

Regulations Go Short 2026 short film competition

1.0 General requirements for entry

1.1

Films are eligible for Go Short competitions if:

- The film is no longer than 30 minutes.
- The film is (co-)produced in (geographical) Europe.¹
- The film has clear-spoken English dialogue and/or commentary, or has no dialogue. In case of non-English dialogue (or unclear spoken English), English subtitles are mandatory. If the film has Dutch dialogues, the subtitles are only required after a selection.
- The film is finished after 1 December 2024.

1.2

DCP is the only accepted film format supported for screenings. Please make sure that the DCP is not encrypted and tested in a theatre beforehand. Presentation of other formats requires authorization of the festival program department.

1.3

Deadlines for Go Short competitions:

- Early Bird Deadline: **15 September 2025**
- Regular Deadline: **15 November 2025**
- Late Deadline: **15 December 2025**

On these dates the submission has to be completed: online entry form including a screener link have to be sent to Go Short as well as having made the payment of the submission fee. Submission is only accepted via Filmfreeway or our own website (Filmchief).

1.4

Entry fee:

The festival charges a submission fee per film submission through our own website (Filmchief) or through Filmfreeway. This includes VAT- and PayPal charges. This fee is primarily meant to ensure the quality of the selection process. The film you submit is handled with care by our professional team and is being viewed by professional curators and programmers. After you submitted the film, the fee can't be reclaimed.

Distributors, film institutions and schools can get a discount for multiple submissions. To be considered, please get in touch with our programming team: program@goshort.nl.

¹ Eligible countries are: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, The Netherlands, North-Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom

1.5

Requested materials for entry:

- A completed online entry form
- A screener link (+password) to the film

Please note there is no additional documentation required for the entry. Please do not send any additional press sheets or documentation.

1.6

A film that has been submitted during a previous edition will not be accepted.

1.7

If a short film does not meet all the above-mentioned requirements, it will not be eligible for selection by the Festival.

2.0 Competitions

2.1

A designated selection committee will select the Go Short competition programmes.

2.2

Go Short competitions and awards:

Decided by a jury:

- European Competition: Go Short Award for Best European Short Fiction
 - This award is also an Academy Award Qualifier.
- European Competition: Go Short Award for Best European Short Documentary
 - This award is also an Academy Award Qualifier.
- European Competition: Go Short Award for Best European Short Animation
 - This award is also an Academy Award Qualifier.
- Dutch Competition: Go Short Award for Best Dutch Short Film
 - This award is also an Academy Award Qualifier.
- New Arrivals Competition: Go Short New Arrivals Award for Best Student Film
- Youth Award: Go Short Award for best Youth Film
- Senior Award: Go Short Award for best Senior Film
- European Competition: Candidacy for the European Film Awards

Decided by the audience

- All films in competition: Audience Award

All awards recognize the work of the directors, and monetary awards are handed out to the director(s) of the winning films.

Go Short is recognized by the BAFTAs. Please find the rules here:

<https://www.bafta.org/awards/awards-information/film/>

Go Short is recognized by the SAA (Student Academy Awards). Please find the rules here:

<http://www.oscars.org/saa/apply>

Go Short has the right to change the outline of the program and the awards.

2.3

All Dutch films submitted to the Festival will automatically be eligible for selection of the Dutch Competition.

2.4

All submitted films are also eligible to be selected for our out-of-competition programmes. In this case the Festival will always contact the person designated on the entry form as the primary contact beforehand to request permission. All regulations are also valid in this case.

3.0 Selection and screenings

3.1

In case a film is selected, the Festival will notify the primary contact and the director of the film 28 February 2026 the latest.

Once the film has been selected, the Go Short logo and the text “official selection Go Short 2026” may be used for publicity purposes. This logo and text will be sent in digital form.

3.2

Go Short offers no screening fee to films selected in competition. The festival offers a small screening fee to all films screened solely in out-of-competition programs.

3.3

To compile the Festival catalogue, the Festival must receive a duly completed entry form and requested materials for each film: synopsis, catalogue credits, and stills. The requested materials should be sent as soon as possible upon acceptance of the invitation (deadlines will be mentioned in email). Go Short accepts no liability in the event that its publications reproduce inaccuracies in submitted materials. Catalogue writings are entirely at the discretion of the Festival.

3.4

The catalogue will include the following technical and artistic credits: original title, international title, director, production country (/countries), year of production, length, premiere status at Go Short, credits for production, screenplay, cinematography, editing, animation, sound, music and narration, principal cast and contact details (company, primary contact, telephone number, and email).

3.5

For promotional purposes the Festival would like to receive:

- A minimum of one high resolution digital still from the film (1080p or higher).
- A number of additional high-res stills (720p or higher).

3.6

For promotion of the whole selection and of each selected film, the festival website is allowed to use any still or digital film clip (less than 10% of the film's duration and up to a max of 3 minutes).

The Festival is entitled to use the above-mentioned excerpts from selected films for promotional purposes nationally and internationally.

3.7

A selected film cannot be withdrawn from the program after accepting the selection invitation.

3.8

In case of selection, we expect a representative of the film to accompany the screenings to take part in a Q&A and/or interview. The Festival industry office will contact the primary contact about this.

3.9

General scheduling and timetabling of the public screenings and press & industry screenings are entirely at the discretion of the festival management.

3.10

Selected films will be made available in the Video Library right after the festival for accredited film professionals.

All national entries, including films not selected, will be included in the Dutch Platform, a section in the Video Library that gives a complete overview of the Dutch short film culture to registered film professionals.

3.11

Producers and distributors of both participating and winning films are encouraged to include in future promotional material the mention of a selection or award of, respectively, the competition of the 18th Go Short – International Short Film Festival Nijmegen. Logos 'in selection' or 'winner of' Go Short Competition are available on request.

3.12

If we decide to screen films in an online environment, the primary contacts of the films will always be asked for permission after presenting them the conditions of the screening.

4.0 Film Transport

4.1

DCP is the only accepted film format supported for screenings. All films must be delivered digitally following the instructions send by the Festival after selection. The Festival must receive the screening copy of the film before 5 March, 2026. In case the Festival wishes to use the film for a press screening or something similar beforehand, the primary contact or print contact will be contacted prior to this date. The Festival will contact whoever is designated on the entry form as the primary contact.

4.2

In case of faulty projection, the Festival cannot be held liable for immaterial damages suffered by director, producer, or distributor.

4.3

The festival will keep a digital copy of the DCP in their archive, unless the right holder requests differently. For future screenings and use of the DCP the primary contact will be approached again.

5.0 Conclusion and contact

5.1

Participation in the Festival implies acceptance of these regulations and decisions made by

the management and board. The management and/or board of the Go Short foundation decide in all cases where the regulations do not suffice.

5.2

The management and/or board of the Festival can always decide on exceptions of the regulations.

5.3

The entrant guarantees to have cleared all (intellectual property) rights needed for screening during Go Short – International Short Film Festival Nijmegen and shall indemnify the Festival against all liability towards third parties.