

*81st Academy Awards Rules  
for Distinguished Achievements in 2008*

**RULE TWO  
ELIGIBILITY**

1. Eligibility for Academy Awards consideration is subject to Rules Two and Three, and to those special rules approved by the Board of Governors that follow.
2. All eligible motion pictures, unless otherwise noted (see Paragraph 9, below), must be:
  - a. feature length (defined as over 40 minutes),
  - b. publicly exhibited by means of 35mm or 70mm film, or in a 24- or 48-frame progressive scan Digital Cinema format with a minimum projector resolution of 2048 by 1080 pixels, source image format conforming to SMPTE 428-1-2006 D-Cinema – Image Characteristics; image compression (if used) conforming to ISO/IEC 15444-1 (JPEG 2000), and image and sound file formats suitable for exhibition in commercial Digital Cinema sites,
  - c. for paid admission in a commercial motion picture theater in Los Angeles County,
  - d. for a run of at least seven consecutive days,
  - e. advertised and exploited during their Los Angeles run in a manner considered normal and customary to the industry, and
  - f. within the Awards year deadlines specified in Rule Three.
3. Films that, in any version, receive their first public exhibition or distribution in any manner other than as a theatrical motion picture release will not be eligible for Academy Awards in any category. (This includes broadcast and cable television as well as home video marketing and Internet transmission.) However, ten minutes or ten percent of the running time of a film, whichever is shorter, is allowed to be shown in a nontheatrical medium prior to the film's theatrical release.
4. Eligibility is contingent on the receipt by the Academy of the following information on Official Screen Credits forms obtained from the Academy, to be signed by the film's producer or distributor (unless waived by the Academy), which shall include:
  - a. full, complete and authentic credits,
  - b. the name of the Los Angeles County theater where the film has played, and

c. the dates of the Los Angeles run.

5. Eligibility for all awards shall first be determined by credits as they appear on the screen and/or as certified to the Academy by the producing companies, but final determination in any event shall be made by the Academy. The Academy shall not be bound by any contract or agreement relating to the sharing or giving of credit and reserves the right to make its own determination of credit for purposes of Awards consideration.
6. In the event of any dispute concerning credits, the Academy reserves the right to declare any achievement ineligible or, alternatively, to reject all claims to credit, list credits as being in controversy and withhold any award until the dispute is resolved.
7. The alteration of an achievement by changing a picture from the version shown in Los Angeles County, upon which eligibility is based, shall subject such achievement to the risk of being declared ineligible by the Board of Governors.
8. Motion pictures from all countries shall be eligible for the annual awards listed in Rule One Paragraph 3, as long as they satisfy the requirements of the other applicable rules, and contain English subtitles if released in a foreign language.
9. Exceptions to the eligibility requirements and methods of qualifying listed in Rules Two and Three appear in the Special Rules for the Animated Feature Film award (see Rule Seven), the Documentary awards (see Rule Twelve.), the Foreign Language Film award (see Rule Fourteen), the Music awards (see Rule Sixteen), and the Short Films awards (see Rule Nineteen).