



**31st BUSAN
International Film Festival
6–15 October 2026**

[Official Submission and Selection Rules & Regulations]

Preamble

Busan International Film Festival is accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers' Associations (FIAPF). The following Rules and Regulations are subject to the "Regulations for International Film Festivals" published by the FIAPF.

1. Organization

Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) is presented by Busan International Film Festival.

2. Festival dates

The 31st Busan International Film Festival will take place from the 6th to the 15th of October 2026.

3. Programs

The official sections of the Busan International Film Festival are as follows:

- a. **Competition:** This section celebrates outstanding Asian films from the year, recognizing exceptional aesthetic accomplishments. Awards are presented in several categories: Best Film, Best Director, Special Jury Award, Best Actor, and Artistic Contribution Award.
- b. **Gala Presentation:** Influential filmmakers and actors present their films in Busan to celebrate their artistic achievements and engage with the audience.
- c. **Icons:** A showcase of the latest films of contemporary iconic filmmakers from around the world.
- d. **Vision:** A curated selection of groundbreaking independent films of the year from Korea and Asia, offering a glimpse into the future of Korean and Asian cinema.
- e. **A Window on Asian Cinema:** Experience the diverse styles and visions of Asian cinema through masterful works from acclaimed auteurs and emerging talents, capturing the spirit of contemporary Asian filmmaking.
- f. **Korean Cinema Today-Special Premiere:** A showcase of exclusive premieres featuring Korea's latest and most anticipated Korean commercial releases, films that capture special popular appeal and significance.
- g. **Korean Cinema Today-Panorama:** An introduction to an array of the most significant and popular Korean films of the year, from commercial blockbusters to arthouse gems.
- h. **World Cinema:** A panoramic view of the year in global cinema, featuring new works from established directors and emerging talents outside Asia and award-winning films from prestigious international festivals.
- i. **Flash Forward:** A platform for innovative and original first and second features by



**31st BUSAN
International Film Festival
6–15 October 2026**

emerging non-Asian filmmakers. The winner of the Flash Forward Audience Award is selected by the audience.

- j. **Wide Angle:** A section dedicated to outstanding short films and documentaries that expand cinematic horizons through bold, distinctive perspectives.
- k. **Open Cinema:** Experience acclaimed new releases and international sensations that blend artistic excellence with broad appeal, screened under the stars at Busan's hallmark outdoor theater.
- l. **Midnight Passion:** A selection of genre films—from horror and thriller to action and sci-fi—that are certain to keep devoted fans awake throughout the night.
- m. **On Screen:** An exploration of cinema's expanding horizons through screenings of the year's most anticipated drama series.
- n. **Special Program in Focus:** A themed section illuminating the work of notable filmmakers or examining significant trends in contemporary cinema.

* The programs may be subject to change.

4. Awards

Details of the Awards are as follows:

- a. **The Asian Filmmaker of the Year:** The Asian Filmmaker of the Year honors an Asian filmmaker who has made exceptional contributions to the advancement of Asian film industry and culture throughout the year.
- b. **Korean Cinema Award:** The Korean Cinema Award recognizes individuals who have made notable contributions in bringing Korean cinema to global audiences.
- c. **Camellia Award:** Established in 2024, the Camellia Award celebrates distinguished filmmakers or industry professionals who have advanced women's roles in cinema. Selected jointly by the Busan International Film Festival and CHANEL, the award is presented during the festival's opening ceremony.
- d. **Busan Award – Best Film Award:** The Best Film Award is given to the most outstanding film in Competition, recognizing exceptional aesthetic achievement. A grand prize of KRW 50,000,000 is equally shared between the director and the producer.
- e. **Busan Award – Best Director Award:** The Best Director Award is presented to a director in Competition who has demonstrated exceptional directorial talent. A cash prize of KRW 20,000,000 is awarded to the director.
- f. **Busan Award – Special Jury Award:** The Special Jury Award is presented to a film in Competition that the jury recognizes for its outstanding cinematic achievement. A cash prize of KRW 10,000,000 is awarded to the director.



**31st BUSAN
International Film Festival
6–15 October 2026**

- g. **Busan Award – Best Actor Award:** The Best Actor Award is presented to two performers who have delivered a brilliant performance in a film in Competition. A cash prize of KRW 10,000,000 is awarded to each winner.
- h. **Busan Award – Artistic Contribution Award:** The Artistic Contribution Award recognizes outstanding achievement in a technical or creative field other than directing or acting in Competition films. A cash prize of KRW 10,000,000 is awarded to the winner.
- i. **New Currents Award:** New Currents Award is presented to the most promising directorial debut from Competition section or Vision section. A cash prize of KRW 20,000,000 is awarded to the director.
- j. **BIFF Mecenat Award:** The BIFF Mecenat Award is given to exceptional Korean and Asian documentaries in Wide Angle Competition. Each winner is awarded KRW 10,000,000 as funding for their next production.
- k. **Sonje Award:** The Sonje Award is given to exceptional Korean and Asian short films in Wide Angle Competition. Each winner is awarded KRW 10,000,000 as funding for their next production.
- l. **NETPAC Award:** The NETPAC Award is presented to an Asian film in the Vision section, selected by the NETPAC jury. Founded in 1990, NETPAC is an international organization devoted to the expansion of Asian film distribution and screening.
- m. **FIPRESCI Award:** The FIPRESCI Award recognizes Asian films in the Vision section that demonstrate exceptional artistry and innovative talent.
- n. **Bangladesh July Memorial Prize:** The Bangladesh July Memorial Prize is sponsored by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of the Government of Bangladesh. It recognizes an Asian independent film in the Vision section that explores themes such as social justice, civil liberties, freedom of expression, and the fight against inequality and injustice. The award is established in honor of the spirit of the July 2024 Popular Mass Uprising in Bangladesh.
- o. **Bishkek International Film Festival – Central Asia Cinema Award:** The Bishkek International Film Festival – Central Asia Cinema Award is sponsored by the Department of Cinematography under the Ministry of Culture, Information and Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic. It awards a cash prize of KRW 10,000,000 to the director of one Asian film in the Vision section.
- p. **Face of the Future Award:** Face of the Future Award is sponsored by the Thai creative & social enterprise Alternative Universe Co., Ltd. and grants a cash prize of KRW 10,000,000 to the director of one Asian film in the Vision section that represents the future of Asian cinema.
- q. **Hylife Vision Award:** The Hylife Vision Award is sponsored by the Hylife Group. It awards a cash prize of KRW 10,000,000 each to the directors of two Asian films in the Vision section.



**31st BUSAN
International Film Festival
6–15 October 2026**

- r. **International Film Festival of India – Vision Asia Award:** International Film Festival of India – Vision Asia Award is sponsored by the National Film Development Corporation Limited India (NFDC). The award honors the director of one Asian film in the Vision section with a cash prize of KRW 10,000,000.
- s. **Taipei Film Commission Award:** The Taipei Film Commission Award is sponsored by the Taipei Cultural Foundation Taipei Film Commission. It grants a cash prize of KRW 10,000,000 to the director of one Asian film in the Vision section.
- t. **Vision of Jiseok Award:** The Vision of Jiseok Award is sponsored by BHD Co., Ltd., a Vietnamese film company, on behalf of the friends of Kim Jiseok. It grants a cash prize of KRW 10,000,000 to the director of one Asian film in the Vision section that captures the attention of audiences.
- u. **Songwon Vision Audience Award - Asia:** The Songwon Vision Award is sponsored by the Songwon Cultural Foundation. is presented to the Asian film that receives the highest audience acclaim in the Vision section. A cash prize of KRW 10,000,000 is awarded to the director of the winning film.
- v. **Songwon Vision Audience Award - Korea:** The Songwon Vision Award is sponsored by the Songwon Cultural Foundation. is presented to the Korean film that receives the highest audience acclaim in the Vision section. A cash prize of KRW 10,000,000 is awarded to the director of the winning film.
- w. **Actor of the Year:** The Actor of the Year is an award for emerging talents in independent Korean films from the Vision section, selected by a pair of renowned Korean actor and actress. Each winner is awarded a cash prize of KRW 5,000,000.
- x. **DGK PLUS M Award:** The DGK PLUS M Award is presented to two Korean films in the Vision section. Each director of the winning film is awarded a cash prize of KRW 5,000,000, sponsored by Directors Guild of Korea and PLUS M.
- y. **CGV Award:** The CGV award is given to a Korean film in the Vision section that shows promise for the future of Korean Cinema. The director of the winning film is awarded a cash prize of KRW 10,000,000, sponsored by CJ CGV.
- z. **KBS Independent Film Award:** The KBS Independent Film Award is given to a Korean film in the Vision section to support Korean independent films. The director of the winning film is awarded a cash prize of KRW 5,000,000, sponsored by KBS.
- aa. **Critic b Award:** The Critic b Award is given to a Korean film from the Vision section, selected by the Busan Film Critics Association. The director of the winning film is awarded a cash prize of KRW 10,000,000.
- ab. **CINE21 Award:** CINE21 Award is sponsored by the film media company CINE21. It commits 10,000,000 KRW in cash to the director of one selected Korean film from Vision section.



**31st BUSAN
International Film Festival
6–15 October 2026**

ac. **Busan Cinephile Award:** Celebrating excellence in documentary filmmaking, the Busan Cinephile Award is presented to one Korean or Asian documentary from the Wide Angle – Documentary Showcase section, selected by a student jury comprising film-related majors from Busan’s universities. A cash prize of KRW 5,000,000 is awarded to the director of the winning film.

ad. **Documentary Audience Award:** The Documentary Audience Award is presented to the film that receives the highest audience acclaim in the Wide Angle – Documentary Competition section. A cash prize of KRW 10,000,000 is awarded to the director of the winning film.

ae. **Flash Forward Audience Award:** The Flash Forward Audience Award is given to the film that receives the highest audience acclaim in the Flash Forward section. A cash prize of KRW 10,000,000 is awarded to the director of the winning film.

* The above awards’ details may be subject to change.

* For the above awards, the Festival and the awarding entity appoint juries respectively, who review the films to award the winners.

5. Submission

a. Eligibility:

- 1) The Festival accepts features, short films, documentaries and animations. The film must have been completed no earlier than September 2025, and should be completed no later than the first week of September 2026.
- 2) Films with a total running time of less than 60 minutes are classified as shorts. Films with a total running time 60 minutes or longer are classified as features.
- 3) Short Documentaries (both Asian and Non-Asian) and Non-Asian short fiction films are not open to submission.
- 4) For the Wide Angle-Korean Short Film Competition and Asian Short Film Competition sections, only films with a total running of not more than 30 minutes, and only World Premiere and International Premiere films are considered. However, in terms of a private screening, films that have been or will be exhibited for a graduation screening or limited to certain people, the regular premiere status rule still applies.
- 5) Films submitted for previous editions of the Festival should not be resubmitted. In case of new versions due to re-shooting, re-editing and etc., exceptional cases may apply by the decision of the Selection Committee.

b. Copyrights:

- 1) Films submitted to the Busan International Film Festival are deemed to be the copyright holder's party (including the case of the agreement with co-copyright holders), or to be submitted on behalf of the copyright holder upon the consignment.
- 2) It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant to secure authorization and permission from the copyright owner(s) of any and all copyrighted content or materials included within the submitted film. The Festival will not be held responsible for any unauthorized use of



**31st BUSAN
International Film Festival
6–15 October 2026**

copyrighted content or materials within the submitted film, including any content or materials that are or may become the basis for any third party claims for copyright infringement.

- 3) If it is deemed that the copyright and/or portrait rights have not been cleared by the applicants, the Festival may cancel the selection and award of the film before, during or after the festival.

c. Deadlines

- Short Films: 2 June (Wed), 18:00 (KST)
- Feature Films: 8 July (Wed), 18:00 (KST)

d. Submission will be considered complete only when the required film information is registered online and the screener is uploaded by 18:00 (KST) on the deadline date.

e. Entry fee: There is no entry fee for submission to the Festival.

f. Submission Procedure:

- 1) Verify email address

Email addresses have to be verified through the official website to receive an online submission link.

- 2) Complete and submit the Online Submission Form

Once submitted, an official email will be sent to upload a screener (film file).

- 3) Submit screener - the Festival accepts the screener via online upload

- A link for uploading the file will be provided in the official email.

- If the film's original language is not Korean or English, or includes dialogues other than Korean or English, there must be English subtitles attached to the screener. The "original language" refers to the one in which a film is or will be exhibited in its country of origin. For pre-selection, English language films do not require subtitles.

- The screener (film file) must be uploaded by 18:00 (KST) on the deadline date.

6. Selection

a. The Selection Committee will choose films for the official selection after screenings. For the Wide Angle sections - Korean Short Film Competition and Asian Short Film Competition, preliminary selection juries shortlist the submitted films, and the selection committee makes the final selection.

b. The Selection Committee will consider for inclusion in the Festival all films that have been submitted by the above deadline and in accordance with these Rules & Regulations and gives priority to World (Films screened for the first time to any audience, including country of origin) or International (Films screened for the first time to an audience outside country of origin) premieres.

c. The Festival will notify filmmakers of the selection results prior to the official program announcement. The Festival reserves the right to decide the section in which the selected



**31st BUSAN
International Film Festival
6–15 October 2026**

film will participate and does not provide individual explanation on the non-selection of a film.

- d. The selected film will be notified individually, and a final selection list will be announced on the official website.
- e. The invitation of a film to participate must remain absolutely confidential until the program is announced by the Busan International Film Festival.

7. Selection Cancellation

- a. The film selection may be subject to cancellation at any time if there is any false or misleading information on the submission.
- b. Festival may request the documentary evidence for copyrights and portrait rights of the selected film before or after the Festival period. If the Applicant fails to provide evidence, the film selection or award may be subject to cancellation.
- c. If it is proved that the film or those associated with the film are involved in any type of violation of basic human rights, including but not limited to discrimination, harassment or illegal activities during the production, promotion or screening of a film, the Festival reserves the right to invalidate the selection and any award of the film.

8. Requirements for Selected Films

a. Film Materials

The films selected in the official screening section must submit the film materials requested by Festival before the deadline through the Online Registration Form.

- 1) Film information
- 2) English synopsis
- 3) Three to five high quality images of the film
- 4) Director's biography
- 5) Director's filmography
- 6) High quality photo of the director
- 7) Credits

b. Publicity Materials

The films selected in the official screening section must submit the publicity materials requested by the Festival before the deadline through the Online Registration Form or other methods.

- 1) Film screener
- 2) Promotional video clips (including trailers): If they cannot be sent, the Festival will produce a 1-2 minute video clip from the film screener



**31st BUSAN
International Film Festival
6–15 October 2026**

3) Film poster and press kit (optional)

c. Subtitling Materials

Among the films selected in the official screening section, films produced in languages other than Korean must submit the following materials before the deadline requested by the Festival for creating the Korean subtitles. However, if it is difficult to provide a screener for the production of subtitles, an exhibition copy(print) must be provided within the deadline requested by the Festival.

- 1) The film screener must be provided as a file.
- 2) The film screener must be identical to the exhibition copy. If the film is not in English, the screener must be subtitled in English.
- 3) If the film is in English, an English dialogue list is required.
- 4) If the film is not in English, dialogue lists in both English and the original language are required

* Since the Busan International Film Festival is held in South Korea, Korean subtitles for a film in languages other than Korean is produced and screened by the Festival.

* Rights for Korean Subtitles

The Busan International film festival reserves the right to the Korean subtitles produced by the Festival. The Korean subtitles can be later provided once applicants complete the required process requested by the Festival. The applicant should state the Busan International Film Festival as the Korean subtitle provider for 3 seconds on screen.

d. Exhibition Copy (Print)

1) Format

For the Festival screening, the film must be available in either DCP (D-Cinema) or 35mm (film) by the first week of September. However, DCP format is the most flexible, while for other formats screening venues may be limited. No other formats, including DVD and Blu-ray, are compatible. In case of DCP (D-Cinema), the Festival only accepts content that is fully DCI (Digital Cinema Initiative) compliant. Additional information regarding the screening format may be requested by the Festival technicians. The screening format must be confirmed on the Registration Form when submitted.

2) Deadline

The exhibition copy must be delivered on time by the first week of September. Changes in the screening format and/or failure to provide the film on time may result in screening cancellation from the Festival.

3) Technical Guideline

- Encryption: We recommend DCP to be not encrypted. If the DCP is encrypted, please send DKDM to the Print Coordinator of Busan IFF. DKDM gives the film a better opportunity to arrange the screening venues.

- Sound: 5.1ch DCP recommended.

* In case of physical print delivery

- It shall be a 3.5" HDD or case with a USB-type interface and external power supply for DCP content storage.

- DCP hard disks shall contain an 'MBR' partition table. It shall be formatted in NTFS



**31st BUSAN
International Film Festival
6–15 October 2026**

or EXT2, or EXT3 format.

- There should be no partition, nor dispensable data saved in DCP hard disks.

4) All films selected for the Festival must be available for screening in their original language with English subtitles, unless the original language is English or otherwise agreed beforehand.

- Burned-in type subtitles are encouraged.

5) Shipping & Insurance

- The Festival agrees to cover the cost of shipping and insurance both ways. The exception is shipment to other festivals, where the recipient, in compliance with the regulations of the International Federation of Film Producers' Association (FIAPF), is responsible for covering the shipping costs.

- The Festival provides for print traffic. For digital delivery, applicants will be given access to the festival's specified digital delivery platform, or they may opt for physical delivery using the festival's designated courier service. Please note that both the digital delivery platform and the courier service are exclusively for print traffic and cannot be used for shipping any other materials. Detailed instructions will be provided in a timely manner.

- The Festival will not take responsibility for customs duty or cover the shipping cost following the import/export of those films.

- All physically delivered prints will be returned within two weeks after the Festival to the address indicated on the Registration form. If the film has to be returned to another address, the print owner should provide the Festival with the shipping instruction including the return address with the desired date of arrival in advance. All online delivered prints will be permanently destroyed after the Festival.

- The insurance coverage of films screened at the Festival follows the guidance of FIAPF. In case of damage to or loss of a print, the Festival is only responsible for the costs of making a new print according to the current laboratory rates. The Festival reserves the right to refuse any other production cost of the exhibition copy including KDM/Encryption fee.

9. Use of submitted materials

a. Film Materials and Publicity Materials

All Materials submitted may be used for publicity and promotional purposes through media outlets such as television, internet, and mobile, and are provided to assist media coverage of journalists from the local and international media from the year of selection onwards (printed media, broadcasting, online press, press agency, magazine, etc.).

b. Screener (film file) for Selected Films

The official selected films produced in languages other than Korean must submit film screeners to create Korean subtitles by the Festival.

Busan International Film Festival provides Festival Video Library and Online Market Screening services for films in the official program, available to selective film professionals attending the Festival. This gives the film a better opportunity to be reviewed, promoted and



**31st BUSAN
International Film Festival
6–15 October 2026**

acquired. Access to the video library is strictly limited to press and festival official dailies, buyers, festival programmers and filmmakers. For those agreed to the above services, Festival should receive their film screeners by August.

10. Screening Scheduling

The scheduling of the film screening is at the discretion of the Festival. In accordance with the regulations of FIAPF, the Festival can schedule up to five screenings including Press & Industry screenings. The date(s), time(s) and venue(s) of the screening shall be determined by the Festival.

11. Festival Archive

a. Screener

The Festival reserves the right to preserve the selected films' screener copy at the Busan Cinema Center for archiving purposes. With the consent of the rightsholder(s), the screener copy will be converted for data preservation purpose, then be provided for viewing within the Busan Cinema Center Cinema, after the closing of the Festival's next edition.

b. Film materials and Publicity materials

All materials of selected films submitted to the Festival will be restored as part of the Festival's archive which can be viewed on the official website and the Festival's social media account and be provided only for non-profit and public interest.

12. Agreement

Entry and participation of films implies understanding and acceptance of the regulations. If any of the above articles could be an issue to presenting the film, please immediately contact the Festival. Any and all additional issues outside the scope of this document should be negotiated in good faith and agreed between both parties. The applicant (copyright holder) shall be solely responsible for any and all legal disputes involving intellectual property rights, copyrights, portrait rights, and any other legal issues arising from the film. Consequently, the Festival shall not be held liable for any such issues, and the applicant must resolve all disputes at their own responsibility and expense. In case of failure to inform any possible conflict in advance, or if the principle of good faith is deemed to have been violated, the film invitation, screening, or awards may be subject to cancellation at any time, even after the Festival. The Director of the Busan International Film Festival reserves the right to rule on any cases not covered by the official Rules & Regulations herein.