, IFFR must receive for each selected film a completed entry form and the materials requested by the Programme Operations and the Communications team. This includes a preview screening copy.

The requested materials should be sent/submitted as soon as possible upon acceptance of the invitation, but no later than two weeks after the acceptance. The festival accepts no liability in the event that its publications reproduce inaccuracies in submitted materials.

4.3 Credits

In principle IFFR's catalogue and website publications will include the following technical and artistic credits: original title, international title, countr(y)(ies) of production, year of production/first public screening, premiere status, format, length, director, production company, producer, sales company, print source, screenplay, cinematography, editing, production design, sound, music, principal cast.

4.4 Publicity/catalogue writings

Publicity and catalogue texts are entirely at the discretion of the festival.

4.5 Excerpts

IFFR is permitted to use excerpts, with a maximum of three (3) minutes, nationally and internationally, for promotional purposes. For short films, the total duration of the excerpts is not to exceed more than 10% of the film running time. In the event that excerpts are not



available, the festival is permitted to copy one or more excerpts from the film for promotional use prior to and during the festival only.

4.6 Promotion

For the promotion of the entire selection and of each selected film, the festival website is allowed to use any still, photo or digital film clip (with a maximum of 3 minutes duration).

4.7 Video Library

Selected films will be made available in the IFFR Video Library during and for a limited time after the festival. The IFFR Video Library is accessible exclusively to relevant members of the festival organisation and accredited press and industry professionals through IFFR's closed circuit server. For this purpose all participants will be requested to make available a high resolution .mp4, .mov or QuickTime h.264 version of their film for encoding purposes. By confirming participation in the festival, rights holders grant permission for their film to be included in the Video Library, unless otherwise agreed.

PART 5 - SCREENINGS AND FILM SHIPPING

5.1 Screening formats

- a) All selected films must provide IFFR with a screening copy (or copies) of the film 6 weeks prior to the start of the festival – on 19 December 2025 at the latest. For theatrical screenings, this must be a DCP, or another file as specified by IFFR. For online screenings, this must be a high-resolution .mov or .mp4 file. Technical specifications will be supplied by Programme Operations in advance of the shipping request.
- b) All non-English language films should be delivered with English subtitles as a separate file – not burned in the copy.
- c) All English language films are requested to be delivered (with closed captions) in English, with a description of audio cues, and a transcript of spoken dialogue.
- d) All English language installations and performances are kindly suggested to be delivered with closed captions in English, with a description of audio cues, and a transcript of spoken dialogue.

5.2 Print traffic and technical specifications

IFFR works with [FilmFetch](#) for shipping DCP's and digital files in a secured, sustainable and economical manner. An upload link will be provided by Programme Operations.

If online shipping is not accessible to the print source, the DCP should be delivered on a EXT2/3 formatted CRU dataport Sata drive to the IFFR office. The address will be provided by Programme Operations.



If the DCP is encrypted, a DKDM should be provided. Sending in separate KDM's is not encouraged and should be discussed with Programme Operations beforehand.

Presentation of other formats and video systems or delivery through any other type of disk, formatting or licences requires the authorisation of the festival. IFFR reserves the right to exclude a film from the programme in case of delivery of unauthorised formats.

For all screenings, IFFR accepts the aspect ratios listed below. Allowing any other aspect ratio is at the discretion of IFFR and may result in adjustments in the image to allow for a proper cinema projection. For any questions please contact IFFR Programme Operations at programme@IFFR.com.

- 2.39
- 2
- 1.9
- 1.85
- 1.78
- 1.66
- 1.37
- 1.33

In case of online screenings, IFFR Programme Operations will advise on the required deliverables and relevant security protocols.

As part of our commitment to an inclusive and accessible festival, we strongly encourage the inclusion of Subtitles for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SDH) and/or Audio Description (AD) for works, when feasible.

For immersive works, please provide any materials required to properly present your project at the festival. The exact materials will be determined in consultation with the IFFR Art Directions team.

Art Directions installation ratios can deviate from the ratios above, in consultation with IFFR.

5.2.1 Shipping deadlines

The deadline for all screening copies of selected films is 19 December 2025. For testing purposes and proper preparation for a successful screening of the film, all copies should be delivered in time.



Programme Operations should be immediately informed by the contact person of any delivery delays that may occur. IFFR is not liable for any technical errors during screenings if the print was delivered after the set deadline.

IFFR's Programme Operations team will inform the print source in a timely manner on the shipping instructions for all deliverables.

5.3 Scheduling

5.3.1 Physical screenings

IFFR will schedule selected films for up to five public screenings. Any additional public or private screenings will be scheduled only with the permission of the rights holder.

The dates, times and venues of the screenings and exhibitions will be determined by IFFR and shared with the rights holder upon completion of the scheduling process. It's at the sole discretion of IFFR to determine in which exhibition venues the works will be exhibited.

5.3.2 Online screenings

IFFR may require to schedule online screenings on IFFR's digital screening platform. Online screenings are accessible exclusively from the Netherlands with a limited viewing capacity, unless otherwise agreed upon between IFFR and the rights holder.

Such online screenings can take place at a scheduled time, 'On Demand' within a limited period of time during the festival, or both.

5.3.3 Press & Industry screenings

A Press & Industry screening (theatrical or digital) will be scheduled at the discretion of IFFR for feature films that have their world, international or European premiere at IFFR.

The scheduling of physical Press & Industry screenings is entirely at the discretion of IFFR. Press & Industry screenings are not part of the maximum amount of five public screenings.

5.4 Screening protocol

Film directors, artists, and other relevant guests invited by IFFR agree to be present in person, or otherwise online, for at least one of the scheduled film screenings for an introduction and/or a question-and-answer session (Q&A).

DISCLAIMER

Please be informed that the Terms and Conditions stated in this document are subject to change. Any changes made are fully at the discretion of IFFR.



IFFR places absolute priority on health and safety and will always conform to the strictest governmental regulations related to COVID-19. Any changes in plans and/or protocols due to altered regulations will be communicated with rights holders accordingly.

Last edit: 16 July 2025

**INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
ROTTERDAM**