

THE 40th SPORTS EMMY® AWARDS: WHAT'S NEW?

The following revisions and refinements have been made to the Sports Emmy® Award rules and procedures with respect to previous editions of the rules.

- The format of this Call for Entries has been updated, with a section titled “Fundamental Rules.” This section covers the basic rules that govern the conduct of the awards and the ground rules for all categories.
- In the George Wensel Technical Achievement Award, to clarify the term “Innovator”, the rule has been revised to: “The term “innovator” is defined as those individuals who invent, make changes, create or introduce new processes, devices, techniques or systems. Generally they are the creators of the innovation, planners, not executors of the idea, i.e. not managers, supervisors, executives, approvers or financiers of the project.”
- In addition, in the Wensel Award, each entry is to be for a single innovation; a combined entry of non-related innovations will not be accepted.
- The video presentation for the Wensel Award must include at least one “as aired” coverage or studio excerpt of the innovation in use.
- To refine the rule limiting the entry of programming in more than one Emmy® Award contest, the rule has been revised to read: “The same material may not be entered in more than one Emmy® Award contest, unless a specific, unique category is only offered by another Emmy® Award contest.” For example, the Sports Emmy® Awards do not offer a “Best Narrator” category, whereas the Prime Time Emmy® Awards do. Pending coordination between the two Emmy® organizations, the entry of a sports documentary narrator in the Prime Time category would be allowed.
- “Scripted entertainment” and competitions with pre-determined outcomes are not eligible in the Sports Emmy® Awards.

- The wording of the Original Programming rule has been revised to clarify that the stipulation that at least two-thirds of the entered telecast or programming is measured with respect to the entire telecast as aired, not the video excerpts submitted for judging. If there is any question as to the originality of an entry, the submitter must provide the complete original telecast or programming for comparison.
- Compilation reels or “buzz tapes” are not permitted in any category. Entries are to be produced from video and audio as it originally aired in context to the viewer, without augmented music, graphics, voice over or on-cameras. Aired programming that is in the format of a compilation reel is not eligible.
- NATAS reserves the right to disqualify outright or move any entry to a different entry category if in its judgment such action is warranted. Submitters will be notified when a rejection or category reassignment is made. Entries will not be accepted if no applicable category is found, and entry fees refunded.
- Programming that otherwise conforms to the rules for Outstanding Live Sports Special may be eligible as determined by NATAS, upon petition by the submitter.
- The Outstanding Edited Sports Special or Series category has been added. An Edited Special or Series is a single program, broadcast in one or more parts. If the majority is edited, the program is considered edited. This category includes the following possible submissions: (1) a one-time, out-of-format special from an existing series; (2) panel discussion shows; (3) interview shows; (4) edited programming not eligible for any other program category. NATAS reserves the right to rule on the eligibility of entries for this category and may disqualify or move non-conforming entries to an appropriate category.

In order to confirm eligibility in this Edited Sports Special or Series category rather than other Documentary categories, submitters must start the on-line entry process no later than Thursday, January 24th.

Season and Event Recap and Review Shows should be submitted in the Edited Sports Coverage category. If the submitter has a question on whether the submission should be entered as a Sports Documentary, Edited Coverage or an Edited Special or Series, please contact the National Academy.

The video submission must have a minimum of 2 but no more than 5 excerpts and have a Total Submission Time of no more than 20 minutes. Each excerpt must be a straight run without internal editing of program content. Commercials must be deleted.

- Category name change: Outstanding Sports News Anthology revised to Outstanding Sports News/Feature Anthology
- The wording has been revised to formally state that a feature entered in the Outstanding Sports Journalism category cannot also be entered in either the Outstanding Short Feature or the Outstanding Long Feature categories.
- Programming entered in Outstanding Digital Innovation cannot be entered in the George Wensel Technical Achievement category, and vice versa. A previously entered "digital innovation" will be allowed only if, in the opinion of NATAS, it has been significantly improved or modified in either how it looks on the screen or in how it is brought to the screen.
- For Sports Reporters, pre-event, "halftime" and post-event reports are eligible.
- Language regarding entry challenges, submitter's responsibilities and results confidentiality have been added.

NSA40 Rule Revisions as of January 11, 2019

Category 5. Outstanding Edited Sports Special or Series

The published rules do not provide guidance with respect to the formulation of the video submission. For the purposes of this category, if the program entered has only one episode, then it is considered a Special, and the video excerpts come from that episode. If the entry has more than one episode, then the video submission must include an excerpt from at least two episodes. The stipulation that the video submission must have a minimum of two but no more than five excerpts and have a Total Submission Time of no more than 20 minutes remains.

Category 12. Outstanding Sports Feature Anthology

The title of this category has been revised to Outstanding Sports News/Feature Anthology.

Category 38. Outstanding Sports Promotional Announcement

Upon further discussion of industry trends and since no entries in this category have been completed, the limit for an individual spot has been increased from 60 to 90 seconds. A campaign may be represented by the inclusion of no more than three (3) spots, with the maximum length of any single spot no more than 90 seconds and a Total Submission Time of no more than three (3) minutes. All other rules for this category stand.