



40TH ANNUAL
SPORTS EMMY® AWARDS
TRANSPARENCY REPORT



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INTRODUCTION



The goal of this report is to provide greater insight into and context around the actions taken by the Sports Emmy® Awards Administration Team and the NATAS National Awards Committee in their efforts to adjudicate a fair competition.

Every challenge or substantive inquiry raised in the course of the 40th Annual Sports Emmy Awards competition was logged and is reflected in this report. In cases where the resulting actions required public disclosure — such as the disqualification of an announced nominee — the summaries identify the specific entries affected. In all other cases, the summaries anonymize the identities of the respective entries and claimants.



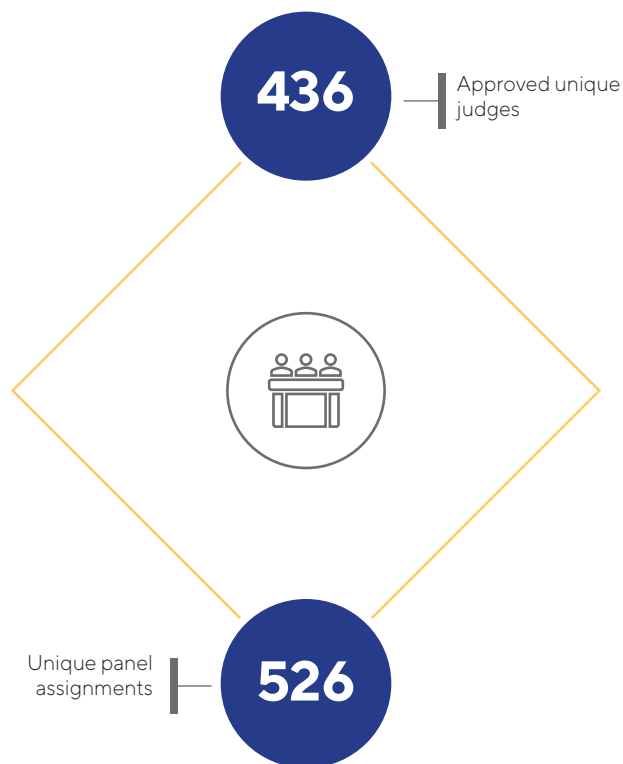
KEY STATISTICS

ENTRIES

1,084

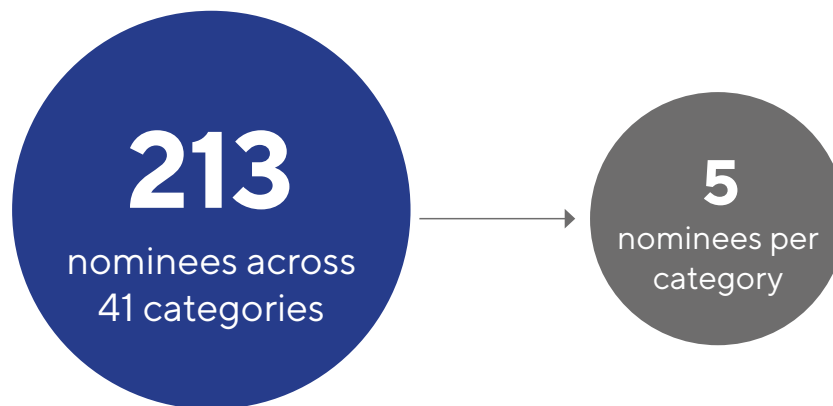
total entries were submitted into the contest.

JUDGES



NOMINEES

As is standard practice, the Awards Committee met via teleconference on March 27, 2019 to review the voting process with representatives of the accounting firm Lutz & Carr and NATAS Awards staff. Referred to as the “Nominations Cut-Off Call,” the purpose of the call is to establish the number of nominees and to break ties. Voting irregularities, if any, are raised by Lutz and Carr. The identities of entrants or judges are not disclosed during the discussion.

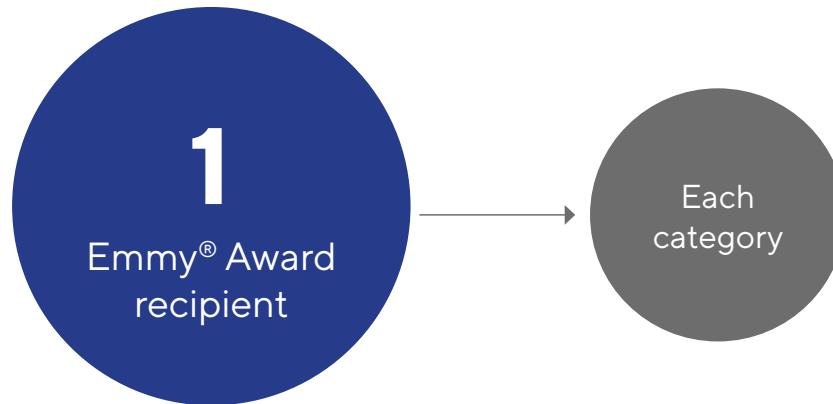


with the following exceptions:

- The George Wensel Technical Achievement Award (6 nominees)
- Outstanding Live Event Audio/Sound (6)
- Outstanding Long Feature (6)
- Outstanding Sports Promotional Announcement (6)
- Outstanding Studio Show – Limited Run (6)
- Outstanding Studio Show in Spanish (6)
- Outstanding Sports Personality – Sports Event Analyst (6)
- Outstanding Sports Personality – Studio Host (6)

In each instance, the additional nominee was a result of a tie between the fifth- and sixth-ranked nominees.

AWARD RECIPIENTS



This year's competition resulted in one Emmy® Award recipient in each of the categories.

JUDGING PROCESS

BALLOT RETURN RATES

This year's contest featured a 96.6% overall ballot return rate across the contest. Below highlights the return rates by category type.

By Category Type:



Category Assignments

Fewer than 10 entries in the Outstanding Edited Sports Event Coverage, Outstanding Edited Sports Special or Series, Outstanding Short Sports Documentary, Outstanding Long Sports Documentary, and Outstanding Serialized Sports Documentary were reassigned among these categories. The rules for all these categories going forward have been revised and clarified so as to avoid confusion and to avoid the necessity for category reassignments.

ENTRY CHALLENGES

OUTSTANDING LIVE SPORTS SERIES

A submission was disqualified after judging had commenced. The majority of the video submitted for Emmy consideration was an edited feature, and did not meet the rules criteria that a majority of the entry be live event coverage.

The eligibility of another submission was challenged by a judge on the ground that it was not 'wholly produced' by the submitting entity. Under a former rule, the submission must be 'wholly produced' by the submitting entity. The rule had this year been updated to the following:

"If a production is not wholly-produced by the network or entity that enters it in the Sports Emmy® Awards, the leading production talent for the World Feed or host broadcaster must be entered. "World Feed" Executive Producers, Producers and Directors must be entered as statue-eligible individuals. Subject to review by NATAS, the threshold of "wholly produced" for live and "live-to-tape" productions is four unilateral coverage cameras, talent under the direction of the producer, and graphics and replays controlled by the production team."

Under the updated rule, the submission was deemed to be eligible.

OUTSTANDING SPORTS JOURNALISM

The eligibility of two submissions were challenged on the grounds that they were updates of previously aired features, and did not satisfy the 'two-thirds' original material portion of the Original Material rule. The Original Material rule stipulates that if an entry falls short of 'two-thirds' original material, it may still be eligible if 'the previously produced material has been given some unique and creative treatment that, in the opinion of The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, results in an original program or original programming.' Upon conferring with the Awards Chair, both entries were considered to satisfy the 'unique and creative treatment' portion of the Original Material rule, and therefore, were deemed to be eligible submissions.

At the time that the Journalism submissions were challenged, the judge who issued the challenge was instructed to score the submissions without prejudice. Upon receipt of the scores, the accountant felt that, due to the extremely low scores given to all entries scored by the judge, that the judge did not score the submissions without prejudice. The Awards Committee concurred with the Accountant, and voted to disqualify the scores.

JUDGING PROCESS

OUTSTANDING ON-AIR SPORTS PERSONALITY IN SPANISH

A submission was disqualified after judging had commenced. The video submitted for Emmy consideration did not include dips to black between excerpts of non-continuous programming, as is required in the Sports Emmy Rules and Procedures.

JUDGING IRREGULARITIES

During the Nominations Cut-Off Call, and prior to the disclosure of nominated entries, an Accountant from Lutz & Carr informed the National Awards Committee of any significant questions regarding the integrity of judging in any category, by any individual(s).

In the aforementioned Sports Journalism inquiry, the judge making the complaint was instructed to score the submissions without prejudice. Upon receipt of the scores, the Accountant felt that, due to the extremely low scores given to all entries scored by the judge, the judge did not score the submissions without prejudice. The Awards Committee concurred with the Accountant's analysis, and voted to disqualify the scores.



UPCOMING PLANS



The 40th Annual Sports Emmy Awards competition featured an all-time high in the number of entries, judges, and judging hours. The Administration Team was able to maintain the exceptionally high ballot return rate of 96.6%. The goal has been and will continue to be a ballot return rate of 100%.

The Administration Team strives to expand and diversify the judging pool. Reviewing the past two years, 40% of judges were single-time participants, only participating in one of the two years. Of those who did vote both years, just over one-in-four participated in the same judging panel each year. Although these judges were primarily in the Craft categories, the Administration Team will make a special effort to minimize these repetitions in the future.

Last year's high number of entries necessitated more categories being judged over two rounds. The Administration Team tries to keep the time commitment required of judges to be less than 8 hours. Due to the length and number of submissions, two rounds of judging were instituted in the Outstanding Short Sports Documentary, Long Sports Documentary, Serialized Sports Documentary, and Long Feature categories. Outstanding Long Form Editing, based on the trend of entry numbers, is another category that may require consideration for two rounds of judging next year. The Administration Team does not foresee additional categories requiring two rounds of judging in the upcoming Sports Emmy competition.

NATAS remains committed to administering a best-in-class competition that fairly and transparently recognizes excellence in our industry. This is the first time in its existence that the Sports Emmy Awards has issued a transparency report.

We welcome any and all feedback, criticism, and suggestions at sports@emmyonline.tv.