

Entry Rules of 2025 (17th) Cyber Sousa Award Animation Competition

I. Objective

The Cyber Sousa Award Animation Competition is designed to explore outstanding domestic ACG works and talents, encourage the application of animation technology in various industries and fields and promote the development of the ACG industry through the exchange and the works competition events.

II. Schedule

April 2025 - July 18, 2025 Soliciting entries

August 2025 Pre-selection, initial evaluation, and initial shortlist announcement

September 2025 Final evaluation

October 2025 Announcement of winning entries and awards presentation ceremony

III. Categories of Entries

1. Animated Feature Film: Entries should be animated films produced for theatre screening with a duration of at least 60 minutes that have been filed by the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film, and Television.

2. **Animated Series:** Entries of the work are produced for TV or online platforms, and the relevant content is supposed to be divided into episodic production with a duration of no less than 3 minutes. The domestic animation series must have been registered and approved by the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film, and TV.

3. **Animated Short Film:** Entries should be animated short story films (including online animations) between 30 seconds to 60 minutes of the time range.

4. **Student Animated Film:** Entries should be created by current students at school and submitted by students individually or collectively selected by the school (excluding training institutions).

5. **Strait Star Special Animation Award:** Entries should be all types of animated works with complete plots, regardless of genre. This category is only open for submission by companies and studios registered in Fujian or Taiwan with independent legal status.

6. **Short-form Animated Videos :**Entries should be online animations that deliver a quick impact,

lasting more than 5 seconds but under 3 minutes.

7. Commercial Animation: Entries aimed at the commercial sphere are welcomed, including demo animations, advertisements, and engaging transition sequences.

8. Narrative Comic: Entries should be complete narrative comics with 8 or more pages, and at least an independent chapter within a complete storyline. Single or illustration works are not accepted.

9. Picture Book Comic: Entries should be picture book comic works.

10. Student Comic: Entries should be narrative comics created by current students at school and submitted by students individually or collectively selected by the school (excluding training institutions).

11. Strait Star Special Comic Award: Entries should be narrative comics in all forms of drawing. This category is only open for submission by companies and studios registered in Fujian or Taiwan with independent legal status.

IV. Prizes

In 2025, the 17th Cyber Sousa Award Animation Competition has 12 general awards with a total

prize of 1.01 million RMB. The specific settings are as tabled below.

Animation awards	Gold Prize	Silver Prizes	Nomination Prizes
	(One)	(Two)	(Three)
Best Animated Feature Film (Chinese Mainland)	40,000	20,000	10,000
Best Animated Series (Global)	40,000	20,000	10,000
Best Animated Short Film (Chinese Mainland)	30,000	20,000	10,000
Best Animated Short Film (Outside Chinese Mainland)	30,000	20,000	10,000
Best Student Animated Film	30,000	20,000	10,000

(Chinese Mainland)			
Straits Star Special Animation Award	30,000	20,000	10,000
Best Short Video Animation (Global)	30,000	20,000	5,000
Best Commercial Animation (Global)	30,000	20,000	5,000
Total prizes	790,000		
Comic Awards	Gold Prize	Silver Prizes	Nomination Prizes
	(One)	(Two)	(Three)
Best Narrative Comic (Global)	20,000	10,000	5,000
Best Picture Book Comic (Global)	20,000	10,000	5,000
Best Student Comic (Chinese	20,000	10,000	5,000

Mainland)			
Strait Star Special Comic Award	20,000	10,000	5,000
Total prizes	220,000		

Special Notes:

1.The prizes are all tax-inclusive, and the personal income tax related to the prize will be withheld and paid by the Xiamen International Animation Festival Organizing Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Organizing Committee).

2. If there are less than 12 works received for a category, the Organizing Committee reserves the right to leave the award vacant.

V. Submission Requirements

1. Entries must be the works completed after January 1, 2023. Please submit the work in accordance with the requirements of the awards settings. Each work can only be submitted once (for one award).

2. The region of the work is determined by the agreement of the copyright holder or the region of the creative team.

3. The following materials should be submitted together with the work:

(1) Registration form: Fill in the entry information through the online registration system for the Cyber Sousa Award here www.cybersousa.com.cn) an entry number will be generated after the online submission. Print off the registration form to sign or stamp on it. Only a complete and fully signed (or stamped) registration form can be effectively registered, and the deadline for registration is 23:59 on July 18, 2025.

(2) Format Requirements

① Animation: MP4, AVI, WMV, AFS, or MOV. For feature-length and short animations, the complete works must be submitted for evaluation. For an animated series, only one episode needs to be submitted. The video file resolution must not be lower than 720P.

② Comics: Works should be submitted in the format of JPG or PNG with a resolution of no less than 300DPI. Pictures should remain the original

size and be named in the reading sequence. Scroll comics are required to have a width of no less than 800px with no height restriction.

③ No company watermarking or the word "sample" shall appear in the works.

④ Language requirements: Chinese or English. If the original work is in a language other than Chinese or English, please attach a Chinese or English translation.

(3) Posters of the work: All entries must provide one poster or three screenshots (in JPG or PNG format) that contain the main scene(s) or character(s) of the work.

(4) Trailers of the work: Trailers of animation entries should be provided, and the duration should be no more than one minute.

(5) Other Supporting Materials: Entries for Best Animated Feature Film (Chinese Mainland) and Best Animated Series (Chinese Mainland) should have been filed by the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio and TV. The relevant documents should be stamped officially and submitted along with the entries.

All works apply for the Strait Star Special

Animation Award and the Strait Star Special Comic Award, the studios/enterprises are required to submit a copy of business licenses or equivalent licenses. Otherwise, it will be deemed ineligible.

4. The Organizing Committee has the right to disqualify the following works: the content violates or attacks the political system and legal system of the People's Republic of China; the content involves the excessive depiction of pornography, violence, blood, etc.; the content is suspected of copying, plagiarizing and infringing others' copyright; or the content violates other provisions of Cyber Sousa Award Animation Competition.

VI. Submission

1. Upload via the online system

Online registration system:

www.cybersousa.com.cn

2. Mail submission

(1) Save all the materials (entry works, posters, trailers, etc.) on a USB drive or CD and name the folder with the corresponding entry number generated after online submission before it is mailed out with the original registration form and other paper supporting materials to the Organizing

Committee.

(2) Mails to the XIAF Organizing Committee should be paid off in advance. The following declarations may be included if necessary: No Commercial Value! Cultural Use Only! Competition Entry Use Only!

(3) All USB drives and CDs sent with entries will not be returned unless there is a special request and pre-payment of the postage fee. The Organizing Committee does not assume any responsibility for the loss of the entries during the mailing process.

VII. The Judging Committee

1. The Judging Committee members are selected and determined by the Organizing Committee and will be responsible for selecting qualified entries for the Cyber Sousa Award Animation Competition through the evaluation of the entries.

2. No member shall participate in the selection of any entry works with any form of connection.

3. The Judging Committee shall judge the submitted works upon their production and aesthetic quality, especially on the creativity and innovation of the works.

VIII. The Jury

1. The judging team of the official competition consists of no less than 12 people.

2. No member shall participate in the selection of any entry works in which he or she has any form of connection.

3. The selection procedures and criteria of the awards are specified by the judging committee. In case of exceptional circumstances, the jury may recommend the awards of vacancy in writing to the Organizing Committee who will decide whether to leave the awards vacant.

4. The jury committee will select the winning entries for each award and determine the winners.

IX. Copyright

1. Each entrant must be the original author or legal owner of their entry. If the work is created collectively, the entrant must provide a written guarantee of legal ownership of the work; if this is not possible, the work must be entered in the name of all authors.

2. The copyright of the entries belongs to the entrant, and the Organizing Committee may digitally save the selected entries. All entrants will

be deemed as having agreed to authorize the Organizing Committee the right to use the entries in the following circumstances (without further notice or payment), including but not limited to:

(1) Entries and related materials are to be used for the promotion of events related to the official media, cooperative media, and cooperation platforms of the Organizing Committee.

(2) Entries and related materials are to be used in the award ceremony.

(3) Entries and related materials are to be displayed in the competition exhibitions (including touring exhibitions).

(4) The shortlisted works and related materials are to be collected and published.

(5) The award-winning works will be invited to attend the series of supporting activities for the Cyber Sousa Award Competition.

X. Invitation

1. Representatives of all the shortlisted entries will be invited to attend the Cyber Sousa Award ceremony and other supporting activities, whereby limited accommodation and meals will be provided, subject to the final notification of the Organizing

Committee.

2. All shortlisted entries will be recommended to the Organizing Committee partners on a priority basis.

XI. Awards Presentation

1. The awards presentation ceremony is currently scheduled to take place in October 2025 and shall be organized by the Organizing Committee.

2. The Organizing Committee will invite representatives of the finalists of the Cyber Sousa Award to attend the award ceremony. The invited representatives should be the main author (individual works) or the vice president or above of the enterprise (for enterprise works) to attend the award ceremony. Winners who are not available can authorize a substitute to receive the award on their behalf, and the recipient must submit a written power of attorney and corresponding identity proof to the Organizing Committee. In case of exceptional circumstances, please contact the Organizing Committee in advance. Failure to explain the situation in advance and a no-show will be considered as forfeiting the award.

3. The Gold and Silver Award winners will receive the Cyber Sousa Award trophies, certificates, and prize money. The nomination winners and Individual Animated Short Film Award winners will receive the Cyber Sousa Award medals, certificates, and prize money.

4. With the winners' consent, the Organizing Committee may arrange exclusive media interviews.

XII. Legal Items

1. The entrants must ensure that information in the registration forms is authentic and valid, and that they are the legal owners of the entries and the copyrights who should shoulder corresponding legal responsibilities. In the event that others claim rights for the entries, the entrant shall bear all losses incurred. In case of any considerable influence or losses to the Organizing Committee or the competition, the entrant shall assume the compensation liability.

2. Entrants are free to participate in other similar competitions or related commercial activities before or after the Cyber Sousa Award Animation Competition, however, any

consequences caused from the conflicts with other competition regulations should be borne solely by the entrants.

3. Entries that have submitted complete registration forms will be deemed to have unconditionally accepted the rules and regulations established by the Organizing Committee. In the event of any disputes, they shall be referred to the Xiamen Municipal Arbitration Commission for arbitration. Only the Chinese version of these Rules has the force of law.

XIII. Supplementary Provisions

1. Other provisions together with these Entry Rules will be released by the Organizing Committee on the official portal website of the XIAF (www.cybersousa.com.cn).

2. These Entry Rules will take effect from the day it is released.

3. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to final interpretation of the Entry Rules.

XIV. Contact Information

1. The Organizing Committee of the Cyber Sousa Award of Xiamen International Animation Festival

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The Organizing Committee of
the Xiamen International Animation Festival

April 23, 2025

