

DUBLIN ANIMATION FILM FESTIVAL 2026

RULES OF THE COMPETITION

1. This competition is being run by Dublin Animation Film Festival CLG, a company registered in Ireland under company number 568620 (the "**Organisers**"). Capitalised words not defined in these Rules will have the meaning given to them in the Guidelines.
2. The deadline for receipt of entries is Monday, **20th July 2026**. (Irish Standard Time). Late entries will not be considered. The Organisers, Judges, or its sponsors are not responsible for any entries not received by the closing date.
3. Entrants must be over the age of 18 at the time of submitting an entry.
4. Each film submitted for entry ("**Entry**") must:
 - a. be predominantly a work of animation.
 - b. have been completed/released on or after 1 January 2024;
 - c. be single short films. Episodes from a television series and/or television commercials will not be accepted. (As a point of clarification, if a short film inspires a further; separate television series or deal, it will be considered);
 - d. not have been fully submitted to Dublin Animation Film Festival previously and assessed by judging panellists, otherwise It will not be considered;
 - e. not exceed 15 minutes running time (including opening and closing credits).
5. The entrant(s) submitting an Entry (**Entrants**) must be the original author or authors of the film (producer or director). The Entrant warrants to the Organisers that it is duly authorised and fully permitted to submit the Entry and give the confirmations required as part of the submission form. Entries must not include live footage or any images which have not received the appropriate copyright permissions/consent.
6. Entries must be entirely original works created by the Entrants. The works/films submitted must not incorporate in whole, or in part, any pre-existing material created by others. In a departure from prior years, Entries for the 2026 competition must not

be created in whole or in part using any form of artificial intelligence (AI) or generative AI technologies. This includes but is not limited to AI generated inspiration, storyboards, imagery, animations, scripts, or any other content produced by AI (or software which uses AI).

7. Entrants may submit more than one entry to this year's Festival, but only film per category. The judging panel reserve the right to refer and include an Entry in an alternative category.
8. Only Entries that have been submitted via the approved channel (i.e. by fully completing and signing the online entry form (or a group form, having requested same from the Organisers) with all appropriate confirmations provided, will be accepted by the Organisers. The Organisers shall have no responsibility for the online submissions that are lost, mislaid or damaged. Postal Entries are not permitted.
9. Eligible Entries will be reviewed by a judging panel (for the relevant category) chosen by the Organisers.
10. Only Entries selected by the judging panel for screening ("**Selected Entries**") by will be notified. Details of Selected Entries will be made available on the Organiser's website once available.
11. Entrants may be required to provide their entry in an alternative file format for screening purposes. If this is not provided within the requested timeframe, the film will not be eligible for screening at the Festival or an award. Films may not be amended following their original submission and may not be withdrawn if they have been chosen as Selected Entries.
12. Entries that contain content, subject or material that is, or is in the opinion of the Organisers, discriminatory, defamatory, obscene, racist (including anti-LGBTQ+), pornographic or depicts promotes or glorifies the abuse, exploitation or harm or any gender, children [or animals] (which includes but is not limited to physical, emotional or psychological abuse, neglect or cruelty) will automatically be disqualified.
13. Entries must not infringe the intellectual property rights of any third party and may not contain or use intellectual property which belongs to any third party for which the Entrant does not have the lawful right to use or reproduce without the owner or rightholder's express consent. Entrants indemnify the Organisations for any claim(s) and/or losses (including the reasonable legal expenses of the Organisers in responding to or defending any claims) by or on behalf of any third party against the Organisers in

respect of any allegations of infringement of intellectual property rights in respect of any Entry.

14. Any music that featured in an Entry must be available for display at Festival judging, public (including, if applicable online) screenings and any publicity purposes pertaining to the event on a license-free, no compensation, no-royalty basis. Music which is featured in an Entry can be written, performed and/or produced by anyone, provided the Entrant owns or has lawfully licensed the work and such licence permits the use and display of the film as outlined. If music has been licensed, proof of licensing permission must be included with the emailed entry. **NOTE:** unless an Entry has been given appropriate permission, the Organisers will not accept entries using music from 'free music' websites. The Festival is not covered by 'Fair Use' legislation.
15. Any Entrant who submits an Entry that wins an award hereby agrees to participate in media activities of the Dublin Animation Film Festival and Awards and all post-festival publicity.
16. The Organisers retain the right to request verification (including additional documentary evidence) of any matter relating to an Entry (e.g. authorship, originality, permissions etc) for any Entry that is being considered for shortlisting as a Selected Entry.
17. The Judging panel has the right to disqualify any Entry that have been deemed inappropriate or in violation of any of the criteria outlined in these rules.
18. Should there be insufficient Entries for a category, the judges reserve the right to decline to make an award for that category.
19. Winners will receive an award trophy commissioned by the Organisers and shall not have any alternative cash value.
20. An Honourable Mention may, at the discretion of the judging panel, be made for any category.
21. The decisions of the judges and the Festival's committee and Organisers on all matters are final.
22. Entry forms may be signed electronically and each entrant consents for the purpose of Section 13 of the Electronic Commerce Act 2000, and EIDAS Regulations to enter into and be bound by the terms of the contact entered into with the Organisers.

23. By entering the competition, each Entrant hereby:
- a. acknowledges and agrees that their Entry, name and organisation may be used in publicity by the Organisers related to the Festival without further consent or payment. Entrants/winners have no rights to censor filming or photography, and no rights over such imagery. Entrants/winners agree that any or all such elements may be used by the Organisers in any and all media;
 - b. agrees that any personal information provided by them in their entry forms will be processed and held by the Organisers for the administration of the Festival, in line with the privacy policy and website terms of use, including to administer the competition;
 - c. acknowledges and agrees that all personal information included in an Entry, will be visible to attendees of the Festival (whether online, or at a venue) if that Entry becomes a Selected Entry and may be used by the Festival for marketing the Festival.
24. The Organisers reserve the right to withdraw, cancel, suspend or amend this competition and/or the Festival in the event of any unforeseen or circumstances outside its reasonable control, with no liability to any entrants, winners or any third party. The Organisers accept no responsibility to any entrant or winner for any cancellation or curtailment of the Festival by the Organisers and shall not be liable to the winner or any third party for any loss suffered by any winner, in respect of attendance at the Festival, or upon any cancellation of the Festival by the Organisers.
25. If any term of these terms and conditions is or becomes invalid, illegal or unenforceable, it shall be deemed modified to the minimum extent necessary to make it valid, legal and enforceable. If such modification is not possible, the relevant term shall be deemed deleted. Any modification to or deletion of a term shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the rest of these terms and conditions.
26. The Organisers shall not be liable to a winner or any Entrant for any loss or damage howsoever caused, whether direct, indirect or consequential (whether in contract, tort or statutory duty or otherwise) arising out or in connection with the competition and/or prize. Attendance at the Festival is at the risk of the Entrant/winner and the Organisers shall be in no way liable to the winner.
27. This competition and these terms and conditions are governed by and construed in accordance with Irish law and is subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Irish courts.

12 June 2026