

BIFA VOTER CODE OF CONDUCT

By registering to be a voter for the British Independent Film Awards, I agree to abide by the following:

General

Understand that any discussions in any form, written or verbal, about the entered films with BIFA and his/her/their fellow voters are confidential and undertake not to reveal any part of these discussions at any time before or after the Awards.

Treat with courtesy (whether in person, in writing or on the telephone) all BIFA staff and employees, fellow voters, and all associated personnel at any screening or event hosted by BIFA or on BIFA's behalf, or as part of an Awards campaign.

Behave in an appropriate manner during any BIFA hosted event or at any screening or event held on BIFA's behalf.

Refrain from soliciting fellow voters or event guests to accept scripts, or any other business materials, and from requesting autographs or photographs at any BIFA event or any BIFA event held elsewhere (including private events organised as part of an Awards campaign).

Respect the rules of film companies, broadcasters and venues (and their representatives) who put on screenings or other events, on the understanding that these are private events to which BIFA voters are invited for voting or educational purposes, and not a right of BIFA voter status.

Accept that no voter may speak for BIFA, or make commitments on its behalf without the authority of the organisation.

Have his/her/their name kept on a register of voter names which will be made available on the BIFA website.

Subgroup meetings

In order to ensure that subgroup meetings run to time and all voters have the opportunity to participate freely in discussions, we ask all BIFA voters to adhere to the following, outlining BIFA's expectations with regards to meeting etiquette.

RESPECT OTHER VOTERS' OPINIONS – Whilst you won't always agree with your fellow voters, it's important that differences in opinion are respectfully observed. You can disagree, but don't be disagreeable!

BE CONCISE – There's a lot to get through in subgroup meetings and we want to hear from everyone, so make space for other voters by keeping your contributions

succinct and to the point. Subgroup chairs may move the conversation along or ask you to summarise your view in one statement, but this is meant only to ensure that everyone is heard and all entries are discussed.

DECLARE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – Where you have a conflict of interest, it's vital that you declare this, both via the BIFA voting site and within the meeting. Chairs will ask voters to declare any conflicts before the discussion of each film and conflicted voters will be placed in the waiting room for the duration of that discussion. We consider a conflict to exist where a voter has worked directly on a film, currently works for a company that has funded or distributed a film, or has a partner or relative that worked on a film. If you're unsure about whether you have a conflict of interest, please get in touch with voting@bifa.film.

USE CONSTRUCTIVE LANGUAGE – It's a small industry so please keep your critiques respectful and focussed on the quality of work being judged. When commenting on an entry, try to focus on specific aspects that didn't work for you (e.g. "the characters weren't convincing", "I found the soundtrack uninspiring" etc.), rather than just saying "The whole thing was awful". Please refrain from repeating personal anecdotes about the filmmaker or the production.

FOLLOW THE ZOOM ETIQUETTE GUIDELINES – All voters must click the "Raise Hand" icon when wishing to contribute. Chairs will then call on voters one by one. We politely ask voters to not interrupt or talk over each other and to remain on mute when not speaking to minimise background noise.

Hate speech

Any BIFA voters found using hate speech on social media accounts or other public platforms will have their status as a voter terminated with immediate effect.

We define this as content promoting violence, hatred or discrimination against individuals or groups based on any of the following attributes:

- Age
- Caste
- Disability
- Ethnicity
- Gender identity and expression
- Nationality
- Race
- Immigration status
- Religion
- Sex/Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Victims of a major violent event and their kin

Screener agreement

Each voter confirms that he/she/they request to receive materials [DVD, online screeners or access to an online screening platform, script excerpts, supporting statements, effects reels, music cue sheets and other materials supporting an entry] to assist in the voting process for the British Independent Film Awards.

In consideration for materials being sent to him/her/them, each voter acknowledges and confirm that:

- i. any materials are for promotional commercial purposes only; specifically for personal viewing for consideration for the British Independent Film Awards and not for the purposes of reviewing the film in any form (including on personal social media i.e. Letterboxd reviews, X, Instagram);
- ii. any materials sent to a voter remains the property of the distributor which has provided it who may request its return (at the voter's cost) after the British Independent Film Awards;
- iii. if distributors have not requested their return, voters will destroy (or safely dispose of) all unwanted materials after such date
- iv. Voters will:
 - a. not distribute, loan, sell or give the materials to anyone
 - b. not reproduce the materials by any means
 - c. report any theft or loss of materials immediately to BIFA

Any BIFA voter judged to have breached this Code of Conduct will be subject to review by BIFA's Nomination Committee and/or Board and may face disciplinary or legal action, including suspension or termination of voter status, in accordance with the BIFA rules.

For any questions, please email voting@bifa.film.