

By submitting a film to the 2026 Human vs. AI Film Festival, entrants agree to the following rules and conditions:

### 1. Eligibility

- The festival is open to filmmakers worldwide.
- Submissions are accepted from traditional filmmakers and generative AI creators.
- Films must be short under 30 minutes, including credits.
- All submitted works must be completed films at the time of submission.

### 2. Emotion-Based Categorization

- Each film must be submitted under one primary emotional category, representing the dominant emotion the film seeks to evoke in its audience.
- The seven official emotional categories are: Joy, Rage, Sorrow, Contentment, Love, Aversion, and Desire.
- Filmmakers are responsible for selecting the category that best represents their work. The festival reserves the right to reassign categories if necessary.

### 3. Originality & Rights

- Entrants must own or have secured all necessary rights to the submitted work, including but not limited to music, visuals, AI-generated content, and likenesses.
- Submissions must not infringe on any third-party copyrights, trademarks, or intellectual property rights.
- By submitting, the filmmaker confirms that their work is original or lawfully created and cleared for public exhibition.

### 4. Use of AI for AI generated submissions

- There is no restriction on the use of AI tools or techniques.
- Films may be fully AI-generated, however, post production including use of special effects are allowed..
- Filmmakers are encouraged to transparently describe their creative process, including the role of AI, during submission.

### 5. Language & Subtitles

- Films in languages other than English must include English subtitles.
- Subtitles must be embedded and/or provided as instructed by the festival.

### 6. Judging & Selection

- All submissions are reviewed and evaluated by a panel of academics and creative professionals spanning cinema, artificial intelligence, and human perception.
- Films are judged primarily on emotional impact, clarity of emotional intent, and effectiveness of expression—rather than production scale, budget, or technical complexity.
- Jury decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

### 7. Awards & Prizes

- Awards include the Sparknify Humanity Award (Grand Prize) with a cash prize of USD \$3,000, as well as Emotion Awards for each of the seven emotional categories.
- Cash prizes are awarded to the designated recipient identified in the submission.
- Any applicable taxes or fees are the responsibility of the award recipient.

### 8. Screening & Promotion Rights

- By submitting a film, entrants grant the festival the non-exclusive right to:
- Screen the film during festival events and official screenings

- Use excerpts, stills, titles, and descriptions for promotional, press, and archival purposes
- Filmmakers retain full ownership of their work.

#### 9. Submission Fees & Deadlines

- Submission deadlines and fees (including early-bird periods) are published on the official festival website.
- Early-bird submissions may be offered free of charge to support students, emerging creators, and financially disadvantaged filmmakers.
- All submission fees are non-refundable.

#### 10. Disqualification

The festival reserves the right to disqualify any submission that:

- Contains unlawful, defamatory, or hateful content
- Violates intellectual property laws
- Provides false or misleading information during submission
- Fails to comply with these rules and terms

#### 11. Amendments

- The festival reserves the right to amend rules, schedules, categories, or awards if necessary.
- Any changes will be communicated via the official festival website.