

2021 – 2022 Emmy® Rules Changes

1. Comedy and Drama Series eligibility – The time restrictions for eligibility as a Comedy or Drama Series have been eliminated. Producers will determine category placement, with the stipulation that the Television Academy reserves the right to have the Academy’s Industry Panel review category placement.

New definition - Comedy and Drama Series are defined as programs with multiple episodes (minimum of six), where the majority of the running time of at least six episodes are primarily comedic for comedy series entries, or primarily dramatic for dramatic series entries, in which the ongoing theme, storyline and main characters are presented under the same title and have continuity of production supervision. All series episodes must have a running time of more than 20 minutes. The Academy reserves the right to have the category placement reviewed by the Academy’s Industry Panel.

2. The Interactive Program category and the juried award for Innovation in Interactive Programming have been eliminated for the 2021 – 2022 competition:

Note: Entries that would normally submit in Outstanding Interactive Program can submit to a program category where they are eligible for the 2021 – 2022 competition.

3. Stunt Coordination:

Outstanding Stunt Coordination has been split back into two categories. One for Stunt Coordination for a Comedy Series or Variety Program and the other for Outstanding Stunt Coordination for a Drama Series, Limited or Anthology Series or Movie.

4. Character Voice-Over:

Performers who voice multiple characters within an episode or series, can submit all characters, provided that each character is submitted as a separate entry.

This means performers will no longer submit one episode per series for all characters that the performer voiced in that episode.

5. Reality Programming:

Supervising Story Producer has been added as an Emmy-eligible title in the Structured, Unstructured and Competition program categories.

6. Special Visual Effects:

VFX Editor has been added as an Emmy-eligible title in the Special Visual Effects categories.

7. Animation:

Voice Director has been added as an Emmy-eligible title for animated programs.

8. Lighting, Camera and Technical Arts:

- **Change the following category awards to Area Awards:**

TD, Camerawork & Video Control for a Special
Lighting Design/Lighting Direction for a Variety Series
Lighting Design/Lighting Direction for a Variety Special

An awards area is non-competitive. In the final judging round each nomination is considered on its own terms without regard to the other nominations in the area. Any nomination with at least 90% approval receives an Emmy. If none of the nominations receives 90% approval, the nomination with the highest approval receives the Emmy.

- **Nominations will be determined by a two-step process for the following awards:**

TD, Camerawork & Video Control for a Series
TD, Camerawork & Video Control for a Special
Lighting Design/Lighting Direction for a Variety Series
Lighting Design/Lighting Direction for a Variety Special

- All submissions will be voted for online exclusively by members of LCTA peer group during the nomination round of voting to determine the top 10 vote getters in each category.
- The top ten vote-getters in each category will be viewed by at-home panels made up of volunteers from the Lighting, Camera and Technical Arts peer group who will vote to pare down the top ten vote-getters to the requisite number of nominees. The total number of nominees will be based on the number of submissions received in each category.

NOTE: The following video requirements will be added to accommodate the two-step nomination process: All submissions will be required to upload a video file at time of entry. These video clip(s) of a "continuous segment" will be accessible to only the Review Panel:

Shows 30 minutes or less must submit (1) 6-minute continuous clip
Shows 30-60 minutes must submit (1 or 2) continuous clips totaling 12 minutes
Shows 60 minutes or more must submit (1, 2 or 3) continuous clips totaling 20 minutes

9. Makeup and Hairstyling for a Variety, Nonfiction or Reality Program:

The Contemporary designation has been eliminated and these awards have been changed from Area Awards to Juried Awards. (In a juried award, all entrants are screened by a jury of appropriate peer group members and one, more than one or no entry is awarded an Emmy. There are no nominations. The winner(s), if any, are announced prior to the awards presentation.)

10. Governors Award – The description for the Governors Award has been revised as follows:

The Board of Governors may, when warranted, recognize an individual, company, or organization that has made a profound, transformational, and long-lasting contribution to the arts and/or science of television by presenting them with the Governors Award.

11. Define Theatrical Motion Pictures (previously announced):

- Any ~~non-documentary~~ film placed on the AMPAS viewing platform will be deemed a theatrical motion picture and thus ineligible for the Emmy competition.

II. Housekeeping Items:

*Housekeeping items are tweaks or clarifications to the existing rules and procedures. All changes are in **bold**. These changes note what has been changed within the rules and procedures.*

1. Clarify Limited or Anthology Series description:

Limited Series is defined as a program with two (2) or more episodes with a total running time of at least 150 program minutes that tells a complete, non-recurring story. **The story arc must be completely resolved within its season, with no** on-going storyline and/or main characters in subsequent seasons.

Subsequent seasons of a Limited Series must cover completely new ground, requiring no knowledge of the events of the previous season.

Anthology Series is defined as a program with two (2) or more episodes that tells a complete, non-recurring story in each "episode," and does not have an on-going storyline and/or main characters in subsequent episodes; the program **may be** linked thematically across all episodes.

2. Choreography – Television Movies and Variety Specials: Entrants may choose to submit up to three pieces of choreography from a single movie or special:

Entrants have the option to submit only one number, but they may choose to submit two or three numbers. If multiple pieces are submitted, the entrant must be credited as the sole choreographer (or identical choreography team) on all pieces.

A video of only the dance number(s)/choreography from the chosen episode(s), television movie or variety special must be submitted. Multiple pieces may be put in any order, with 2-5 seconds of black in between. Dance number(s)/choreography must be submitted in their entirety, no internal editing.

3. Music:

- Outstanding Music Direction – Clarify eligibility
 - **For a single episode of a live or recorded variety series or special**
 - **Emmy(s) to the credited music director(s)**
- Music Supervision – Clarify entrant's credit/function and submission requirements:
 - Emmy(s) to **credited** music supervisor
 - **A Music Supervisor's on-screen credit must reflect their primary function as a music supervisor**
 - **Submissions for music supervision no longer need to upload a cue sheet**

4. Sound Mixing – Clarification as to which mixers would be considered during the errors and omissions window:

Please note: A review panel of the Sound Peer Group Executive Committee shall review all entries and petitions to determine eligibility. At the point of nominations, the Sound Peer Group Executive Committee will **ONLY** consider omissions of production mixers and **post-production re-recording** mixers.

5. Sound Editing – Eligibility clarification:

Entrants submitted for the Sound Editing categories must reflect their primary function on the episode, movie or special, the position of which they were hired and/or credited for. Re-recording Mixers, Picture Editors and/or Assistant Editors are not eligible no matter their role in developing the submission. The exception would be a Re-Recording Mixer who has been hired as both Supervising Sound Editor or Sound Editor and Re-Recording Mixer.

6. Reality Cinematography – clarify that submissions should be shot in field single-camera style:

For a single episode of a series or a special shot in field single-camera style*

~~*Studio based shows or episodes in which a high percentage of the program is shot in the studio are not eligible in this category and should enter in the technical direction categories.~~

7. Costume Design & Supervision – Clarification on questionnaire and increase entrant cap from five to six:

An entrant questionnaire will need to be completed for each entry. The questionnaire will reflect departmental duties and responsibilities, especially design, development, and creation of costumes, script breakdown, budget creation, personnel hiring, day-to-day department management, etc., for each entrant. Questionnaire available at emmys.com/emmys/costume-questionnaire. All entrants on the submission must have made a significant contribution.

Each submission will consist of two (2) to no more than **six (6)** entrants, to include the Costume Designer, Costume Supervisor and Assistant Costume Designer. Of the **six**, no more than three (3) entrants may be Assistant Costume Designers. For the purposes of the entry, credits for Co-Designer or Associate Designer count as an Assistant Costume Designer and count toward one of the 3 ACD spots. Verification in the form of a deal memo, call sheet and/or screen credit will be required to determine eligibility on the submission. **No petitions will be allowed.**

8. Special Visual Effects in a Single Episode – Category and entrant clarifications:

The intention of this Award is to honor the work presented in one standout episode of a series which otherwise doesn't present such work. The entrants will be required to submit a statement that demonstrates that the majority or otherwise exceptionally different special visual effects work in the season resides in the submitted episode. After reviewing the video submission and written document, the Peer Group Executive Committee reserves the right to move the entry into Category 108 if the entry does not meet the stated criteria.

Area 109 OUTSTANDING SPECIAL VISUAL EFFECTS IN A SINGLE EPISODE

This award is to honor the overall achievement of the special visual effects in a single episode within a comedy, drama or limited or anthology series. All work submitted in this category must have appeared in a single, continuous episode.

A television movie may NOT be entered into this area.

REQUIRED Area 109 document: Entry in the Area 109 award requires a written statement demonstrating that the majority or otherwise exceptionally different special visual effects work in the season resides in the submitted episode.

9. Reality Programs – Clarify entrant eligibility/vetting language:

Emmy eligibility will be determined by BOTH title and job function. *Both criteria must be met for the entrant to be Emmy eligible.*

Title: To qualify for Emmy eligibility in this category, the entrant must have one of the following specific credits: Executive Producer, Co-Executive Producer, Supervising Producer, **Supervising Story Producer**, Producer, Senior Producer or Series Producer, and whose function support those credits on at least 50% of the eligible series episodes. **This rule applies to all program submissions regardless of platform.**

Function: To qualify for Emmy eligibility, the entrant must also have primary creative jurisdiction over the entire program.

The following job functions, on their own, ARE NOT deemed eligible:

- **Handling budgetary and financial aspects of the program**
- **Coordinating production logistics or elements of the program**
- **Story producers; postproduction supervisors and post producers**
- **Anyone researching or developing a program, but who does not actually produce it**
- **Facilitating access to a story or talent/cast; securing the rights; providing resources or expertise**
- **Producing only a specific part of the program – including but not limited to: following an individual or team in the larger story; coordinating and/or interviewing talent/cast; producing special elements such as challenges; producing video packages that are rolled into the program; producing segment(s) or piece(s) of the overall story without having a significant role in shaping the entire program**
- **Anyone functioning as a director, writer, editor, cinematographer, host, or in any other craft related role, in which the individual's responsibilities are limited to that craft and not of serving as a producer on the overall program (they should be entered in their respective individual Reality categories).**
- **Studio, network and production company executives, talent, talent representation, and other people given producer credits who are not involved in creatively shaping – and do not have direct influence over - the overall program, including those who are funding the program but who are not creatively involved in making the program**

FINAL ELIGIBILITY VETTING: All Emmy-eligible producers listed, including entries that exceed the maximum number of allowed entrants, will be vetted at the point of nomination to determine final eligibility based on title, job function, and significant contribution to the program. There is no guarantee that all entrants listed will be approved by the Peer Group Executive Committee, regardless of past rulings.

10. Casting – Clarify eligibility for Location Casting and final-round video requirements:

- **Location Casting eligibility should only be considered if at least 25% of the guest cast that appears on screen and/or at least one series regular is cast by the location casting director(s).**
- **Final-round videos: An on-screen slate will be required that lists which performers were cast in a previous season, or from a previous portrayal in any other medium (for example from a spin-off from a feature film), as well as those performers who were attached to the project prior to the casting director being hired.**

11. Documentary Programming – clarify recreation/reenactment rules and entrant petitions.

- **Recreations/Reenactments:** The following devices may be considered acceptable in the documentary/nonfiction category, with the caveat that programs using such devices are subject to review at the discretion of the Peer Group Executive Committee:

Recreations, including the use of performers or animations, if such recreations are fact-based and used for illustration purposes, are limited to a percentage of not more than 25% of the **documentary special or series**

The use of a studio or alternative environment may be used as part of dramatic recreations provided the studio or alternative environment does not account for more than 25% of the documentary special or series.

Contrived premises such as those used within Reality and Reality Competition programs, are strictly prohibited and are not eligible for consideration within documentary and nonfiction programming.

- **Entrant Petitions:**

Area 92 OUTSTANDING DOCUMENTARY OR NONFICTION SERIES

Emmy(s) to producers whose specific screen credit is Produced by, Producer, Executive Producer, Co-Executive Producer, Supervising Producer, Senior Producer, Series Producer on at least 50% of the eligible series episodes, and/or those who were credited on the episode chosen for the Emmy judging panel

Entries are limited to a maximum of seven entrants. Petitions will be accepted to exceed the cap for a nonfiction or documentary series **by submitting an eligibility statement for all entrants listed, at the point of submission.**

Petitions will be vetted at the point of nomination to determine final eligibility based on verifiable program credits, job function, and significant contribution to the program. There is no guarantee that all entrants listed will be approved by the Peer Group Executive Committee, regardless of past rulings.

Area 93 OUTSTANDING HOSTED NONFICTION SERIES OR SPECIAL

Emmy(s) to entrants whose specific screen credit is Produced by, Producer, Executive Producer, Co-Executive Producer, Supervising Producer, Senior Producer, Series Producer, Host on at least 50% of the eligible series episodes, and/or those who were credited on the episode chosen for the Emmy judging panel

Entries are limited to a maximum of seven entrants.

Series submissions: Petitions will be accepted to exceed the cap for a Hosted Nonfiction Series by submitting an eligibility statement for all entrants listed at the point of submission. Petitions will not be accepted for Hosted Nonfiction Specials (unless there is a verifiable credit error).

Series petitions will be vetted at the point of nomination to determine final eligibility based on verifiable credits, job function, and significant contribution to the program. There is no guarantee that all entrants listed will be approved by the Peer Group Executive Committee, regardless of past rulings.

12. Production Design:

Change the number of years that qualifies a program as either period or contemporary production design **from 20 years to 25 years**. This change brings production design in line with period and contemporary categories for costumes, hairstyling, and makeup.

13. Theatrical Release clarification:

Television programs that are offered for "general theatrical release" occurring prior to their airing or Internet exhibition are not eligible. A "limited theatrical release" prior to the airing or Internet exhibition of the television program cannot exceed an aggregate of up to seventy (70) days prior exhibitions (**e.g., 7 theaters for 10 days = 70 days**). A program with a prior theatrical release loses eligibility if it does not air within a year of its initial public exhibition, regardless of if this is or is not a general release. Film festival screenings do not count as theatrical screenings. Showing a foreign television program that otherwise qualifies as an eligible foreign co-production under the Rules shall not be disqualified because of a prior limited theatrical release.

Single-day mass releases, e.g., **more than 70** theaters on one date, disqualify a program for subsequent Emmy eligibility, unless it meets the requirements for Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking.

14. **Non-English language production** – revise the ruling around non-English language US production as follows:

Foreign television production is ineligible unless it is the result of a co-production (both financially and creatively) between U.S. and foreign partners, which precedes the start of production, and with a purpose to be shown on U.S. television. The producer of any production produced in the U.S. or outside the U.S. as a co-production between U.S. and foreign partners, in a language that is substantially (i.e. 50% or more) in a language other than English, shall have the discretion to enter the production and its individual achievements in any category where they are eligible in the Primetime Emmy Awards competition or in the awards competition of the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences ("International Academy"), but not both. ~~The Primetime Emmy Awards currently have no current categories for non-English program categories; if such categories are to be created, the Television Academy will give the International Academy at least eighteen months (commencing no earlier than January 1, 2020) notice prior to such effect; creation of new non-English categories will not affect the International Academy categories and the producer shall have the option of entering the existing Primetime Emmy Awards category or the new Primetime Emmy Awards non-English category or the International Academy category for which eligible, but may enter only one such category.~~

15. Video requirements for Cinematography submissions:

The submission must come from a single episode with original sound. The total length must be 4 minutes for Categories 15, 16 and must be 5 minutes for Categories 17, 18. Within the 4 or 5 minutes, a segment must be at least 1 continuous minute long or longer, with no internal editing, and in total, not to exceed the 4 or 5 minutes of the entry. Segments are not mandatory, and the entry can be 4 or 5 continuous minutes depending on the category with no internal editing whatsoever.