

IMAGO Awards

Official Regulations

PREAMBLE

These Regulations establish the framework governing the organization, administration, and presentation of the IMAGO Awards by IMAGO – International Federation of Cinematographers.

As an international federation composed of cinematographers' societies from around the world, IMAGO seeks to promote cinematography, encourage professional exchange among its members, and recognize significant contributions to the art and practice of cinematography through an international awards program.

These Regulations define the general principles applicable to the IMAGO Awards, including their administration, eligibility requirements, submission procedures, voting process, and presentation. They are intended to ensure consistency, transparency, and fairness in the conduct of the Awards.

The IMAGO Board may establish and adopt supplementary provisions applicable to specific categories or editions, provided that such provisions are consistent with these Regulations. All categories, eligibility requirements, and supplementary provisions shall be published together with the official call for submissions.

ARTICLE 1 – Name and Purpose of the Awards

1.1 The official title of the program shall be the **IMAGO Awards** (hereinafter, the Awards).

1.2 The Awards are presented by IMAGO – International Federation of Cinematographers.

1.3 The purpose of the Awards is to recognize cinematographic achievement, encourage participation and collaboration among IMAGO Member Societies, and promote cinematography internationally.

1.4 The Awards seek to highlight work that demonstrates artistic merit, effective visual storytelling, and a significant contribution to the language of cinematography.

1.5 IMAGO reserves the right to create other categories of Awards in future editions.

ARTICLE 2 – Administration of the Awards

2.1 The Awards shall be administered by the IMAGO Awards Working Group.

2.2 The IMAGO Awards Working Group is established by decision of the IMAGO Board and operates under its authority.

2.3 The Working Group shall be responsible for:

- a) managing the annual awards process;
- b) verifying eligibility of submissions;
- c) administering the submission and voting platform;
- d) overseeing voting procedures;
- e) communicating with Member Societies and participants;
- f) coordinating promotional activities;
- g) organizing the presentation of the Awards.

2.4 The IMAGO Board shall retain final authority regarding the interpretation and application of these Regulations.

ARTICLE 3 – Award Categories

3.1 The IMAGO Board shall determine the categories presented in each edition of the IMAGO Awards.

3.2 The categories and any category-specific eligibility requirements shall be announced in the official call for submissions.

3.3 Additional categories may be established, modified, suspended, or discontinued by decision of the IMAGO Board.

3.4 Unless otherwise specified in the call for submissions, each category shall result in the designation of one winner.

ARTICLE 4 – General Eligibility

4.1 Only Full Member Societies of IMAGO in good standing with their membership dues may submit entries.

4.2 Unless otherwise specified for a particular category, each eligible Member Society may submit one entry per category.

4.3 Films submitted must have been publicly exhibited, released, broadcast, streamed, screened at a film festival¹ or otherwise made available to the public during the eligibility period established for that edition of the Awards.

4.4 Films shall be submitted in their original language.

4.5 Films in languages other than English must include English subtitles.

4.6 A film may not be submitted more than once in the same category.

4.7 The cinematographer recognized in connection with a submitted work must be credited on screen as "Cinematographer", "Director of Photography", or under an equivalent credit identifying them as the primary author of the film's cinematography.

4.8. Where two cinematographers share equal credit on a single film, the society must submit their names jointly and, if awarded, both cinematographers will receive the Award jointly.

ARTICLE 5 – Category-Specific Eligibility

5.1 Additional eligibility requirements may be established for individual categories.

5.2 Such requirements shall be published together with the official call for submissions and shall form an integral part of these Regulations for the relevant edition.

ARTICLE 6 – Submission Process

6.1 All submissions shall be made through the platform designated by IMAGO.

¹For the purposes of Article 4.3, a work shall be deemed to have been made available to the public if it has been exhibited in cinemas, broadcast on television, released on physical or digital video formats, made available through video-on-demand, streaming services, or publicly accessible online platforms, distributed through an established video retailer or distribution platform, or publicly exhibited at a film festival. "Film festival" includes all film festivals, cinematography festivals, and other audiovisual festivals listed on the IMDb platform.

6.2 The submission period, deadlines, eligibility period, voting schedule, and any other dates or requirements relevant to a particular edition of the Awards shall be communicated to Member Societies by IMAGO through its official communication channels.

6.3 The submitting Member Society shall be responsible for ensuring that the submission complies with these Regulations.

6.4 Incomplete submissions may be rejected.

6.5 IMAGO shall not be responsible for errors or omissions, or inaccuracies relating to the eligibility of a submission. The submitting Member Society shall bear sole responsibility for ensuring that all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

6.6 By submitting a work, the Member Society confirms that it has obtained all necessary permissions required under Article 7 for participation in the Awards.

ARTICLE 7 – Submission Materials

7.1 IMAGO shall publish the list of required submission materials for each edition.

7.2 Unless otherwise specified by the IMAGO, the following materials shall be required for each submission:

- a) completed submission form;
- b) screening link or digital screening copy;
- c) production information;
- d) biography and filmography of the cinematographer;
- e) at least three production stills;
- f) at least two photographs of the cinematographer;
- g) trailer or promotional excerpt;
- h) contact information for the cinematographer;
- i) confirmation of eligibility.

j) a letter or email from the governing body of the submitting Member Society confirming that the submission has been approved by the Society and complies with these Regulations.

7.3 Rights holders shall grant IMAGO permission to use approved promotional materials exclusively for non-commercial purposes related to the administration and promotion of the Awards.

ARTICLE 8 - Voting Procedure

8.1 The recipients of the IMAGO Awards shall be selected exclusively by the Full Member Societies in good standing through the voting procedure established in these Regulations.

Phase One – Nomination Round

8.3 Following verification of eligibility, all submitted entries shall be made available for viewing by participating Member Societies.

8.4 Prior to the opening of the voting period, IMAGO shall provide each eligible Member Society with access to the voting platform and to the submitted entries.

8.5 Access credentials, voting links, and any other voting materials provided by IMAGO shall be confidential and shall not be shared with third parties.

8.6 Member Societies are expected to review all submitted entries before casting their votes.

8.7 The number of nominees to be selected in each category shall be determined at the sole discretion of the IMAGO Board, subject to a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) nominees per category in ranking order.

8.8 The entries receiving the highest number of votes shall become the official nominees, within the limits established in 8.7.

8.9 In the event of a tie affecting nomination positions, all tied entries shall advance to the second round, notwithstanding the provision of Article 8.7.

Phase Two – Final Voting Round

8.11 The nominated entries shall be made available for final consideration.

8.12 The nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the winner.

8.13 In the event of a tie for first place, a third and final voting round shall be held to determine the winner.

General Voting Principles

8.14 Voting shall be based on the artistic and cinematographic qualities of the work under consideration.

8.15 Votes cast by Member Societies shall be final and may not be modified after the close of the relevant voting round.

8.16 All decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

8.17 IMAGO shall not be obliged to provide comments, evaluations, rankings, voting records, or reasons for the nomination, non-nomination, selection, or non-selection of any submitted work.

ARTICLE 9 – Announcement and Presentation

9.1 The nominees shall be announced publicly on a date determined by the IMAGO.

9.2 The winners shall be announced during the IMAGO International Annual General Assembly (IAGA) or at another official IMAGO event designated by the Board.

9.3 IMAGO may organize screenings, presentations, interviews, publications, or promotional activities related to the Awards.

9.4 Participation in such activities shall remain voluntary.

ARTICLE 10 – Awards and Prizes

10.1 Finalists shall receive an official IMAGO Certificate and the winners shall additionally receive an Award.

10.2 The design and specifications of the Award shall be determined by IMAGO.

10.3 Additional prizes, grants, sponsorship benefits or travel support may be associated with individual categories at the discretion of IMAGO and its partners.

10.4 Unless expressly announced, no cash prize shall be granted.

ARTICLE 11 – General Provisions

11.1 Participation in the IMAGO Awards constitutes acceptance of these Regulations.

11.2 The submitting Member Society shall be responsible for the accuracy of all information provided.

11.3 IMAGO reserves the right to reject or disqualify any submission that does not comply with these Regulations.

11.4 Any attempt to improperly influence the voting process may result in disqualification.

11.5 IMAGO shall not be liable for inaccurate information submitted by Member Societies, participants, producers, or rights holders.

11.6 Matters not expressly covered by these Regulations shall be decided by the IMAGO Board.

11.7 These Regulations shall enter into force upon approval by the IMAGO Board and shall remain in force until amended or repealed.

11.8 Submitted materials shall be used exclusively for purposes connected with the administration, evaluation, voting, and promotion of the IMAGO Awards and shall not be distributed to third parties without the authorization of the relevant rights holders.

11.9 Each Member Society participating in the voting process undertakes, on behalf of itself and its members, to use any film or screening copy made available in connection with the Awards solely for viewing and evaluation purposes, and to refrain from any reproduction, recording, copying, distribution, or exploitation thereof, in whole or in part, by any means whatsoever.

11.10 Each Member Society is solely responsible for their submission and internal voting process.

Brussels, Belgium