

# Geneva International Film Festival (GIFF) Regulations 2026

The 32nd edition of GIFF will take place in Geneva from **October 30 to November 8, 2026**.

Please find more information about the Festival [here](#). For details on the different sections (competitive and non-competitive), please visit the dedicated [page](#) on our website.

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## Important dates:

July 17, 2026	Submission deadline (for series and immersive works)
Early October	Response from the Programming Office regarding the selection status of works submitted via the call for entries
October 8, 2026	Official announcement of the selection

## If your work is selected:

September 25, 2026	Deadline for sending the documentation informations (credits, stills, etc.)
October 2, 2026	Deadline for submitting the final build for immersive works
October 12, 2026	Deadline for submitting screening materials for films and TV series

## 1. Juries and Awards

- **International Feature Competition**

A jury composed of a renowned filmmaker and four film students will award the Reflet d'Or for Best Feature Film, along with a cash prize of CHF 10,000 offered by the City and Canton of Geneva (75% of the prize amount will be awarded to the director and 25% to the rights holder who submitted the film to the Festival's selection).

- **International Series Competition**  
The Reflet d'Or for Best Series, along with a cash prize of CHF 10,000 offered by the City and Canton of Geneva will be awarded by a jury of three international experts from the cultural industries. The prize will be awarded to the (co-)creator(s).
- **International Immersive Experiences Competition**  
A jury of international experts will award the Reflet d'Or for Best Immersive Experience, along with a cash prize of CHF 10,000 offered by the City and Canton of Geneva.
- **Future Is Sensible Award**  
A jury composed of three international personalities active in the audiovisual and cultural industries will recognize a film, series, or immersive experience that stands out for its humanism, ethical dimension, and positive impact on the future. The Future Is Sensible Award is accompanied by a cash prize of CHF 10,000 offered by Pour-cent culturel Migros.

## 2. Eligibility Requirements

All genres and themes are accepted (fiction, documentary or animation) except for works considered as advertising a service or product. Short films are not eligible, except for specific initiatives of the Festival.

- a) **Works must have been produced in 2025-2026** (except for tribute programs and retrospectives).
- b) For films/series/immersive experiences in competition, at least a **Swiss premiere** is required. This means that submitted feature films, series, and immersive experiences must not have been shown/screened/broadcasted on unencrypted television channels available in Switzerland, free-access web platforms, cinemas, festivals, or any other public events in Switzerland before November 9, 2026.
- c) The **minimum durations** accepted for selected works are:
  - 60 minutes for feature films
  - 15 minutes per episode for series/mini-series
  - No minimum duration for immersive experiences
- d) The Festival is committed to **protecting the confidentiality and copyright** of submitted works. Documents, links, and materials shared will only be accessible to the Festival team for the selection process. If selected, the Festival reserves the right to use information and promotional materials related to the work in its communication materials while respecting copyright. By submitting a work to GIFF, you acknowledge that sharing exclusive information online involves inherent risks (including piracy), which you accept, unless they result from serious negligence on the part of GIFF.

- e) Selection committees composed of Swiss and international experts assist the Artistic Director and Head of the Programming Office in selecting works for the official program. The Festival reserves the right to determine the section in which works will be presented.

### 3. Submission and Deadlines

Submissions for the next edition of the Festival are **open exclusively to series, digital installations, and immersive experiences** (virtual reality, augmented reality, and mixed reality). **There is no call for submissions for feature or short films.**

- a) Submissions must be made online via the MyGIFF platform.
- b) A screening link for the film/series or a build for immersive experiences must be provided with the submission form. **The link or build must remain accessible until October 9, 2026.** If the link and/or password become invalid, the work will not be considered for selection. For modifications, please email [lucie.emch@giff.ch](mailto:lucie.emch@giff.ch).
- c) Submitting and participating in the Festival implies acceptance of the participation conditions. In the event of unforeseen circumstances, the decision of the Festival Management is final.
- d) To be considered for the 2026 edition, the **submission deadline** for series and immersive experiences is **July 17, 2026**.
- e) No submission fee is required.
- f) Applicants who have submitted a work via MyGIFF will receive a response by early October 2026 at the latest, confirming whether their work has been selected or not.

### 4. Selected Works

- a) Selected films, series, and immersive experiences must be registered online. If your work is selected, you will receive a link to our online registration form. If you do not receive this link, please inform us immediately.
- b) Online registration generates a contract (these Regulations) that must be accepted.
- c) For internal use, **a final version of your film, series, or immersive experience must be provided as soon as possible** via a downloadable link or file transfer (Vimeo, Dropbox, WeTransfer, Filemail, etc.).
- d) Films and series may be made available to professionals (press, jury, industry screenings), unless otherwise specified.

- e) **All the documentation and required materials for the Festival catalog and website must be submitted by September 25, 2026, including:**
- Distribution and credits
  - Filmography, nationality, birth year, and country of the filmmaker(s)/creator(s)
  - A photo of the filmmaker(s)/creator(s) (300 DPI, JPG)
  - 1 to 3 horizontal images from the work (300 DPI, JPG)
  - A password-protected HD file/link to the final version of the work
  - A file or link to the trailer
- f) The submission authorizes the Festival to use trailers and related extracts for promotion on its platforms.
- g) **Once confirmed for the 32nd edition of GIFF, a work cannot be withdrawn from the official selection.** The Festival reserves the right to remove a work if it does not meet the specified conditions.
- h) Creative teams invited to present their selected work must confirm their participation within three weeks of receiving the invitation, no later than October 8, 2026.
- i) With the rightsholders' permission, selected works may be included in GIFF UNLIMITED or other post-Festival screening programs. These potential screenings are not automatic and will be subject to further discussion with the GIFF programming team.
- j) All selected films and series will be screened in their original language with English and/or French subtitles. The production and cost of subtitles will be decided on a case-by-case basis and negotiated between the Festival and the rights holder. A dialogue list with timecodes may be requested; please ensure that it corresponds to the version(s) or episode(s) screened during the Festival.
- k) For series selected for the International Competition, all episodes of the season must be available for screening during the Festival.

## 5. Delivery of Screening and Exhibition Materials

- a) Accepted formats for invited works:
- **Feature films:** DCP (24 or 25 fps)
  - **Series:** DCP (24 or 25 fps), Digital File (Quicktime, Apple Pro Res, 100Mbit/s limited, 25 fps)
  - **Immersive experiences:** Digital file compatible with VR, AR, or MR devices or any additional required devices (subject to technical and spatial feasibility).
- b) A screening copy (final version for screening at the Festival), whether physical or digital, must be received by 12 October 2026 or by the specific deadlines communicated by the

Festival in order to ensure the best possible conditions for screening and subtitling. Exceptions may be made at the Festival's discretion.

- c) If a single screening copy is scheduled to be shown at the same time at other festivals or events, the GIFF must be informed of this at the time of submission, so that arrangements can be made to ensure the best possible screening conditions.
- d) In the case of digital submissions, download links from various platforms are accepted, subject to the prior approval of the Festival team. Any associated costs will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.
- e) In the case of physical submissions, the Festival will cover the costs of postage and customs duties on the arrival and departure of the final screening copies of the selected films/series, provided they reach the Festival within the specified deadlines. These copies will be returned to the sender after the Festival has ended (exceptions can be made but must be discussed with the GIFF's team before the Festival's dates). For international shipments, a pro forma invoice must be sent with the screening copy. The title, the sender's name, the format, the duration, the number of media and whether the film/series is in colour or black & white must always be indicated on the document(s).
- f) For immersive experiences, the coverage of shipping costs for the equipment will be discussed on a case-by-case basis between the Festival and the rights holder.
- g) If the DCP copy is encrypted, one (1) KDM per screening must be made available for the duration of the Festival, as well as one (1) test KDM prior to the Festival (for technical tests).
- h) Insurance costs for the period between receipt and return of the physical film copies are covered by the Festival. In the event of loss or damage during this period, the Festival is liable only for the replacement value of the blank media.

## 6. General Rules

The Festival Management will handle any exceptional circumstances not covered in these regulations. Participation in GIFF implies full acceptance of these conditions. The Festival reserves the right to modify these regulations at any time without prior notice.

Geneva International Film Festival, April 2026

For more information, please contact:

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