



# FEATURE FILM COMPETITION RULES

The Nouvelles Vagues program **focuses on the portrayal of youth on screen. The International competition** is dedicated to **feature films unreleased in French cinemas.**

## 1. DATES

The 4th edition of the Biarritz Film Festival - NOUVELLES VAGUES will take place from **Tuesday June 23 to Sunday June 28, 2026.**

Submissions are open from **January 8, 2026 to March 31, 2026.**

The decisions of the selection committee will be given by email beginning of June 2026.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY OF THE FILMS

### 2.1. TYPE OF FILMS

The International competition is open to:

- **Feature films** (60 minutes or more) **focusing on the portrayal of youth**
- Regardless of genre: **fiction, animation and documentary intended for cinema** (films produced for television – shows, television magazines, news coverage - are not accepted)
- Completed after January 1, 2025 and having not been commercially released in France

### 2.2. FESTIVAL'S THEME

The Biarritz Film Festival-NOUVELLES VAGUES aims to highlight the hopes, fears and

power of youth. Youth is the age of possibilities, the time of life when the future is being written. Youth stories, featuring characters between 12 and 35 years old, will be at the heart of the selection. This age range is indicative: by youth, we mean the period from adolescence to adulthood, and the issues that are specific to it.

Films are not expected to be first or second features. Films are considered for their thematic and the characters' age.

## **2.3. NON-EXCLUSIVITY**

The festival does not require exclusivity. Films can have been submitted and screened at other festivals **after** the third edition (June 2025). The film's path must be clearly indicated on the entry form.

## **3. Feature Film Competition Awards**

The Grand Prize, with a value of €10,000, is awarded by a jury of international artists under 35.

Other prizes are awarded by the jury of international artists, including the Best Performance Award and the Jury Prize.

For the feature film competition, the Audience Award, the Pass Culture Jury Award, and the High School Students' Award are also awarded.

## **4. SUBMISSIONS**

Submissions are free and have to be done exclusively on the Festival website [www.nouvelles-vagues.org](http://www.nouvelles-vagues.org).

The films are watched thanks to the downloadable links submitted directly in the entry form.

If the film is in a language other than French or English, it must be provided with French or English subtitles.

Each entry is **unique and definitive**: a film cannot be submitted from one year to the other.

If a film is submitted in a working version, the mention "working version" must be added following the title of the movie in the entry form, indicating the film's working stage.

## **5. SELECTION & MATERIALS**

### **5.1. FEES**

The festival does not cover any fee for films selected in competition.

### **5.2. POST-SELECTION WITHDRAWAL**

Once the selection announced, the owner commits not to remove the film from selection.

### **5.3. COPIES SHIPPING**

Screening copies of the selected films must arrive in Biarritz **by June 8,**

**2026.** Participants are responsible for the copies transport cost to Biarritz.

The festival will cover the copies return transport.

#### **5.4. SCREENING COPIES – TECHNICAL DETAILS**

Selected films will be screened in DCP. **A back-up blu-ray copy** must be provided for each film; at the same time as the DCP.

Productions must ensure the quality (resolution, definition) of their film, as well as its compatibility with servers used for the festival screenings. Please respect the following standards: Interop or SMPTE, 24 or 25 ips, 2K, 4K, all of which according to DCI standards. 25 ips DCP SMPTE copies must have the subtitles embedded in the image.

The name of the file should conform to DCP standards (see <http://digitalcinemanamingconvention.com>).

**Because last minute changes of cinema rooms are possible, we ask productions to send us NON-ENCRYPTED DCP files, or encrypted DCP files provided with a generated DKDM (Distribution Key Delivery Message) for all the cinema rooms and for the entire duration of the festival.**

#### **5.5. SUBTITLES**

**French-speaking films** must be presented in their original version with English subtitles.

**English-speaking films** must be presented in their original version with French subtitles.

**Non-French and non-English films** must be submitted in their original version with English and French subtitles.

The festival will be exclusively in charge of preparing electronic French subtitling for films that do not have French production or distribution. In case the festival provides electronic subtitling, the right owners commit to provide requested material (dialogue list, already existing subtitles, and screening copy of the film) to our lab within the given deadlines.

#### **5.6. PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL**

The information sheet must be sent fully completed **within 48 hours following the information of selection**, as well as High-Definition photographs of the film and the director, and excerpts. Short excerpts (lasting less than three minutes) may be used to promote the festival and its competition films.

A file of the final version of the film will be provided as soon as possible for the professional video library of the festival.

One week before the start of the festival, a film poster or an HD file of the poster can be supplied to the festival's communications department.

## 6. PROMOTION

Selected films are required to mention their selection by including the logo provided in June by the festival in the film credits and on all of the film's communication media.

Awarded films must mention their awards by including the logo provided in July by the festival, which should appear separately in the opening and closing credits, and on all of the film's communication and screening media.

The awards to films will be given in two times: half at the end of the festival, and the other half once all promotional commitments have been met.

## 7. RERUNS

Films in the selection may be screened as part of Festival reruns, in particular the awarded films: the owners agree to make a DCP of the film available free of charge for these screenings.

## 8. VOD PARTNERS

Our vod partners may contact you in order to propose your film on their platform.

## 9. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ORGANIZERS

Biarritz Film Festival – NOUVELLES VAGUES reserves the right to use all data from submission forms as provided for by the law n°78.17 of 6 January 1978 (In accordance with the data-processing, files and freedoms act, any participant has the right to access and correct only data concerning him.)

The organization *Festival International du Film de Biarritz* and the festival organizers will settle any cases not covered under these rules and regulations and may grant derogations to the above-mentioned provisions. They reserve the right to postpone, cancel or suspend the event at any time according to the requirements of its exploitation. No compensation of any kind can be made to participants.

## 10. THE SUBMISSION AND PARTICIPATION TO THE FESTIVAL IMPLIES ACCEPTANCE OF THE AFORE MENTIONED REGULATIONS WITHOUT RESERVE.

For further information, please contact: [films@nouvelles-vagues.org](mailto:films@nouvelles-vagues.org)