



Student Film Competition Terms & Conditions

1. Eligibility

1.1 Films must be produced by **current students enrolled at the same Ontario high school**.

1.2 Submissions must be made through a **recognized Ontario secondary school or school board**. Homeschool entries are **not eligible**, as prizes are awarded to the participating school department.

1.3 All students involved in the film must provide **valid student identification** at the time of submission.

- If a student ID is unavailable, a **transcript or report card** will be accepted.
- Submissions without proper identification will be **disqualified**.

1.4 An **educator must confirm the submission**. Each submission must include the teacher's **first and last name and email address**, indicating their awareness that a student film has been submitted for consideration.

2. Film Requirements

2.1 Films must not exceed **10 minutes in length**, including credits.

2.2 Films eligible for the **2027 Festival** must be completed between:
February 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026

Films completed outside of these dates will not be considered.

2.3 Students may submit **multiple films**, but **each film requires its own submission form**.

2.4 Students must submit their films by the deadline or they will not be considered. For current submission deadlines please visit **vaughanfilmfestival.com/studentsubmissions**

3. Adult Participation Restrictions

3.1 Adults may only appear in a film **as subject matter** (e.g., a subject in a documentary).

3.2 Adults may **not participate in any creative or production role**, including but not limited to:

- Acting
- Directing
- Writing
- Cinematography
- Editing

4. Content Guidelines

4.1 Films containing **explicit or vulgar material** will not be considered for screening. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Swearing or strong language
- Excessive violence
- Nudity
- Substance use or abuse

4.2 The festival reserves the right to deem any submission ineligible if content is considered inappropriate for a student screening audience.

5. Generative AI Disclosure

5.1 VFF encourages **authentic and original student creativity**.

5.2 The use of **Generative AI** to create creative elements must be **fully disclosed at the time of submission**.

5.3 Entries that rely **primarily on AI-generated content** may be deemed ineligible at the discretion of the festival.

5.4 If Generative AI was used for creative elements, this must be disclosed in the submission form.

6. Accessibility Requirements

6.1 **All films must include subtitles**, regardless of the spoken language, to ensure accessibility for all viewers.

6.2 Subtitle requirements:

- White, legible font (e.g., **Arial, Helvetica, or Open Sans**)
- Placed at the **bottom of the screen**
- Easily readable against various backgrounds

7. Rights & Usage

7.1 The Vaughan International Film Festival (VFF) reserves the right to use excerpts or footage from submitted films for:

- Promotional purposes
- Screenings outside of the main festival dates

7.2 By submitting a film to VFF, filmmakers grant the festival indefinite, non-exclusive promotional usage rights.

8. Public Availability

8.1 By submitting to VFF, you agree that the film **will not be made publicly available online** (including but not limited to YouTube, Vimeo, or social media platforms) **until the conclusion of Festival Week**.

9. Submission Materials

9.1 The following are required at the time of submission:

- **Completed Submission Form (via Google Forms)**
- **A digital .MOV or .MP4 file of your film**
- **Copies/Scans of Student I.D.'s and/or transcripts of each student involved in the film**
- **Acknowledgement from educator by providing their First and Last name as well as e-mail address.**

10. Communication & Contact Information

10.1 Students must use a **personal email address**, not a school-issued email, for all festival communications.

10.2 When providing a social media account, applicants are encouraged to submit the **school, department, or film account** so VFF can properly tag the film in promotional posts.

10.3 By submitting a film, you acknowledge that your film may be selected as a finalist. If selected, **you must ensure that you or a representative on your behalf** (student, teacher, or school representative) **is available to attend the VFF Awards**. Finalist recognition requires in-person attendance.

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility & Submission Rules

Q: Can adults be in my film?

A: No. Only high school students from the same school can be featured in your film. The only exception is if your film is a documentary.

Q: How short can my film be?

A: There is no minimum length, as long as your film does not exceed 10 minutes (including credits).

Q: Does my film have to be in English?

A: No, but regardless if your film is in English or another language, it must include English subtitles.

Q: Can I submit a film I made last year?

A: No, films must be made from the time you are enrolled in either your first or second semester of your current high school year.

Q: Can I make my film with students at another Ontario High School different from mine?

A: Unfortunately, all students that participate at any capacity in the making of your film must be from the same high school due to prize distribution guidelines.

Q: Can I submit my film if I am homeschooled?

A: At this time, submissions must be made through a recognized school or school board. Homeschool entries are not eligible, as prizes are awarded to the participating school department.

Film Production & Content

Q: What should I consider when titling my film?

A: Shorter titles are easier to remember and better for marketing. Try to keep it simple, creative, and unique.

Q: Can I use copyrighted music in my film?

A: While we strongly encourage the use of original or royalty-free music, we understand that high school students may have limited resources. You may use copyrighted music, but be aware that it could impact where and how your film can be screened. If possible, consider using royalty-free tracks or composing your own music to avoid any restrictions.

Q: Can I submit a film I co-directed with a team?

A: Yes! Team collaborations are encouraged, but all team members must be high school students from the same school that's submitting.

Technical Requirements, Submission Process & Screening**Q: What format should my film be in?**

A: Films must be submitted as a high-quality MP4 file. We recommend using H.264 encoding for the best balance between quality and file size.

Q: Can I submit more than one film?

A: Yes! You can submit multiple films, but **each film** must be **submitted separately** with a separate submission form.

Q: How do we receive screening tickets if our film is selected?

If your film is selected, the **Student Representative** (the person who submitted the form) will receive a set number of complimentary screening tickets. It is their responsibility to distribute the tickets fairly among the team members. VFF cannot guarantee tickets for the entire project cast/crew. VFF will provide details on ticket distribution closer to the event date.

Questions? Contact Vaughan International Film Festival at:

education@vaughanfilmfest.com