

Follow Your Heart FILM FESTIVAL

International Film Festival "Follow Your Heart"

Supplemental Guidelines for Special Jury Prize

January 4, 2023 No. 026

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 Special Jury Prize. The Special Jury Prize recognizes a film (feature or short) for exceptional artistic or technical achievement in a specific aspect, such as innovation, social impact, or unique storytelling.

B. Evaluation Format

B.1. Open Evaluation

The jury receives complete details for each submission, including:

- Film title, genre, length, and year of release.
- Director's name, producer(s), and key production details.
- Access to screener links (video/audio) showcasing the film.

B.2. Transparency

The jury is provided with all relevant information to evaluate the film's unique contribution to cinema, with discretion to focus on specific artistic or technical merits.

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.
- Optional: A statement highlighting the film's unique contribution or eligibility for the Special Jury Prize.

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 Special Jury Prize 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 Special Jury Prize category.

E. Award Assignment

E.1. Attribution

The Special Jury Prize is granted to the film, with credits to the director and, at the jury's discretion, other key contributors (e.g., cinematographer, writer).

E.2. Credit Disputes

If a dispute arises regarding credits, the Committee suspends the winner announcement until the dispute is resolved with documentation.

If unresolved, the Committee may declare “Award Withheld Pending Credit Verification.”

F. Conflict of Interest

F.1. Declaration

Jury members must declare a Conflict of Interest if they have a personal or professional relationship with the director or key personnel involved in the submission.

Affected jury members abstain from evaluating the submission, and the Committee considers only valid ballots.

F.2. Handling Errors

If materials are presented with incorrect or incomplete credits, the Committee logs the issue and may reassign the submission to another jury member or initiate a re-vote.

G. Documentation and Recordkeeping

G.1. Records

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

G.2. Confidentiality

Individual jury ballots remain confidential. Only winners and a brief justification for the award are publicly disclosed.

H. Practical Workflow

- **Jury Access:** The jury receives a form listing the film’s title, genre, length, director, and screener links.
- **Evaluation:** The jury assesses the film based on its unique artistic or technical contribution.
- **Verification:** The Committee confirms the director’s role through provided documentation.
- **Award Assignment:**

- If verified, the award is granted to the film, with credits to the director and other contributors as applicable.
- If unverified within the Cure Period, the submission is disqualified.
- **Announcement:** Winners are announced publicly with their full credits and a brief justification (e.g., “Special Jury Prize awarded to [Film Title] for [specific achievement], 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