Playgrounds Fest 2027 Terms and Conditions of Entry

At Playgrounds Fest we showcase and celebrate the creative image. We have internationally acclaimed makers on stage sharing their proces and we screen some of their most beautifully crafted films. We focus on the art behind the scenes. For our filmselection we are looking for films that are audio-visually innovative, eye-candy, use trailblazing new techniques or are showcasing incredible craftsmanship in creative visual storytelling.

The 2027 edition will take place between 14-16 April (with screenings untill 18 April) .All films will be screened our partnering venue Natlab, Filmtheatre of Eindhoven.

Entry of works in the Playgrounds Fest competitions implies acceptance of these terms and conditions and the decisions made by the festival staff.

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR SUBMISSIONS
Festival submissions are open to short films of all genres: animation, live-action, documentary, experimental, music videos as well as hybrid formats. Films need to have been finished after **January 1, 2024**, and not previously submitted to our festival.
Fully AI generated films are <u>not eligible.</u>

<u>Conditions for submissions:</u>

- The film is no longer than 20 minutes.
- The film stands out in its (audio)visual form. All genres are accepted.
- Work in progress is NOT accepted.
- The film has English encrypted subtitles, or no dialogue.
- 3 high-res stills (including 1 behind the scenes / making of photo), synopsis, trailer and viewing link need to be uploaded upon submission.
- DCP is the only accepted film format. Please make sure that the DCP is not encrypted and that is has been tested in a cinema beforehand.
- A director can submit max. 3 films.
- A film can be submitted to 1 Category
- A film selected for a previous edition of any of Playgrounds is not eligible
- Use ONLY this online form for submissions.

For Imagine Everything:
We welcome independently produced and professionally developed films from emerging and established filmmakers.
<u>Not eligible</u> in this category:
Student exercises and films produced as part of an educational curriculum.
Productions without a demonstrable professional or independent filmmaking practice.
Films created specifically for 24-hour, 48-hour or other time-limited filmmaking challenges.
Independent productions and self-funded films are welcome, provided they demonstrate a high level of artistic ambition, originality and technical execution.

The selection committee reserves the right to determine eligibility and assess the artistic and technical quality of each submission.

For Student Film Competition:
The film was a **graduation project** in (2025 or) 2026 from one of the **Benelux** film or art schools (MBO/HBO).

For Saucy Selection
Open to Female and Queer directors, all genres accepted.
<u>Not eligible</u> in this category:
Student exercises and films produced as part of an educational curriculum.
Productions without a demonstrable professional or independent filmmaking practice.

Should exceptional circumstances occur, Playgrounds reserves the right to make exceptions to these terms and conditions.

DEADLINES & FEES:
Deadline 7 Jan :
Imagine Everything: € 18,-
Saucy Selection: € 10,-
Student Film Competition : Free

This includes VAT- and PayPal charges. This is a low entry fee, primarily meant to ensure the quality of the selection process. The film you submit is handled with care by our professional team and is being viewed by professional curators and programmers. After you submitted the film, the fee can't be reclaimed.

Distributors, film institutions can get a discount for multiple submissions. To be considered, please get in touch with our programming team: maureen@weareplaygrounds.nl

A film will be considered by the Festival's appointed selection committee once the online form has been filled out and the screener of the film has arrived before 7 January 23.59 CET 2025.

CATEGORIES
Films can be submitted in the following categories:

Student Film Competition (Benelux)
Imagine Everything Competition
Saucy Selection (open to female and queer makers)

FREE FESTIVSL PASS + AWARDS
Per Award category the jury will select 3 nominees. If nominated a contribution towards travelcosts can be made (only for EU travel), to be reimbursed by formal invoice.

All prizes will be awarded by a professional external jury. Films will be eligible for the following awards:

- Best Student Film - € 1000,-
- Best Imagine Everything - € 1000,-

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE
Only fully filled in submissions, including stills and screener, will be taken into consideration.

All films with dialogue or narration should have English subtitles, including English spoken films. Playgrounds Fest aims to be accessible to the hearing impaired. Adding subtitles to your film helps us to achieve this goal.

SELECTION & PROGRAMMING
Film selection is carried out by the Artistic Director, Head of Program and a team of programmers and curators. At Playgrounds Fest is a key value we are aiming to showcase both through the program and via our diverse programming committee.

- Filmmakers will be informed about selection and programming in January 2027. After this notification filmmakers have one week to notify the festival in the event that they would wish to withdraw their film.

- If the film is selected to be screened at the festival, the submitter must follow the technical procedures and criteria regarding the master copy. Specification will be sent upon selection.
- Per selected film one festival pass is granted giving access to Playgrounds Fest.
- In case of a film's selection, we expect a representative of the film to accompany the screenings in order

to take part in a Q&A and/or interview.
- The festival does not cover accommodation or travel costs, apart for the Award nominees, that will receive a contribution towards screening fee, travel & accommodation.
- The festival programming and schedule is entirely at the discretion of the festival.
- Playgrounds International Film Festival is a versatile festival with various programs. We might want to screen films that are not selected for the competition in other programs. In this case, the submitter will be notified about this and asked for permission.

SCREENING COPIES - Playgrounds International Film Festival does not accept encrypted DCPs for short films. Please make sure your DCP is tested in a professional surrounding.

Guidelines:
DCP CREATION (if needed)
In case you haven't made the DCP yet, here are some basic technical specs to keep in mind:
• Format: FLAT or SCOPE
• Audio: 5.1 at a minimum
• Subtitles: DCI compliance, standard DCP ruling
• Naming conventions: The movie title at least, and ideally some technical specs as well

- Screening copies can be sent online.

USAGE OF THE SUBMITTED MATERIALS
Playgrounds Fest is granted the right to screen the submitted films, with multiple screenings, during the festival period at the festival location(s) in Eindhoven and for 'on tour' or additional screening throughout the year 2027.

Playgrounds International Film Festival is granted the right to use excerpts (max 10% of the length) and film stills for promotional purposes on the internet, television and in other media. For (private) press viewings Playgrounds International Film Festival has the right to screen your full film as a preview.

- The information provided in the entry form by the submitter will be used for festival publications. We reserve the right to make small text alterations if better fits our needs.

- Playgrounds International Film Festival is entitled to keep the high-res video files and DCPs of selected films in its archive for non-circulating use and educational purposes.

RIGHTS
The submitter states that they are in possession of the rights of the submitted work (explicitly including rights to all music used in the work), clears Playgrounds Fest of all liabilities from third parties and grants PLGR the right to screen the submitted works. Participation in Playgrounds Fest competitions implies acceptance of these regulations and decisions made by the management and board. Playgrounds International Film Festival reserves the rights to exceptions to the regulations if there are extreme circumstances that require so.

Schedule:
7 January – Deadline
End of January – notification
14 Feb – Deadline DCP delivery