

# Regulations Best Children's Film Competition

40<sup>th</sup> Cinekid Festival, the Netherlands, 10 – 25 October 2026

Each year Cinekid presents its prestigious **Best Children's Film Competition** showcasing the best new feature films for children from all over the world. Cinekid takes great care to select films of all genres and include works for children in each of Cinekid's age categories (from 3 until 14 years old).

On average 15 feature-length films are invited. All films competing in the Best Children's Film Competition are eligible for two awards, which are given to the winning film's director.

- **Cinekid Lion - Best Children's Film Competition - Jury Award**  
An international jury of children's film professionals decides which film is honoured with a Cinekid Lion Jury Award statuette and prize money.
- **Cinekid Lion - Best Children's Film Competition - Audience Award**  
The votes of the children's audience attending Cinekid Festival decide which film wins the Cinekid Lion Audience Award statuette.

There is **no entry fee for submission**.

The submitted film needs to be **at least 50 minutes**.

The screening of the submitted film at Cinekid should at least be a **Dutch premiere**.

Deadline for entry: **1<sup>st</sup> of June 2026**.

1. Cinekid aims to promote high-quality media for children. The films selected for the Cinekid Best Children's Film Competition need to meet Cinekid's quality standards. The films need to be made or at the very least suitable for children between ages 3-14.
2. Deadline  
The submission deadline for the competition is **1<sup>st</sup> of June 2026**. Cinekid can take films into consideration based on a work-in-progress version. Of course, the submitted film will still need to be completed well in time for the festival.
3. Selection  
In addition to viewings by the Cinekid programming team, viewing sessions with the children of our children's panel are part of the selection procedure.
4. Festival screenings
  - a. Films selected for the Cinekid Best Children's Film Competition need to be screened a minimum of 3 times.
  - b. Cinekid doesn't pay screening fees for screenings.
  - c. In some cases, Cinekid might want to present even more screenings of a given film. If that is the case, the film's applicant will receive a separate request to give authorization for the additional screenings. If the applicant declines to give authorization this will not affect the film's selection for the competition.
5. Premiere requirements
  - a. To be eligible for the Best Children's Film Competition the screening of the film should at least be a Dutch premiere.
6. Length  
Only feature films are eligible for the Cinekid Best Children's Film Competition. To be considered as a feature film your production needs be 50 minutes or longer. Films of less than 50 minutes are regarded by Cinekid as shorts.
7. Screening copy and transportation

- a. In order to take part in the Best Children's Film Competition Cinekid requires a DCP for screening purposes. If your film is not available on DCP, acceptance of any alternative formats needs to be individually decided by Cinekid. Cinekid's print traffic coordinator will be in touch with the participant about the screening copy transfer.
- b. As an international jury will be viewing the films, a DCP version with softcoded English subtitles needs to be made available to Cinekid Festival, free of charge.
- c. Each screening copy should be made available for the entire period of the festival.
- d. All screening copies of selected films should reach the festival before **September 1<sup>st</sup> 2026**.
- e. Cinekid only receives screening copies through digital transfer. If your film is not available for digital transfer, Cinekid will need to individually decide on available options.
- f. Cinekid strongly urges filmmakers to provide an unencrypted DCP, since they cause significantly less logistical problems and are required for subtitling purposes.
- g. In case only an encrypted DCP can be provided, the costs for producing a DKDM or KDMs will need to be borne by the submitting party.

8. Additional Required Materials
  - a. In order to take part in the Best Children's Film Competition the following additional materials would need to be provided:
    - i. An English subtitled streaming link of the film, remaining available until the last day of the festival
    - ii. Three high-quality stills of the film (at least 300 DPI)
    - iii. Synopsis and logline
    - iv. Credits, and biography of the director
    - v. Poster Image in CMYK colours as a PDF file in 300 DPI.
    - vi. an English subtitle file (.SRT) or time-coded dialogue list.
  - b. Cinekid is free to unlimitedly use all additional materials for promotional reasons.
9. ScreeningClub
  - a. All films selected for the Best Children's Film competition will automatically be included in Cinekid's online video library ScreeningClub. ScreeningClub is a digital sales library where accredited guests of Cinekid for Professionals can screen Cinekid's festival programme. More information about the ScreeningClub can be found [here](#).
10. Accreditation
  - a. Cinekid offers one free accreditation for the festival to someone of the film team. The invitation will initially be sent to the director, who can forward it to another member of the film team if they please.
  - b. Cinekid does not cover travel or accommodation expenses for invited filmmakers, unless specifically communicated with said filmmaker.
11. **The submission of an entry implies acceptance of these regulations.**

For all further questions, kindly contact [film@cinekid.nl](mailto:film@cinekid.nl).