

Follow Your Heart FILM FESTIVAL

International Film Festival "Follow Your Heart"

Supplemental Guidelines for Best Film by Audience Voting

January 4, 2023 No. 030

A. Purpose

These guidelines supplement the Protocol for the Selection and Work of Jury Members, dated January 4, 2023, outlining the procedure for assigning the Best Film by Audience Voting Award. The award is determined through live audience voting during festival screenings, recognizing the feature-length film (minimum 60 minutes) most favored by attendees.

B. Evaluation Format

B.1. Live Voting

- Audience members vote via a festival-provided platform (e.g., mobile app, paper ballots) immediately following each screening.
- Votes are tallied in real-time, with each attendee allowed one vote per film.

B.2. Transparency

The Committee ensures transparency by publishing the total number of votes and the winning film's vote count after verification.

C. Submission Requirements

C.1. Complete Submission

Submissions must include:

- A credited director listed in the final film credits.
- A complete screener of the film (minimum 60 minutes) screened at the festival.
- Confirmation of eligibility for audience voting (e.g., inclusion in the festival's official program).

C.2. Incomplete Submissions

If the director is not specified at the time of submission:

- The submission is assigned a “Pending Credit” status.
- The Organizing Committee (the Committee) notifies the applicant and provides a 7-calendar-day Cure Period to submit the required credits.
- Failure to provide credits within the Cure Period results in disqualification from the audience voting category.

D. Award Eligibility and Verification

D.1. Verification of Director

Prior to result certification, the Committee must verify the identity of the director. Acceptable evidence includes:

- Final film credits listing “Directed by” or equivalent.
- A signed production agreement or a certified letter from the rightsholder confirming credits.
- Distributor or festival materials listing final credits.

D.2. Non-Verification

If the director’s role is not verified within the Cure Period, the submission is disqualified from the audience voting category.

E. Award Assignment

E.1. Attribution

The Best Film by Audience Voting Award is granted to the film with the highest number of verified audience votes, with credits to the director.

E.2. Voting Disputes

If a dispute arises regarding vote integrity (e.g., suspected fraud), the Committee investigates and may disqualify votes or the film.

F. Conflict of Interest

F.1. Declaration

The Committee ensures no festival staff or affiliates manipulate the voting process. Any suspected interference is investigated.

F.2. Handling Errors

If voting errors occur (e.g., technical issues), the Committee logs the issue and may extend the voting period or adjust results.

G. Documentation and Recordkeeping

G.1. Records

All voting data, verifications, and decisions are documented and retained by the Committee for at least 5 years from the certification date.

G.2. Confidentiality

Individual audience votes remain confidential. Only aggregate vote counts and the winner are publicly disclosed.

H. Practical Workflow

- **Voting Access:** Audience members vote via the festival's platform post-screening.
- **Evaluation:** Votes are tallied electronically or manually, with verification for accuracy.
- **Verification:** The Committee confirms the director's role through provided documentation.
- **Award Assignment:**
 - If verified, the award is granted to the film with the highest vote count.
 - If unverified within the Cure Period, the submission is disqualified.
- **Announcement:** Winners are announced publicly with their full credits (e.g., "Best Film by Audience Voting awarded to [Film Title], directed by [Director]").

Approved by the Organizing Committee

Date: January 4, 2023

The Organizer of the Miami Film Festival "Follow Your Heart"

Head of the Organizing Committee

Tatiana Germanovsky