

## Festival Regulations

1. **Sofia International Film Festival (Sofia IFF)** is the biggest competitive film festival in Bulgaria, accredited by FIAPF. The festival is presenting the best of the world contemporary cinema, including works of masters, discoveries and retrospectives.

**The 30<sup>th</sup> Sofia IFF will be held from 12th to 22nd of March 2026** (main programme) with an additional programme until the end of March.

2. **The programme of the 30<sup>th</sup> Sofia IFF** includes the following sections:

- International Competition for First or Second Feature Films
- Balkan Competition
- International Documentary Competition
- Teen Competition
- Bulgarian Short Films Competition
- Cinema Today – Masters
- Kaleidoscope
- Special Screenings
- New Bulgarian Cinema
- Tributes and Retrospectives
- Cinema Gourmet
- Cinema and Fashion
- SFF Nature
- SFF for Kids
- SFF for Blind People
- Special Events

3. **Film Submissions** are accepted for the following sections:

Competitive programme:

- **International Competition** – first or second feature fiction films of the directors, produced after January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, worldwide.
- **Balkan Competition** – regional feature fiction films from Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey, produced after January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025.
- **International Documentary Competition** – feature documentaries over 60', worldwide, produced after January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025.
- **Teen Competition** – feature films worldwide, produced after January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025.
- **Bulgarian Short Films Competition** – Bulgarian short films produced after January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 with length no longer than 30 minutes.

Non-competitive programmes:

- **Feature fiction films and documentaries** from all over the world produced after January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025.

#### 4. **Deadline for submissions**

Deadline for foreign entries:

Early Bird – October 1st, 2025

Regular – October 20th, 2025

Deadline for Bulgarian features: November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Deadline for Bulgarian short films: November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

The films are selected by programme board, advisors and selection committees.

Selection committee will choose twelve shorts competing for Best Bulgarian Short Film Award.

Selection committee will choose the films competing in the Documentary Competition.

The selection committees are chosen by the festival management.

The final programme will be announced at the end of January 2026.

5. [Online submission](#) form is available on the festival's Eventual visitors page.

6. Links and passwords to online screeners to be sent with the Film Submission form. The submitters can also send the links and password via email to [submissions@siff.bg](mailto:submissions@siff.bg)

#### 7. **NB! The festival requests submission fee as follows:**

Early bird – 35 EUR for submission of a foreign feature film until October 1st.

Regular – 45 EUR for submission of a foreign feature film from October 1st until October 20th.

The film will be considered for the festival selection only after the submission fee is duly paid. The submission fee is not refundable once it has been paid.

#### 8. **Film Formats**

- For selection purposes: secured online screener (valid at least three months after the submission deadline).
  - Accepted screening formats for the selected films: DCP and HD file on exceptional occasions.
  - Screeners of the selected films for translation should be sent to the festival until January 5th, 2026
- The screening formats should reach the Festival before February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

9. Sofia IFF will cover all costs connected with the transportation of prints of the films selected for the Competitive sections to Sofia and back to the address given by the producer in case the film does not have outbound destination. Sofia IFF will cover inbound shipment of the prints of films shared with other festivals. Sofia IFF will cover all the expenses connected with the storage and insurance of the films during the Festival.

10. Sofia IFF invites representatives of the films in the International Competition and Balkan Competition. The festival invites also the directors of the winning films in the Documentary and Teen Competitions for the Awards Ceremony. All conditions for the festival guests are included in their personal invitations. If conditions do not allow presence of guests in Sofia, SIFF will organize online introductions and/or Q&A sessions with the talents.

**11. The festival does not pay screening fees for the films in the competitive sections.**

**12. Festival Juries and Awards.**

**International Jury** of five members will decide upon 12 films in the International Competition and 12 films in the Bulgarian Short Film Award Competition and will award the following prizes:

- Sofia City of Film Grand Prix for Best Film in the International Competition (goes to the director and producer of the film);
- Special Jury Award for film in the International Competition (goes to the director of the film);
- Award for Best Director (goes to the director of the film);
- Best Bulgarian Short Film Award (goes to the director of the film);

**Balkan Jury** of three members will decide the Award for Best Balkan Film (goes to the director of the film);

**International Documentary Jury** of three members will decide the Award for Best Documentary Film;

**Best Bulgarian Film Jury** of three members of representatives of international film festivals will decide the Award for Best Bulgarian Feature Film;

**FIPRESCI** will appoint a jury of 3 members to decide the award for a film, selected from a special list of films published in the festival catalogue and on the festival website (goes to the director of the film);

**The Audience** will vote for its preferable film from the International and Balkan Competition. The audience will choose the winner of the Teen Competition as well. The award goes to the director of the film;

**Young Jury** will present an award to a film from the International Competition.

13. Accreditation requests will be open from January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 until March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

14. Participation in the Sofia IFF shall presume observation of all articles of the present Regulations. The festival director has the right to settle all cases and issues not covered by these Regulations.

15. For additional information please check the festival website [www.siff.bg](http://www.siff.bg) or contact us at [submissions@siff.bg](mailto:submissions@siff.bg)