

Official 72 Hour Film Fest Challenge Rules

Please read all rules carefully before starting your film, and test all links.

Note: **Preferred** means we hope you do it, but don't miss the deadline over it. **Required** means required **don't skip** the step.

1. Official Timeline

- **9:30 AM MST** – Mandatory live Video Meeting kickoff. (check email for invite)
- Teams will:
 - Draw a random genre
 - Receive a required character
 - Receive a required prop
 - Receive a required line of dialogue

The official 72-hour clock begins at:

10:00 AM MST

All films and required documentation must be submitted by:

10:00 AM MST on March 2, 2026

Late Window Policy

- Films submitted between **10:00 AM – 11:00 AM MST**:
 - May be screened
 - Will **NOT** be scored
 - Will **NOT** be eligible for awards
- Submissions after **11:00 AM MST** will not be accepted.

No exceptions.

2. Film Length

Film must be **5–7 minutes total runtime**.

Runtime includes:

- Required opening title card
- Entire film
- **Optional** credits

Films under or over time may be disqualified.

3. Required Opening Title Card

Your film must begin with:

- **A black background with white, clearly legible text**
- **Displayed for a minimum of 3 seconds**

The title card must include:

“This film was created for the 2026 Kickass Film Fest.”

Team Name

Team Leader

City, State

Assigned Genre

Immediately following the title card, include:

- **A minimum of 1 second of black**

After that, the film begins.

Failure to follow this format may result in penalties or disqualification; this must be within the allotted time.

4. Required Element Incorporation

Strict enforcement applies. The required Character, Prop, and Line of Dialogue do **NOT** need to be central to the story. They may play either a major or minor role. However, they must be clearly incorporated as defined below.

(Note there are Best Line, Prop, and Character awards.)

Character

- Must be visibly seen on screen
- Must be clearly identified by name or role
- Cannot be implied only
- May have a major or minor role

Prop

- Must be physically present in the film
- A clear photo of the prop shown within the film is acceptable
- Must be visibly identifiable at least once
- May be central or minor in the story

Required Line of Dialogue

- Must be delivered **word-for-word exactly as given**
- No paraphrasing
- No reordering of words
- No altered tense
- No synonym substitution

The line:

- May stand alone
- May be incorporated into a longer sentence
- May appear at the beginning, middle, or end of a sentence
- May be a major or minor moment

Failure to properly incorporate any required element may result in disqualification. However, have fun with the requirements, don't overthink it, just get it in there!

5. Genre Enforcement

Each team will draw a unique genre at random.

The assigned genre must:

- Be clearly identifiable
- Be undeniably felt throughout the film
- Use recognizable genre conventions
- Not contradict the assigned genre

If the genre is not clearly represented, the film may be disqualified.

6. Originality, AI Use & Fair Play

All writing, filming, and editing must occur within the official 72-hour window.

Not permitted:

- Pre-written scripts
- Pre-shot footage
- Pre-edited sequences
- Recycled footage from prior projects (unless listed as stock and following the stock rules)

Stock Footage

- May **NOT** exceed **10 seconds total**
- Must be legally licensed
- “Not for commercial use” licenses are acceptable
- Proof of rights must be submitted

AI-Generated Footage

- May not exceed **10 seconds total**
- Must be disclosed in documentation
- Teams must clearly identify which shots were AI-generated
- Must not contain ai bots that replace human actors (NO Ai generated Humans)

AI footage is counted separately from stock footage.

AI Editing Tools

AI-assisted editing tools are permitted, including templated effects.

AI may enhance the film but may not replace the filmmaking challenge.
The core narrative must be primarily human-created within the 72-hour window.

Festival organizers reserve the right to evaluate whether AI use violates the competitive spirit.

7. Budget Cap

Production hard costs may not exceed **\$5,000**.

Excludes:

- Equipment purchases
- Software subscriptions
- Pizza Parties and Beer ;) (Food/Drink)

Includes:

- Rentals
 - Locations
 - Props
 - Wardrobe
 - Permits
 - Paid cast/crew
-

8. Release Forms & Documentation

- You must obtain release forms from **ALL actors, actresses, and any locations used**.
- Official forms will be provided by the festival.
- If original music is created for your film, you must submit:
 - A signed music release form
 - OR a license agreement
- Each team member must complete an individual **Crew & Cast Member Form** for your team.
- Failure to submit required documentation may result in disqualification.

- **Team Leader Form** Digital Link: [CLICK HERE](#)

This should only be filled out once by the team leader who registered

- **Cast & Crew Form** Digital Link: [CLICK HERE](#)

Each team member must complete an individual Crew & Cast Member Form for your team.

- **Location Release Form** Digital Link: [CLICK HERE](#)

Each location should have a corresponding filled form. Feel free to send the link to your contact via Text for the easiest completion.

- Paper Format if you prefer printing and using physical paper you can print any one of these forms by selecting **File > Print** while the form is open. Make sure you upload a photo or scanned copy of this form into the WeTransfer file. Please add your team name to the file name, or we transfer the title, but if it's a time crunch don't miss the deadline over it. [WeTransfer Link can be accessed HERE.](#)
(<https://kickassfilmfest.wetransfer.com>)

9. Subtitles

If your film is in a language other than English, English subtitles are required unless the lack of translation is an intentional and essential narrative device.

10. Safety & Legal Responsibility

- Never put yourself, others, or living creatures in danger.
- Do not break the law.

Kickass Film Fest is not liable for:

- Loss of property
- Loss of reputation
- Injury
- Loss of life
- Any damages incurred during production

Teams assume full responsibility for their production. Any illegal activity captured in a submitted film may be reported to the appropriate authorities.

11. Content & Inclusion Policy

Films may be categorized as US R-rated and will not face exclusion for this alone.

Kickass Film Fest is an inclusive festival. We reserve the right to refuse screening or disqualify films that:

- Intentionally promote hate and or harm
- Glorify violence toward specific groups
- Include hate speech targeting race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or identity
- Promote extremist ideologies as positive endorsement

Sensitive historical themes may be explored if portrayed critically for context cues and not glorified. Excessive nudity beyond U.S. R-rating standards may result in removal from screening. Removal from screening does not automatically remove award eligibility. Final determination rests with festival organizers. We want you to be creative, we want you to explore sensitive topics if need be, these sensitive topics will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis.

12. Submission Instructions (With Link)

All films and documentation must be submitted by **10:00 AM MST** on the deadline date.

Late Window: 10:00–11:00 AM MST (screening is possible, but not eligible for awards).

Below is the recommended submission process:

- Upload via the Official **WeTransfer** portal
- <https://kickassfilmfest.wetransfer.com> or **CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT**
- Do Not Set a Password for the File, Do Not Delete Final File After Upload
- Please include your name in the title of your WeTransfer when prompted.
- Required file name should look like this **[Team Name]-Short Film-[Film Title]**

Note: you may need to do a quick verification if youve never used WeTransfer (Takes less than a minute)

Alternatives Entry Methods (Not recommended):

- Email: kickassfilmfest@gmail.com
- Physical Delivery:
102 S Oneida Street
Pueblo, CO 81003
- Addressed to: Jacob Rivera, **Timestamp required** ask anyone around to sign and date the time.

File Naming Requirement

ALL files must begin with your Team Name in the file name:

[TeamName]-ShortFilm-[Title]

Example:

[MyTeam-ShortFilm-TheBestMovieEver]

This allows us to ensure we group all of your files with your team name and find your files easily.

Upload Guidelines (Tips)

- Upload early. Account for export times and transfer times.
 - **The latest version uploaded before the deadline will be accepted.**
 - Files submitted after the deadline will not replace earlier versions.
 - No revisions of any kind will be accepted after the deadline unless the team elects to move to the late submission category and forfeit award eligibility.
-

13. Selection of Winners

Films will be judged by noncompeting judges.

Judging criteria:

1. Originality and Creativity
2. Entertainment Value
3. Use of Requirements
4. Award Category Performance
5. Overall

14. Promotional Materials (Highly Encouraged)

Teams are encouraged to create the following but not required:

- A Trailer - Before the premiere for promotional use
- A poster - Before the premiere for promotional use
- BTS Videos and photos send to us and we will post on social media for promotional use
- Create and post BTS stories and Tag @kickassfilmfest on Instagram/Facebook during film weekend, and we will share the fun!

We may showcase these:

- On social media
 - At festival events
 - On our website
-

15. Festival Screening Rights

By submitting your film, you grant Kickass Film Fest the right to:

- Screen your film at ticketed events
- Feature it on our website and social media
- Use clips for promotional purposes
- Modify formatting for screening purposes if necessary

There will be no revenue sharing from ticketed events with filmmakers, cast, or crew in present or future screenings.

16. Final Authority

Kickass Film Fest reserves the right to:

- Interpret rules, Evaluate compliance, Disqualify entries, Refuse screening, Modify screening format if necessary. All decisions are final.

17. Asking Questions

Direct Questions to Kickassfilmfest@gmail.com

Asking Questions During Film Weekend - Discord

During Film Weekend, you may need to ask questions and get answers fast. The best way to do that is by joining our Discord. This Discord link is specific to this year's film creators, who will also be filming on this weekend. Many of them have answers to your questions and can help answer questions. The Festival directors are also in this chat feed and can provide answers as soon as possible and clarify answers from others. At the end of the day we are a community. Please help fellow filmmakers out when it comes to questions about rules. Festival directors cannot give advice on technical questions, suggestions, or opinions on your creative choices. However, if a fellow filmmaker is willing to give their opinions, they can if they choose to. There is no fault or reward for doing so.

[JOIN 2026 FILMMAKERS DISCORD HERE](#)

LINK: <https://discord.gg/KgCWyJY6>

Alternatively, Facebook Messenger may be the next best communication choice for a quick response. Email will be the slowest line of communication, but submissions can be sent there in a pinch.

Note: If you joined Discord last year, you will need to join with this new link again to be in the most active group

18. The Most Important Rule

Always Have Fun, and make a Kickass Film!

ALL LINKS

- Discord Link [CLICK HERE](#)
- Team Leader Form Digital Link: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Cast & Crew Form Digital Link: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Location Release Form Digital Link: [CLICK HERE](#)
- SUBMISSION PORTAL [WeTransfer Link can be accessed HERE.](#)
- <https://kickassfilmfest.wetransfer.com>