Rules and Regulations

60th Karlovy Vary IFF (July 3 – July 11, 2026)

I Introduction

Article I.1 General

The Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (hereafter "Festival") is a non-specialized film festival accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers' Associations (FIAPF) in the "Competitive Feature Film Festivals" category. The Festival's aim is to contribute to the development and promotion of artistic cinema and film industries. The following Rules and Regulations are subject to the Regulations for International Film Festivals issued by FIAPF.

Article I.2 Organizers

The Festival is organized by Film Servis Festival Karlovy Vary, a.s., located at:

Film Servis Festival Karlovy Vary, a.s.
Panská 1, 110 00 Praha 1
Czech Republic
Tel.: +420 221 411 011
festival@kviff.com

Detailed information can be found on the official Festival website www.kviff.com, which also explains how to contact the Festival and its individual departments.

Article I.3 Festival dates

The 60th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival will take place in Karlovy Vary from July 3 to July 11, 2026.

II Program

Article II.1 Program sections

The Festival consists of several program sections and accepts films shot in any format. The program includes two competitive sections:

Crystal Globe Competition

- A non-specialized international competition of feature-length fiction and documentary films presented as world and international premieres only.
- Films must not have participated in any other international competition at any festival prior to the dates of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (films may have participated in non-competitive festivals, including festivals accredited by FIAPF in the "non-competitive festivals" category, or in national competitions at festivals in the films' country or countries of production).

Proxima Competition

- Proxima Competition offers space to the world's new voices from across the vast cinematic spectrum. Showcasing works by upcoming filmmakers and adventurous works by renowned auteurs, it aims to complement the Crystal Globe Competition by celebrating contemporary cinema with a collection of forward-thinking and exciting discoveries.
- Feature-length fiction and documentary films presented as world or international premieres are eligible for selection.

The Festival program also includes non-competitive sections, focuses, retrospectives, and tributes.

III Film pre-selection (submission guidelines)

Article III.1 Submitters

The person submitting the film (hereafter "Submitter") acknowledges that he or she has obtained consent from any and all authorized representatives of the film to submit the film to the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. The film should be entered online at http://www.kviff.com/en/film-entry.

Article III.2 Selection Committee

Film selection is carried out by a commission of experts functioning as an advisory body to the Artistic Director (together forming the Selection Committee).

Article III.3 Films eligible for open submissions

Production of films submitted for participation must have been completed within the 12 (twelve) months prior to the starting date of the Festival.

Submitted films must not have been released anywhere (including festival screenings, DVD release, or television or internet broadcast) more than 12 (twelve) months prior to the starting date of the Festival.

Article III.4 Regulations for open submissions

Submitted films:

- must be at least 60 minutes in length;
- films must be world premiere in order to be considered for the program..

The Festival does not accept submissions of short and medium-length films (up to 60 minutes). In addition, any films which are solely promotional, educational or scientific in nature are not eligible for selection by the Festival.

Films that have been submitted for Festival consideration in previous years are eligible for submission to the 60th Karlovy Vary IFF only if the film has undergone significant changes since it was last submitted. The Festival reserves the right to refuse a previously submitted film without refunding the submission fee collected from the Submitter.

Article III.5 Preview screeners

Only online screeners are accepted as preview screeners for pre-selection. DVD, Blu-ray and other formats are not accepted. Please clearly indicate if the submitted screener is the final version or a work-in-progress.

An online screener must be valid (with the same password) until June 10, 2026.

The Festival reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of the submission fee, any film whose initially submitted online screener cannot be accessed or whose password is not valid.

Article III.6 Language version of preview screeners

Films submitted for pre-selection must be presented in their original language version:
- without subtitles if the original version is Czech or English;
- with English or Czech subtitles if the original version is in any other language.

Article III.7 Submission fee

Submission is subject to a submission fee. Submitter must:
- fill out the online film entry form;
- pay the appropriate fee:
  - €60 per early bird submission (by December 7, 2025)
  - €80 per regular submission (December 8, 2025 – February 28, 2026)
  - €100 per late submission (March 1 – March 31, 2026)

Submission and payment must be carried out on the website http://www.kviff.com/en/film-entry.

Article III.8 Festival's selection process

The Festival is under no obligation to provide to the Submitter: any comments or feedback regarding his or her submitted films; any information relating to the manner in which the submitted films are, will be, or were considered and reviewed; any reasons why the submitted film, should it not be accepted for exhibition at the Festival, was not accepted; or any other information relating to the Festival's selection process.

The Festival disavows any responsibility for: the manner in which the submitted films are, will be, or were considered by the Selection Committee and/or its consultants; the contents of any internal comments or feedback regarding any submitted films that are or may be obtained by the Submitter; any communications by any representative of the Festival relating to the selection process.

IV Selected films

Article IV.1 Participants' obligation

No film that has been selected may be withdrawn from the Festival program after its participation has been officially confirmed by the producer, the world sales company, the rights holder and/or any other representative (hereafter "Participant").

Article IV.2 News embargo

The invitation sent for each film selected by the Festival must remain strictly confidential between the Festival management and the Participant until such time as the Festival decides to make an official announcement in this regard.

Article IV.3 Festival logo

Participants of all selected films are required to use the logo of the Karlovy Vary IFF in their film's publicity and promotional materials. The logo must not under any circumstances be modified or altered without prior written permission from the Festival. Logo usage must be sent for Festival approval prior to publication.

Article IV.4 Requested materials

All contact persons of selected films will receive a request for detailed documentation upon confirming participation in the Festival. The Festival accepts no liability for reproducing in its publications inaccuracies in materials provided by the Participant. Materials which may be requested (e.g. printed posters) will not be returned.

Article IV.5 Video library

During the Festival, selected films will be available in the digital video library, open exclusively to accredited film professionals and journalists through the secured platform powered by Cinando. By accepting to be part of the Festival, Participants grant permission for their film to be included in the video library unless other arrangements have been made with the Festival.

Article IV.6 Program schedule

The Festival, under the supervision of the Artistic Director, determines the program schedule and sets the screening order for all films. Throughout the Festival, each film in the program may have up to five screenings, including those reserved for film professionals and journalists.

Article IV.7 Screening format

Films selected for presentation at the Festival are screened from DCPs, unless negotiated otherwise with the Participant.

Participants are responsible for providing all screening copies of selected films (non-English language) with English subtitles. All films will also be subtitled into Czech; the production and presentation of Czech electronic subtitles is the responsibility of the Festival.

Article IV.8 Shipping

Screening copies of selected films, all with English subtitles, must be received by the Festival by June 6, 2025. Participants must follow the shipping instructions of the Karlovy Vary IFF.

Unless negotiated otherwise, screening copies must be made available for the duration of the 60th Karlovy Vary IFF. The Festival reserves the right to reject film copies deemed unsuitable for screening by its technicians.

Article IV.9 DCPs

Films may be shipped online or on a physical drive containing just the DCP (Digital Cinema Package) of the selected film (solely the right language version), encoded following DCI or SMPTE standards. These standards, among other specifications, restrict the DCP as follows:
- image compression: JPEG 2000,
- sound: 5.1 or 7.1,
- frame rate: 24 or 25 fps.

The Festival strongly prefers receiving a non-encrypted DCP. For any encrypted DCP, the Festival Shipping Department will request D-KDM (Distribution Key) for our partner lab, who will generate KDMs for all playback servers in use at the Festival from June 11 to July 12, 2026.

The Festival does not pay any technical, administrative, shipping and other costs related to DCP's delivery and D-KDM or KMDs' creation.

Article IV.10 Costs related to transporting and insuring the screening copy

Unless negotiated otherwise, costs related to transporting the screening copy and promotional materials and insuring their transport from the country of origin to the customs office in Prague are the responsibility of the Participant.

The Festival will pay only for return transportation charges, and not for any additional costs for tax and customs clearance in the country of return. As far as possible, the Festival will respect Participant's wishes regarding the address for the return shipment of their film.

Costs related to insuring the screening copy against loss or complete or partial damage for the period from receipt by the Festival until its return to the delivery agent are the responsibility of the Festival (in accordance with Addendum 1 of FIAPF Regulations for International Film Festivals).

In the event of damage to or loss of the screening copy during the Festival, the Festival is only responsible for the cost of producing a new screening copy based on current standard laboratory rates.

Complaints regarding the technical condition of the returned screening copy must be reported to the Festival in writing within 7 (seven) days after being received. The insurance does not cover damages sustained during normal screening use.

V Official prizes and juries

Article V.1 General rules

In accordance with FIAPF Regulations for International Film Festivals, international juries will consist of prominent representatives from the fields of culture, film theory, and film journalism, as well as filmmakers and producers. Two international juries will be established by the Festival management, one for each competitive section.

The members of juries must not have participated in the making or commercial exploitation of any film in the competition they are judging. Jury members are sworn to secrecy.

The Festival President, the Artistic Director, and/or their representative may attend jury deliberations but will take no part in the voting.

The decisions of the official juries are final.

Article V.2 *Crystal Globe Competition*

The international Crystal Globe Jury judging films in the *Crystal Globe Competition* is obliged to award the following prizes:

- Grand Prix - Crystal Globe and 25,000 USD awarded to the best film (the financial award is shared equally by the director and producer of the award-winning film). This award may not be conferred ex-aequo.
- Special Jury Prize and 15,000 USD (the financial award is shared equally by the director and producer of the award-winning film). This award may not be conferred ex-aequo.
- Best Director Award
- Best Actress Award
- Best Actor Award

Only one of the last three aforementioned awards may be conferred ex-aequo.

The Crystal Globe Jury may award up to a maximum of two Special Jury Mentions, the nature of which will be clearly defined by the jury.

The Crystal Globe Jury cannot award more than two prizes to the same film.

Article V.3 *Proxima Competition*

The international Proxima Jury judging films in the *Proxima Competition* is obliged to award the following prizes:

- Proxima Grand Prix and 15,000 USD to the best film (the financial award is shared equally by the director and producer of the award-winning film). This award may not be conferred ex-aequo.
- Proxima Special Jury Prize and 10,000 USD (the financial award is shared equally by the director and producer of the award-winning film). This award may not be conferred ex-aequo.

Article V.4 Právo Audience Award

Chosen by an audience vote, the Právo Audience Award is given to a feature-length film which:

- is presented in any official program section of the Festival;
- meets the criteria described in Article III.3 (Films eligible for open submissions) of these Rules and Regulations.

VI Conclusion

Article VI.1

A film's entry and participation in the Festival implies agreement with the Rules and Regulations set out herein.

Article VI.2

In the event of unclear situations or in cases not foreseen by these regulations, the President of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival makes final decisions in line with FIAPF Regulations for International Film Festivals. All questions arising from the interpretation of these Rules and Regulations will be resolved by the management of Karlovy Vary IFF.

Karel Och, Artistic Director
Kryštof Mucha, Executive Director

Karlovy Vary International Film Festival