



## 2026 Festival Submissions – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

NOTE: These FAQs are to assist you with submission of your film or series (the “**Film**”) in consideration for the 2026 Toronto International Film Festival presented by Rogers (the “**Festival**”), and to help you understand the *TIFF 2026 Terms & Conditions for Submission of Films Through FilmFreeway.com* (the “**Terms & Conditions**”). You are required to read through the Terms & Conditions in full. In the case of any conflict between these FAQs and the Terms & Conditions, the Terms & Conditions will prevail.

If you have any further questions, please contact [submissions@tiff.net](mailto:submissions@tiff.net).

TIFF uses [FilmFreeway](https://filmfreeway.com) as its exclusive submissions platform. All submissions must be submitted through TIFF’s FilmFreeway listing found here: <https://filmfreeway.com/TIFF>.

### **THE BASICS**

#### **1) I have a question about my submission. Who can I contact?**

Please contact the TIFF Submissions Team at [submissions@tiff.net](mailto:submissions@tiff.net). The TIFF Submissions Team will respond to all inquiries within 48 business hours (Eastern Standard time zone). Please do not contact other TIFF teams with your submission inquiry – our Submissions Team is quick to respond and will get back to you as soon as possible!

#### **2) When do submissions open?**

Submissions open **February 27, 2026**. Please refer to [tiff.net/submissions](https://tiff.net/submissions) for more information, or visit TIFF’s listing on FilmFreeway: <https://filmfreeway.com/TIFF>.

#### **3) What are your submission deadlines?**

- Early-Bird deadline for all categories: March 27, 2026 at 11:59pm ET
- Standard deadline for all categories: May 8, 2026 at 11:59pm ET

*Please note: TIFF may disqualify submissions from consideration if the submission is not complete by 11:59pm ET on the final day of the applicable deadline.*



4) What are your categories, and how much does it cost to submit?

	Early-Bird Submission Deadline	Early-Bird Submission Deadline (Industry Member Rate)	Standard Submission Deadline	Standard Submission Deadline (Industry Member Rate)
Deadline	March 27, 2026 (11:59pm ET)		May 8, 2026 (11:59pm ET)	
<b>Canadian Features</b>	\$90.00 CAD	\$76.50 CAD	\$155.00 CAD	\$131.75 CAD
<b>Canadian Documentary Features</b>	\$90.00 CAD	\$76.50 CAD	\$155.00 CAD	\$131.75 CAD
<b>Canadian Shorts</b>	\$50.00 CAD	\$42.50 CAD	\$75.00 CAD	\$63.75 CAD
<b>International Features</b>	\$120.00 CAD	\$102.00 CAD	\$155.00 CAD	\$131.75 CAD
<b>International Documentary Features</b>	\$120.00 CAD	\$102.00 CAD	\$155.00 CAD	\$131.75 CAD
<b>International Shorts</b>	\$75.00 CAD	\$63.75 CAD	\$95.00 CAD	\$80.75 CAD
<b>Primetime</b>	\$75.00 CAD	\$63.75 CAD	\$100.00 CAD	\$85.00 CAD
<b>Wavelengths</b>	Only those invited by the TIFF programming team are eligible to submit to the Wavelengths category on FilmFreeway. If you were not invited to submit to Wavelengths, you are welcome to submit to another category for which your Film is eligible.			



## 5) Are submission fees refundable?

No. Submission fees will not be refunded under any circumstances. Please carefully review our Terms & Conditions and eligibility requirements found on [tiff.net/submissions](http://tiff.net/submissions) or [filmfreeway.com/TIFF](http://filmfreeway.com/TIFF) prior to submitting your Film.

## 6) Do you issue fee waivers for any submissions?

Film submission fees help offset the administrative costs of processing submissions and carefully screening and considering each Film. TIFF has a limited number of submission fee waivers; waivers are not guaranteed.

TIFF will consider requests for fee waivers from:

- a) Equity-deserving and underrepresented filmmakers who identify as women, Black, Indigenous, a person of colour, a person with a disability or accessibility challenges, or a member of the LGBTQ+ community;
- b) Countries that are subject to financial restrictions and embargoes that prevent them from submitting through the FilmFreeway platform; or
- c) TIFF Festival and Industry Alumni and Canadian creators in financial need, as demonstrated in the fee waiver form.

Please note that ONLY Films with a World Premiere status at the time of submission, that have not had a public presentation anywhere in the world, will be considered for a fee waiver.

Please email [submissions@tiff.net](mailto:submissions@tiff.net) to request a copy of TIFF's Waiver Request Form and for more information. **Requests for fee waivers will be considered until April 30, 2026.**

## 7) Do you provide invoices for submissions?

No, TIFF does not provide invoices for submissions. However, you can access a receipt for your submission directly from FilmFreeway:

<https://filmfreeway.com/help/article/16048/how-do-i-access-a-receipt-for-my-submissions>

## 8) How do I access the Industry Member rate?

The Industry Member rate is an exclusive benefit of TIFF's Industry tier of Membership. To join as an Industry Member and view the perks of Membership, please visit

<https://tiff.net/join/industry-membership>.

If you are already an Industry Member, please email [themarket@tiff.net](mailto:themarket@tiff.net) to request your individual submissions promo code.



## **ELIGIBILITY**

### **1) Do you accept re-submissions?**

No. If the Film was previously submitted to TIFF for consideration for a prior TIFF festival, the Film will not be eligible for submission to TIFF for a second time. This applies even if the previously submitted version was a work in progress. Please ensure that the version you are submitting is ready to be considered. TIFF reserves the right to disqualify any Films that have already been submitted to a previous year's festival.

### **2) Do you accept works-in-progress?**

Yes, TIFF does accept work-in-progress copies of Films, and TIFF programmers are accustomed to watching Films that have final elements outstanding. Before submitting a work-in-progress copy of your Film, please note that:

1. Due to the high volume of submissions TIFF receives, TIFF can **only accept one version of your screener**. You need to be prepared for the screener that is uploaded to FilmFreeway to be watched. If you are not prepared for the uploaded screener to be watched, please do not submit until you are ready.
2. Should your Film be invited to the Festival, the final version of your Film must be completed and delivered to TIFF by August 21, 2026.

### **3) Do you accept screenplay or script submissions?**

No.

### **4) Do you accept virtual-reality submissions?**

No. TIFF does not accept submissions meant to be presented at the Festival in virtual reality or that require virtual reality or augmented reality technology in order to be presented at the Festival. Please note that TIFF will also not consider screeners that require virtual reality or augmented reality technology in order to be viewed.

However, TIFF: The Market supports projects that incorporate or require virtual or augmented reality technologies. Projects will be selected based on established criteria. For more information about our Market initiatives, please visit our website [here](#).

### **5) How do I know if my Film falls in the Canadian or International category?**

Your Film can be submitted in the Canadian Features, Canadian Documentary Features, or Canadian Shorts category if: i) the Film was directed by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada; and ii) Canada is listed as a major country of production and/or the Film has a credited producer who is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.

If you do not meet these two criteria, please submit to the appropriate international category.



**6) Can we submit documentaries to your shorts categories?**

Yes, as long as the Film's run time is under 40 minutes (including credits) and the Film meets TIFF's eligibility requirements, you are welcome to submit short documentaries to TIFF's shorts categories.

**7) What is your Primetime category?**

Primetime accepts both Canadian and International serial content. The series can be fiction or documentary, and can also be a web, television, or streaming series (but please note that TIFF does not accept submissions that have already been publicly available online in North America).

To submit your series for consideration, you must submit a minimum of two (2) chronological episodes, including the series or season premiere episode, with a minimum combined runtime of 60 minutes or longer (including credits). In the case of anthologies, chronological episodes are not required.

**8) What is Wavelengths? Who can submit to Wavelengths?**

Wavelengths is a curated international showcase of artist film and video, including feature-length experimental fiction, innovative and essayist documentaries, avant-garde shorts, and films from the contemporary art world.

TIFF does not accept unsolicited submissions to the Wavelengths programme. Only those invited by the TIFF programming team are eligible to submit to the Wavelengths category on FilmFreeway. If you were not invited to submit to Wavelengths, you are welcome to submit to another category for which your Film is eligible. Upon review, if a TIFF programmer believes in its sole discretion that your Film should be considered by another programmer, or in another section or category, they may internally refer your Film accordingly. Requests for an invitation will not be answered.

**9) How do I submit to Midnight Madness?**

TIFF does not have a submission category for Midnight Madness. Feature films that want to be considered for inclusion in the Midnight Madness programme have the opportunity to indicate this in the FilmFreeway application form.

**10) Does my Film need to be completed by a certain date in order to be eligible for your Festival?**

Yes. In order for your Film to be eligible for the Festival, it must have been completed on or after September 4, 2025.

**11) What are your premiere status requirements?**

Upon submission, Films must have a World, International or North American premiere status. At TIFF's sole discretion, TIFF reserves the right to accept submissions with only a Canadian premiere status.

The Film's premiere status will be taken into consideration when final programming decisions are made.



## Premiere Status Definitions:

**World Premiere** - The Film *has not had* and *will not have* any public screening anywhere in the world before its scheduled presentation at the Festival.

**International Premiere** - The Film *has only had* a public screening in its country of origin (if the country of origin is not in North America) before its scheduled presentation at the Festival. It *has not had* any other public screenings outside of its country of origin.

**(Please note:** If a United States Film had a public screening only in the United States, it would qualify as an International Premiere. However, if a United States Film had a public screening in the United States and outside of the United States and Canada, the film would be considered a Canadian premiere.)

**North American Premiere** - The Film has already had public screenings in other countries, but has not yet screened anywhere in Canada or the United States before its scheduled presentation at the Festival. **(Please note:** Public screenings in Mexico or Caribbean Islands will not affect a Film's North American Premiere status.)

**Canadian Premiere** - The Film has already had public screenings in other countries, including the United States, but has not yet screened anywhere in Canada before its scheduled presentation at the Festival.

**N/A (No Premiere Status)** - The Film has already had a public screening in Canada (or will have a public screening in Canada) any time prior to the Festival **(Please note:** A Film should not submit to the Festival if it has already had a public screening in Canada prior to the Festival. TIFF strongly recommends that your Film has, at minimum, a North American premiere status). **A Film with no premiere status is not eligible for TIFF consideration.**

## **12) What is a public screening?**

TIFF considers a "public screening" to be a screening where the public and/or press attended and the screening was advertised and/or ticketed. Exceptions include a screening where the public attended, but there was a non-disclosure agreement and no advertising, and/or a private friends-and-family/cast-and-crew screening. There may also be exclusions for compulsory school showcases. Please contact [submissions@tiff.net](mailto:submissions@tiff.net) if you are uncertain about your Film's premiere status.

## **13) Can my film be posted online?**

If your Film has been publicly posted or exhibited online in North America, it is not eligible for submission. Films that are publicly posted or exhibited online but geoblocked to a region outside of North America are still eligible.

## **14) My Film has been presented at an online festival. Is it still eligible?**

Films that are publicly posted or exhibited online but geoblocked to a region outside of North America are still eligible. Please read more in the Terms & Conditions [here](#).



**15) Can a trailer, clip, and/or actor reel in connection with the Film be publicly posted online?**

Yes. Posting a trailer, clip, and/or actor reel online from your Film does not disqualify your Film.

**16) Do you accept Films with branded content?**

All Films must adhere to the *Intellectual Property, Legal Claims, and Indemnities* section of the Terms & Conditions. Please visit [tiff.net/submissions](http://tiff.net/submissions) or [filmfreeway.com/TIFF](http://filmfreeway.com/TIFF) for more information.

**17) Do you accept Films with runtimes between 40 and 60 minutes?**

TIFF does not accept submissions of short films with runtimes above 40 minutes, nor feature films with runtimes below 60 minutes (including credits). Short films must have runtimes of 40 minutes and under (including credits). Feature films must have runtimes of 60 minutes and over (including credits). Primetime serial content must have a combined runtime of 60 minutes and over (including credits). For Films invited to submit to Wavelengths, TIFF will accept runtimes of any length.

**18) Do you accept Films with content created using Artificial Intelligence (AI)?**

Yes. At the time of submission, please disclose that the Film uses AI and provide as much detail as possible as to which components of the Film this applies to.

The following questions are included on the custom submission form in FilmFreeway for your disclosure:

- Have you used Generative Artificial Intelligence or Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the creation of this production?
- If so, please detail how and where AI was used in the production.

If your Film does use Artificial Intelligence (AI) and it is not disclosed in the custom submission form, your Film may no longer be eligible for submission and/or inclusion in the Festival, at TIFF's sole discretion.

**SUBMITTING YOUR FILM**

**1) How do I submit?**

In order to submit your Film, you must register and submit your Film online via FilmFreeway. Visit TIFF's FilmFreeway listing here: <https://filmfreeway.com/TIFF>.

**2) Where do I send my Film?**

All submissions must be submitted online via FilmFreeway: <https://filmfreeway.com/TIFF>. Online screeners or downloadable files received separately via email will not be accepted. FilmFreeway allows for direct digital uploads, Vimeo links, or YouTube links. For more information on FilmFreeway project and video uploads, please visit <https://filmfreeway.com/help>.



### **3) Can I send a DCP screener for my Film?**

DCPs will only be accepted by invitation from TIFF's programming team, and additional fees apply. Please submit an online screener to the applicable category for your Film on FilmFreeway:

<https://filmfreeway.com/TIFF>.

### **4) Can I submit more than one Film project?**

Yes, you can submit more than one Film project for consideration. You must complete separate applications for each project that you plan to submit, and you must pay a separate submission fee for each submission; this can be done under the same FilmFreeway account. For more information on how to add multiple projects and submissions to your FilmFreeway account, please visit:

<https://filmfreeway.com/help/article/15998/how-do-i-create-a-project>.

### **5) Can I submit my Film to more than one category?**

No. TIFF asks that you submit your Film to one category only. If, after viewing your submission, a TIFF programmer believes that your Film is better suited to another category or programme, they may internally refer your Film to such category accordingly.

### **6) Is there specific information you require in our FilmFreeway project?**

Yes. Aside from filling out TIFF's custom form, TIFF requires that the following information be added to your FilmFreeway project:

- Director's Name (under "Credits")
- Country of Origin (not to be confused with Country of Filming – see Question 8 for a definition)
- Film Language
- Runtime (duration including credits)
- Date of Completion
- Film Screener (the screener must contain English subtitles if the original language is not English)
- Screener Password (if applicable)

### **7) I did not add your required information to my FilmFreeway project. How can I update my submission project details?**

For information on how to update your FilmFreeway submission project details, please visit

<https://filmfreeway.com/help/article/16023/how-do-i-edit-my-project-details>.

### **8) What is meant by Country of Origin?**

*Country of Origin* refers to the country or countries that provided production funding and/or the country in which the primary production company is based. It does not refer to the *Country of Filming* (where the Film was shot).



### 9) What is meant by the Date of Completion?

The Date of Completion is the date when the Film was completed; this includes post-production. If your Film is a work-in-progress, please note the approximate future date by which the Film will be completed. Films selected by TIFF for the Festival will be required to supply TIFF with an exhibition copy of the completed Film by August 21, 2026.

### 10) Do you accept DVDs or Blu-ray screeners?

No, TIFF does **NOT** accept DVDs or Blu-rays. TIFF only accepts online submissions by way of FilmFreeway: <https://filmfreeway.com/TIFF>.

### 11) How can I tell when you've received my Film submission?

Due to the high volume of submissions received by TIFF, TIFF is unable to confirm receipt of your Film on an individual basis. Please note: It may take several weeks for TIFF to review your submission and update your status. Please consult your FilmFreeway Project page to check your submission status, noted as follows:

- **In Consideration:** Your submission is under review. If your submission remains "In Consideration" and TIFF has not contacted the submitting party to request additional information, then all submission requirements are satisfied. Please note: This review process may take several weeks.
- **Incomplete:** TIFF is awaiting receipt of a submission screener or requires additional information. If TIFF requires further information regarding your submission, TIFF will change your status to "Incomplete" and will contact the submitting party directly via TIFF's [submissions@tiff.net](mailto:submissions@tiff.net) email. Please note: This process may take several weeks.
- **Disqualified:** TIFF has disqualified the submission from consideration due to the submission not meeting TIFF's eligibility requirements, or not including all required information and materials (i.e. screener link) by 11:59pm ET on the final day of the deadline window you selected. TIFF will contact the submitting party directly via TIFF's [submissions@tiff.net](mailto:submissions@tiff.net) email to inform them of this disqualification.

### 12) Can I update my screener?

Due to a high number of submissions for TIFF's team to process and review, **TIFF is only able to receive and review one version of your screener.** Please be prepared for the screening link you submit to be the one that will be watched.



### **13) Do you have any technical requirements for Film submissions?**

TIFF does not have any technical requirements for submission, provided that the Film is submitted via [FilmFreeway](#) and includes a digital screener.

FilmFreeway accepts all major video formats in full quality HD up to 10 GB. FilmFreeway transcodes videos for playback compatibility and performance and recommends that you use settings close to these output settings:

Maximum video bitrate: 2200 Kbps, H.264, mp4  
Audio: 128 Kbps, AAC, 2 channel stereo  
Aspect ratio preserved; maximum video height of 720 pixels

FilmFreeway is also able to accept both Vimeo and YouTube screeners. To submit with Vimeo or YouTube, go to 'My Projects' > 'Project File', then enter your video URL and password. You can update this link at any time.

## **ODDS & ENDS**

### **1) Am I allowed to submit to other festivals?**

Absolutely! We ask that you keep TIFF informed of any official selections by emailing [submissions@tiff.net](mailto:submissions@tiff.net), as this may impact your Film's premiere status.

### **2) I have been accepted to another festival and haven't received a decision from TIFF. Can I request an early decision from TIFF?**

Due to the volume of submissions received, TIFF cannot accommodate early decision requests. Unfortunately, TIFF is not able to help you make a decision about participating in other festivals.

### **3) Will my submission be watched?**

Yes. All submissions are reviewed and considered by TIFF's programming team.

Please note that TIFF programmers do not solely screen submissions in Toronto, and also have the ability to screen films offline. Vimeo statistics are not always accurately recorded, especially when an embedded video or third-party application such as FilmFreeway is used. Please visit Vimeo's FAQ page for more information on their analytics and third-party players:

<https://vimeo.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360033196832-Analytics-FAQ>.



**4) When will I be notified of the decision regarding my Film?**

You will receive an official decision before August 14, 2026 through FilmFreeway to the email address associated with the submitting party on your project listing. Please make sure to provide an email address that is checked frequently. Decisions will **not** be released via phone call or email from TIFF. Please do not email TIFF to request a decision.

**5) Can I receive notes or feedback on my submission?**

Due to the large volume of films received by TIFF, TIFF is not able to provide individual feedback regarding your Film submission.

**6) When is the Festival?**

The 51st edition of the Toronto International Film Festival presented by Rogers will run September 10-20, 2026. Visit <https://tiff.net> for more information.