



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 24th Sofia IFF will be held from 12th to 22nd of March 2020 (main programme) with an additional programme until the end of March.

2. **The programme of the 24th Sofia IFF** includes the following sections:

- International Feature Film Competition for First or Second Film
- Balkan Competition
- International Documentary Competition
- Jameson Short Film Award - Competition for Best Bulgarian Short Film
- The Grand Prizes
- Cinema Today – Masters
- Cinema Tomorrow – Discoveries
- Kaleidoscope
- Special Screenings
- New Bulgarian Cinema
- Documentary Programme – out of competition
- International Short Films Programme - out of competition (by invitations only)
- VR Screenings (by invitations only)
- Tributes and Retrospectives
- SFF Sport
- Cinema Gourmet
- Cinema and Fashion
- SFF for Blind People
- Special Events
- Sofia Film Fest on the Road

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 1st 2019, worldwide.
- **Balkan Competition** – regional feature fiction films are eligible for the section (Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey), produced after January 1st 2018.
- **International Documentary Competition** – feature documentaries over 60', worldwide, produced after January 1st 2018.
- **Jameson Short Film Award for Best Bulgarian Short Film** – Bulgarian short films produced after January 1st 2019 with length no longer than 30 minutes.



Non-competitive programme:

- **Feature fiction films and documentaries** from all over the world produced after January 1st 2019.

NB! Short films are no longer accepted by the festival! The international short programme and the VR screenings are by invitations only!

4. **Deadline for submissions**

Deadline for foreign entries:

Early Bird – September 15th, 2019

Regular – November 1st, 2019

Deadline for Bulgarian features: December 1st, 2019

Deadline for Bulgarian short films: December 21st, 2019

The festival director will select the films with the support of programme advisors/selection committee. Selection committee of five members will choose the 12th Bulgarian shorts competing for the Jameson short Film Award. The selection committee is chosen by the festival management and the management of Jameson Irish Whiskey.

The final programme will be announced at the beginning of February.

5. Online submission form is available on the festival's Eventival visitors page

<https://vp.eventival.eu/siff/2020>

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

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

Early bird – 25 EUR for submission of a foreign feature film from July 21st until September 15th.

Regular – 35 EUR for submission of a foreign feature film from September 16th until November 1st.

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. Waiver requests for special occasions to be sent to submissions@siff.bg.

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; Blu-ray and HD file on exceptional occasions.
- Screeners of the selected films for translation should be sent to the festival until February 1st. The screening formats should reach the Festival before March 5th, 2020.

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 representative of the films in the International Competition and Balkan Competition. All conditions for the festival guests are included in their personal invitations.

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 Jameson Short Film Award Competition and 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);
- Jameson Short Film Award for Best Bulgarian Short Film (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).

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

International Documentary Jury of three members will decide the Award for Best Documentary 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.

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

13. Accreditation requests will be open from February 10th 2020 until March 10th, 2020.

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 or contact us at submissions@siff.bg