# General Rules

**Video Rules**

* **Footage:**
The footage may consist of anime, games and any other forms of animation (cartoons, Disney, stop-motion, etc.). However, please note that the main focus should be on the theme of "anime and japanese/asian culture". We do not want to exclude western animation from the contest, but we reserve the right to reject footage if it strays too far from this main focus (e.g., western video games without a recognizable anime style, Hollywood movies without a connection to japanese/asian culture, etc.).
Using alternative footage is allowed (this includes, for example: live-action, footage that doesn't align with the above rule, and AI images & videos). However, this can only make up a maximum of ⅓ of the total video length.
If you're unsure whether certain footage is allowed, you're welcome to inquire with us at any time.
* **Prohibited Footage:**
Due to the competition having an age rating of FSK16, the final video must not contain content that has a higher age rating. You can check the age rating for your footage on the FSK website (https://www.fsk.de/freigaben). If an anime does not yet have an FSK rating, you can refer to the Japanese age rating, which you can usually find through a Google search. If you're unsure about the age rating, feel free to contact us.
It's also possible to use video footage with a higher age rating, as long as the finished AMV censors the problematic scenes sufficiently to ensure an age rating of FSK16. Conversely, the footage should not be edited in a way that exceeds an FSK16 rating.
* **Technical Requirements:**
The video must have a minimum resolution of 720p and should be submitted in a 16:9, 21:9, or 4:3 aspect ratio. A resolution of 1920 x 1080, which corresponds to a 16:9 aspect ratio, is recommended as the default.
Additionally, the video file should be playable using a standard video player (e.g., VLC Player). The following file formats are suitable: MP4, AVI, MKV, and MPEG.
* **Reuse of AMVs:**
The video must consist solely of your own edits and cannot include content from AMVs created by other editors.
* **Subtitles / Watermarks / Foreign Logos:**
Foreign logos, watermarks, as well as subtitles from the original footage should be removed to the best of your ability, as they could negatively impact your rating.
However, if the concept of your video requires any of the mentioned elements, then this rule is naturally not applicable to you.
* **Intro / Outro:**
Since the competition is judged anonymously, we kindly ask you not to use an intro/outro for your submission. During the contest, we will conscientiously display all essential information about the video and editor (usually as a slider).
However, if you insist on having an intro/outro as part of your AMV concept, we request that you provide an alternative version of the AMV where your name has been removed or made unrecognizable. This way, we can ensure a fair and anonymous evaluation by our jury.

**Submission Rules**

* **Accuracy of Submission:**
Any information about the used footage and music must be accurately provided to the best of your knowledge when submitting the video.
* **Download Link:**
We kindly request you to submit the video through a file hosting service (e.g., Google Drive, Dropbox, etc.). However, please ensure that the shared link for the video is accessible to others, as it might not be accessible through the shared link by default.
* **Number of Entries:**
Each participant and collaborative project is allowed only one AMV submission. However, passive assistance or feedback does not count as active participation in a collaborative project, thus allowing the mentioned editor to submit their own video as well.
* **Late Submissions:**
If a submission is going to be late, it must be reported in advance. Please let us know if there are any technical issues or other delays, and we'll surely find a solution.
Unnotified submissions after the deadline has passed cannot and will not be accepted by us.

**Other Rules**

* **Violation of Rules:**
The competition organizers reserve the right to disqualify a submission in the event of a rule violation.
* **Publishing the AMV:**
The AMVs may only be published after the competition. If the competition is an open contest, you are welcome to have already published your video and may also publish them before the competition ends.

**FAQ**

**How many AMVs will be shown on stage?**

Our goal is to showcase all submitted videos on stage. However, depending on the event schedule and the number of submissions, this may not always be feasible.
If the number of submissions exceeds a certain limit, it's possible that we won't be able to present all AMVs on stage, and we will prioritize those with higher scores.

**Will I receive a confirmation once you've received my AMV?**

We strive to send a confirmation of receiving your AMV within 72 hours. If you haven't received a confirmation message after a longer period, please contact us.
However, sometimes the confirmation emails might end up in the spam folder, so it's always a good idea to check there as well.

**How is the Jury chosen?**

We always strive to assemble a jury composed of individuals who have experience in various aspects of AMVs. This includes:
- Professional or extensive editing experience

- Participation in numerous contests, thus being familiar with the process of AMV contests

- Familiarity with a variety of current and popular anime

We are committed to creating a diverse jury whenever possible.

**How does the jury evaluate?**

Various aspects such as originality, first impression, story, effort, execution, editing, scene selection, effects, mood/atmosphere, quality and memorability are evaluated by the jury. In multiple categories, a scoring system is used and these scores are combined to form an overall rating.
The Audience Choice Award is determined by the convention's attendees. The exact process may vary depending on the convention, but typically involves a vote by the audience after the videos are screened at the event.
The jury will perform an anonymous evaluation to the best of their ability and will not have knowledge of the AMV's creator. This approach is intended to ensure a fair assessment.

**Will the AMVs be available for viewing after the convention?**

It solely depends on the creators whether they make their videos publicly accessible. While we will strive to publish a list of the submissions, the decision to publish their AMV rests with the editors. They alone have the choice whether or not to make their AMVs publicly available.

**How do I know if my AMV isn't too extreme or complies with the rules?**

By adhering to the rules to the best of your knowledge, you should typically avoid rule violations. However, if you're uncertain, you can always reach out to us. In the event of a rule violation, we will contact you and provide details about your violation.
If your video contains a rule violation and you cannot make it compliant in time, we're willing to grant you some extra time to address the problematic scenes and send us the revised video.

**Will there be feedback provided for every AMV submission?**

If you would like feedback on your submission or information about your rating, you can contact us in this regard, and we will do our best to provide you with the requested feedback.

**Is the use of AI tools allowed?**

The use of AI tools to assist in creating the AMV is allowed. Video and image content generated by AI is generally allowed as well, but the footage used must be in compliance with the rules (refer to the “Footage” and “Prohibited Footage” rules).