

NATIONAL SHORT FILM COMPETITION 2026

CONTEST RULES

1. THE COMPETITION

The **National Short Film Competition 2026**, organised by the **Mauritius Film Development Corporation (MFDC)**, aims to encourage creativity, storytelling, filmmaking, cultural expression and innovation among participants in Mauritius.

The Competition provides three distinct categories, allowing participants to explore Mauritian stories, heritage, contemporary life and emerging technologies through short-form audiovisual content.

2. CATEGORIES, THEMES & DURATION

Participants may submit **one film only** in one of the following categories:

Category A – Conventional Film

- Duration: **2 to 4 minutes**
- Theme 1: **Mauritian Legends and Myths**
- Theme 2: **A Day in the Republic of Mauritius**
- Theme 3: **A Second Chance – Redemption, Forgiveness, Failure and Starting Again**
- AI use: Maximum **25%**, limited to visual effects.

Category B – Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- Duration: **90 to 180 seconds**
- Theme 1: **Mauritius in the Past**
- Theme 2: **Legends Re-imagined**
- Theme 3: **What If the Dodo Returns?**
- AI may be used as permitted under the Competition Rules.

Category C – Documentary

- Duration: **2 to 4 minutes**

- Theme: **The Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Mauritius**
- AI use: Maximum **25%**.

The selected category and theme must be clearly indicated at the time of submission.

3. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The Competition is open to eligible participants from the **Republic of Mauritius**, subject to the eligibility requirements specified by MFDC.

Participants may enter individually or as a group, with one designated group leader responsible for the submission.

MFDC may request proof of identity, age, nationality or residence where required.

Persons directly involved in the administration or judging of the Competition, and other persons whose participation could create a conflict of interest, may be excluded in accordance with the official Terms & Conditions.

Participants below 18 years of age may be required to provide the written consent of a parent or legal guardian.

4. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Entries must be submitted through the **official submission method designated by MFDC** by:

13 November 2026 at 4:00 p.m. (Mauritius time).

Each participant may submit **one film only**.

The submitted film must:

- comply with the duration requirements of the selected category;
- correspond to the selected theme;
- comply with the applicable AI limitations;
- be submitted in the required format and through the designated submission channel;
- be accessible and playable for evaluation; and

- be produced after the launch of the present Competition.

Participants are responsible for ensuring that their submission is complete and accessible. Late, incomplete, inaccessible or non-compliant submissions may be rejected.

5. ORIGINALITY, COPYRIGHT & PERMISSIONS

Each participant must ensure that the submitted film is their original work or that they have obtained all necessary rights, licences and permissions.

This includes, where applicable:

- music and sound recordings;
- photographs and images;
- video footage and archive material;
- scripts, stories and literary material;
- graphics, artwork and fonts;
- performances and interviews;
- locations and identifiable persons; and
- AI-generated or AI-assisted material.

Participants must obtain the necessary consent or permission for the use of identifiable persons, private locations, children and other protected material where required.

The use of copyrighted or third-party material without the necessary rights may result in disqualification.

6. AI USE & DISCLOSURE

Where AI is used, participants must comply with the AI requirements applicable to their category.

Participants must disclose:

- the percentage or approximate extent of AI used;
- the AI tools or platforms used;

- the elements of the film generated or assisted by AI; and
- how AI contributed to the creation of the film.

MFDC may request reasonable supporting material, including source files, prompts, generation records, metadata or editing timelines, to verify compliance.

Failure to disclose material AI use, exceeding the permitted AI limit or deliberately providing misleading information may result in disqualification.

AI must not be used to unlawfully infringe the rights of others or to create deceptive, defamatory or unlawful content.

7. JUDGING, SELECTION & DISQUALIFICATION

Eligible submissions will be reviewed and assessed by a **jury or judging panel appointed or approved by MFDC**.

Depending on the category, assessment may take into consideration factors such as:

- creativity and originality;
- storytelling;
- relevance to the selected theme;
- direction and visual execution;
- cinematography;
- editing and sound;
- cultural relevance;
- technical quality; and
- effective and responsible use of the permitted medium or AI.

The jury's decision shall be final for the purposes of the Competition, subject to MFDC's rights to address proven ineligibility, fraud, plagiarism, material misrepresentation or other serious breaches.

MFDC may disqualify an entry for non-compliance with the Competition Rules or Terms & Conditions.

8. PRIZES, RIGHTS & GENERAL CONDITIONS

Prizes will be awarded according to the official Competition structure:

Category A – Conventional Film

1st Prize: **Rs.100,000**

2nd Prize: **Rs.50,000**

3rd Prize: **Rs.25,000**

Category B – Artificial Intelligence (AI)

1st Prize: **Rs.75,000**

2nd Prize: **Rs.25,000**

3rd Prize: **Rs.10,000**

Category C – Documentary

1st Prize: **Rs.100,000**

2nd Prize: **Rs.50,000**

3rd Prize: **Rs.25,000**

Participants retain ownership of their intellectual property rights, subject to the licence granted to MFDC for Competition administration, judging, archival, promotional, educational and related official purposes.

By entering the Competition, participants agree to the **full Terms & Conditions**, Competition Rules and official submission requirements.

The Competition is governed by the laws of the **Republic of Mauritius**.

For complete legal provisions, participants should refer to the **Official Terms & Conditions of the National Short Film Competition 2026**.