



WHAT'S NEW IN NEWS & DOCUMENTARY?

***Two (2) Separate Rulebooks.** There are now two separate rulebooks entrants must consult before submitting to the News & Documentary Emmy Awards and any other national NATAS Emmy contest.

-The General Rules and Procedures, which contains rules applicable across all national programming competitions (Daytime, Sports, News & Documentary): <https://theemmys.tv/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/NATAS-emmy-rules-v2021.0.0.pdf>

-The News & Documentary Emmy Awards rulebook which contains rules and procedures specific to the national News & Documentary competition: <https://theemmys.tv/news/rules/>

Please consult both rulebooks before completing your submissions.

***NEW CATEGORY**

1/ Outstanding Newscast

This category recognizes overall excellence in a Newscast over the course of the calendar year 2020. Submissions are limited to regularly scheduled news broadcasts or branded blocks of news programming that cover current and ongoing news stories. Newsmagazines, news specials and other non-regularly scheduled news broadcasts, and stand-alone digital reports that are not a part of a regularly scheduled digital news broadcast, are not eligible in this category.

See page 34 of the News & Documentary Emmy rulebook for more info.

***NEW CATEGORY**

4. Outstanding Short Feature Story in a Newscast

This category is reserved for feature stories from newscasts with a running time of 8 minutes or less. Feature stories are generally defined as enterprise reporting that emphasizes a narrative or storytelling approach to the subject matter and often includes more context and background than is typically found in a straight factual news story. Entries must be drawn from a single broadcast on a single airdate. Submissions composed of multiple reports from different airdates are not eligible in this category. This category and category 5/Outstanding Long Feature Story in a Newscast replace the previous Feature Story in a Newscast and Hard News Feature Story in a Newscast categories.

See page 37 of the News & Documentary Emmy rulebook for more info.

***NEW CATEGORY**

5. Outstanding Long Feature Story in a Newscast

This category is reserved for feature stories from newscasts with a running time of more than 8 minutes. Feature stories are generally defined as enterprise reporting that emphasizes a narrative or storytelling approach to the subject matter and often includes more context and background than is typically found in a straight factual news story. Entries must be drawn from a single broadcast on a

single airdate. Submissions composed of multiple reports from different airdates are not eligible in this category. This category and category 4/Outstanding Short Feature Story in a Newscast replace the previous Feature Story in a Newscast and Hard News Feature Story in a Newscast categories. See page 38 of the News & Documentary Emmy rulebook for more info.

***NEW CATEGORY**

18. Outstanding Health or Medical Coverage

This category is open to coverage of health or medical related topics by news organizations. Entries may consist of a single report or a series of reports on a single topic. Maximum running time for submission video is 40 minutes.

This category is open to news organizations and has been broken out of the former Outstanding Science, Medical or Environmental Report category. That category has now been renamed Outstanding Science, Technology or Environmental Coverage.

See page 42 of the News & Documentary Emmy rulebook for more info.

***NEW CATEGORY**

47. Outstanding Direction: Documentary

This category is open to directors of documentary films. Directors are those responsible for bringing to air all the production elements in order to present a finished product. Directors of both short and feature length documentaries are eligible to submit. This category is not open to Assistant Directors or Technical Directors.

Statue-eligible: Directors

While directors are statue-eligible in Program categories like Outstanding Current Affairs Documentary or Outstanding Social Issue Documentary, a director that wins an Emmy in the Direction: Documentary category cannot also be included in the winning credits for the same film in a Program category. In the case of a win for the same film in both a Directing and a Program category, the director will be awarded a statue in the Directing category only.

See page 59 of the News & Documentary Emmy rulebook for more info.

***NEW CRAFT ACHIEVEMENT CATEGORIES**

This year's competition features separate news and documentary divisions of a number of Craft Achievement categories in which news programs and documentaries formerly competed together. The list of revised categories is below. See pages 55-62 of the News & Documentary Emmy rulebook for more info.

42. Outstanding Writing: News

43. Outstanding Writing: Documentary

44. Outstanding Research: News

45. Outstanding Research: Documentary

52. Outstanding Graphic Design and Art Direction: News

53. Outstanding Graphic Design and Art Direction: Documentary

***NEW CATEGORY**

57. Outstanding Technical Achievement: News

This category rewards excellence in technical achievement for news broadcasts. It is open to

individuals and teams that make a significant contribution to the technical portion of news broadcasts. The focus in this category is on how broadcast technicians skillfully and creatively use the tools available to them to overcome technical challenges and bring a news broadcast or news coverage to air. Submissions should focus on the excellence of the technical execution as well as the technical challenges telecasters or news organizations faced during the eligibility year (2020), and the solutions developed to overcome them.

Eligible submissions can originate from regularly scheduled news broadcasts (newscasts, news magazines, morning shows etc.) as well as live coverage and news specials. Entries can focus on coverage of a particular event (live coverage of a breaking event, for example, or planned coverage of an anticipated event like an election etc.); Coverage of a particular story (an ongoing series of investigative reports on a single topic); or a particular broadcast of a regularly scheduled show (the Jan 10 episode of Show X presented particular challenges and/or was particularly skillfully executed etc.).

See page 63 of the News & Documentary Emmy rulebook for more info.

***NEW APPROACHES CATEGORIES NOW REBRANDED AS INTERACTIVE MEDIA**

The categories formerly designated as “New Approaches” have now been rebranded as Interactive Media. These categories are open to interactive media projects employing new and emerging platforms and presentation techniques, as well as more established methods and platforms. Potential submissions include, but are not limited to: Multiplatform and/or transmedia news coverage or documentary storytelling projects, multimedia projects, immersive media projects etc.

Two changes to the way the former “New Approaches” categories were administered are of note: 1) While entrants are still expected to host their own judging page and submit the URL for that page as part of the submission process, as opposed to uploading a linear video to the submission site as in other categories, the use of templates provided by NATAS with the Emmy logo etc. are no longer required. 2) Due to COVID 19, NATAS will be unable able to provide VR headsets and other specialized equipment to Emmy judges for at-home screening of virtual reality submissions. Consequently, entrants with VR or AR submissions should a) create a judging page including a brief explanatory video highlighting the Emmy®-worthy aspects of the project and providing an informational walkthrough of the user/viewer experience and b) provide judges with instructions on how to access the VR film along with information about the equipment that can be used to view it so that judges with access to such equipment can view the entry accordingly.

See pages 54-55 of the News & Documentary Emmy rulebook for more info.

***CHANGES TO ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR 32/OUTSTANDING NEWSCAST OR NEWSMAGAZINE IN SPANISH.**

Submissions to this category are now required to a) Have a minimum running time of 30 minutes and a maximum running time of 60 minutes b) include a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 7 excerpts from throughout the eligibility year (i.e. the calendar year of 2020) demonstrating the overall excellence of the newscast or newsmagazine. c) Include excerpts drawn from at least two (2) separate airdates. See page 49 of the News & Documentary Emmy rulebook for more info.

***CHANGES TO THE DEFINITION OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING AND INVESTIGATIVE DOCUMENTARY CATEGORIES**

The definition of the following categories have been modified to emphasize that these categories are intended for enterprise reporting that is the result of the original investigative work of the on-screen reporter or news organization that originally broadcast the report, or the documentary filmmaker or filmmaking team that created the documentary.

-6. Outstanding Investigative Report in a Newscast

-10. Outstanding Investigative Report in a Newsmagazine

-24. Outstanding Investigative Documentary

See pages 38, 40 and 44 of the News & Documentary Emmy rulebook for more info.

***50% RULE DISCONTINUED. NATIONAL/REGIONAL ELIGIBILITY NOW DETERMINED BY INTENDED AUDIENCE**

See the following language from page 6 of the NATAS General Rules and procedures.

CONTENT ELIGIBILITY

NATAS contests are open to telecast programming and online/digital programming. Entries must have been transmitted to the public by a television network, cable company, satellite, the internet, or other digital delivery media. **Eligibility is limited to digital and telecast programming that was originally made available during the eligibility period and, as determined by contest Administration, intended for a national audience during the specific competition's eligibility year.** All shows must contain at least two-thirds (2/3) original material as aired during the eligibility period, unless the previously-produced material has been given substantial, unique, and creative treatment that, in the opinion of NATAS, results in an original program.

Content, whether online or distributed via telecast or cablecast, that is intended for a specific local or regional audience, or for a particular geographic market, is eligible for a regional Emmy® Award and should be submitted to one of the regional Emmy® competitions. Local content that later receives national distribution may be submitted to either a Regional Awards Competition or a National Awards Competition, but not both.

NATAS categories are not distribution-platform-specific. All categories are open to all platforms.

***OSCAR NOMINATED DOCUMENTARY FILMS ARE NO LONGER ELIGIBLE FOR SUBMISSION TO NATAS EMMY COMPETITIONS**

See the language below from page 9 of the NATAS General Rules & Procedures.

INELIGIBILITY OF OSCAR® NOMINEES

Programs that have received an Oscar® nomination from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences are ineligible for submission to any Emmy® award contest administered by NATAS.

***VIRTUAL FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS ARE TREATED AS THEATRICAL SCREENINGS FOR EMMY ELIGIBILITY PURPOSES.**

See the language below from page 9 of the NATAS General Rules & Procedures.

VIRTUAL FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, many documentary films have screened online at virtual film festivals in 2020. Such screenings are nonetheless considered to be theatrical

screenings, rather than VOD screenings, for the purpose of determining Emmy® eligibility in the 2020-2021 competition year.

- a. A virtual film festival screening is not considered a VOD release, and a documentary film may not submit to an Emmy® competition solely on the basis of such a virtual film festival screening.
- b. A virtual film festival screening is not considered a VOD release, and is not used to determine whether a national telecast is within the one-year VOD-to-broadcast window within which it can be considered the “canonical airing.”
- c. A virtual film festival screening is considered a film festival screening and counts toward the twenty-four-month (24-month) window after which a film with any kind of theatrical release becomes ineligible.

***TIME CODE FOR 30-SECOND CEREMONY VIDEO CLIP NOW REQUIRED AS PART OF ENTRY PROCESS**

As part of the submission process, all entrants will be required to identify a thirty-second (0:30) portion of the submitted entry video for potential inclusion in the News & Documentary Emmy Award ceremony, should the entry result in a nomination. The identified clip must be free and clear of any and all encumbrances which could limit the ability of NATAS to include the clip in the program and its distribution, publicity, and promotion, including without limitation digital program archives, in perpetuity. Entrants must affirm that all necessary rights and clearances have been obtained and are thereby licensed to NATAS for these purposes, and that the entrant is authorized to convey such rights.

***CHANGES TO DOUBLE DIPPING RULES**

The same material, identical start-to-finish, is not permitted to represent an entire submission in both a series and a feature category.

If an entrant submits to a program category that allows the option of submitting a single episode to represent the entire series, that submitted episode may not then be submitted as-is to a feature category. Likewise, a single episode submitted in an individual feature category may not be submitted as the representative episode in a program category.

A feature may be submitted to a feature category and remain a component part of a broader program entry only if the feature represents less than fifty percent (50%) of the program submission’s total runtime.

See pages 11-13 of the NATAS General Rules & Procedures for more info.