

Entry Rules of The 2026 (18th) Cyber Sousa Award

Animation Competition

I. Purpose

The Cyber Sousa Award Animation Competition aims to discover outstanding domestic animation works and talents through international exchange and evaluation of animation works, encourage the application of animation technology across various industries and fields, and promote the development of the animation and game industry.

II. Schedule

- May 2026 – July 31, 2026: Submission Period
- September 2026: Preliminary Selection, Initial Review & Shortlist Announcement
- October 2026: Final Review, Winners Announcement & Awards Ceremony

III. Entry Categories

1. Animated Feature Film (Domestic): Theatrical productions with a runtime of no less than 60 minutes that have obtained filing and project approval from the National Film Administration, National Radio and Television Administration.

2. Animated Series (Domestic and International): Television or online platform productions divided into multiple episodes, with each episode no less than 3 minutes in length. Domestic animated series shall have obtained filing and project approval from the National Film Administration, National Radio and Television Administration.

3. Animated Short Film: Animated narrative works between 30 seconds and 60 minutes in length, including online animations.

4. Student Animation: Entries must be animation works created by students during their enrollment period, submitted either individually by the student or collectively by the school (excluding social training institutions).

5. Commercial Animation: Industry application or market-oriented animation works, such as demonstration animations, advertising animations, cutscene animations, etc.

6. Cross-Strait Star Special Award for Animation: Complete animated works of any type. The creative team shall be an enterprise or an independently legal-entity studio registered in Fujian Province or Taiwan Region.

7. Best Comic: Entries must be comic works consisting of no fewer than 8 panels, and must constitute at least one independent chapter of a complete storyline.

8. Student Comic: Entries must be narrative comic works created by students during their enrollment period, submitted either individually by the student or collectively by the school (excluding social training institutions).

IV. Awards

The 2026 (18th) Cyber Sousa Award Animation Competition features 8 comprehensive awards with a total prize pool of RMB 600,000. The specific award settings are as follows:

No.	Award Category	Gold Prize	Silver Prizes	Nomination Prizes
		(1 winner)	(2 winners)	(3 winners)
1	Best Animated Feature Film (Chinese Mainland)	CNY 50,000	CNY 30,000	\
2	Best Animated Series (Domestic and International)	CNY 50,000	CNY 30,000	\
3	Best Animated Short Film (Chinese Mainland)	CNY 30,000	CNY 20,000	\
	Best Animated Short Film (Outside Chinese Mainland)	CNY 30,000	CNY 20,000	\
4	Best Commercial Animation (Domestic and International)	CNY 30,000	CNY 20,000	\
5	Best Student Animation (Chinese Mainland)	CNY 30,000	CNY 10,000	\
6	Best Comic (Domestic and International)	CNY 30,000	CNY 20,000	\
7	Best Student Comic (Chinese Mainland)	CNY 10,000	CNY 5,000	\
8	Cross-Strait Star Special Award for Animation	1 winner, CNY 30,000		

Notes:

1. The prizes are tax-inclusive. The Organizing Committee shall withhold and remit the corresponding individual income tax.

2. If fewer than 12 entries are submitted for a particular award category, the Organizing Committee reserves the right to leave that award vacant.

V. Submission Requirements

1. Entries shall have been completed after January 1, 2024. Each work shall be submitted for only one award category.

2. The regional classification of a work shall be determined by the copyright agreement or the region to which the core creative team belongs.

3. The following materials shall be submitted for each entry:

(1) Registration Form: Complete the entry information through the Cyber Sousa Award online registration system (website: www.cybersousa.com.cn). Upon online submission, an “Entry Number” will be generated. Print the registration form and sign or stamp it. Only registration forms that are fully completed and signed or stamped will be valid for registration and participation. The registration deadline is 23:59 on July 31, 2026.

(2) Entry Format Requirements:

①Animation: MP4, AVI, WMV, AFS, or MOV format. Feature films and short films shall be submitted in full. For animated series, only one episode is required. Resolution shall not be lower than 720P.

②Comic: JPG or PNG format, resolution not lower than 300 DPI, original dimensions preserved, named in reading order. For webcomic strips, width shall be no less than 800 px.

③ Entries shall not contain company watermarks or text such as “sample”.

④Language: Chinese or English. If the original work is not in Chinese or English, please attach Chinese and English translations.

(3) Poster: All entries shall provide a poster or 3 screenshots in JPG or PNG format.

(4) Trailer: Animation entries shall provide a trailer no longer than 1 minute.

(5) Supporting Documents: Entries for the domestic “Best Animated Feature Film” and “Best Animated Series” categories shall have obtained filing and project approval from the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film, and TV. Supporting documents with an official seal shall be submitted together with the entry.

Entries for the “Cross-Strait Star Special Award for Animation” shall submit a copy of the business license or corresponding certificate.

4. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to disqualify any entry that: violates or denigrates the political and legal systems of the People’s Republic of China; contains pornographic, violent or gory content; involves plagiarism or copyright infringement; or otherwise breaches competition rules.

VI. Submission Methods

Method 1: Online Upload

Online registration system: www.cybersousa.com.cn

Method 2: Mail Submission

(1) Store the entry, poster, trailer, and other supporting documents on a USB drive or CD. Name the folder with the corresponding “Entry Number”. Mail the USB drive or CD together with the original registration form and other paper supporting documents to the Organizing Committee.

(2) Shipping costs shall be prepaid. A declaration may be attached stating: no commercial value, for cultural purposes only, for competition selection only.

(3) USB drives or CDs will not be returned unless specifically requested and return shipping fees are prepaid in advance. The Organizing Committee assumes no responsibility for loss during mailing.

VII. Selection Committee

1. Members of the Selection Committee are appointed by the Organizing Committee. Their duty is to select qualified entries for the Cyber Sousa Award Animation Competition.

2. No member shall participate in the evaluation of any entry where they have any interest or association.

3. The Selection Committee will evaluate submitted works based on quality and entertainment value, with special emphasis on innovation.

VIII. Judging Committee

1. The official Judging Committee shall consist of no fewer than 12 members.

2. No judge may evaluate any entry with which they have any form of affiliation.

3. The judging procedures and criteria shall be determined by the Judging Committee. In special circumstances, the Judging Committee may submit a written request to the Organizing Committee to leave an award vacant, and the Organizing Committee shall make the final decision.

4. The Judging Committee shall select the winning works for each award category and determine the final list of winners.

IX. Copyright

1. Each entrant shall be the author or legal owner of their entry. For works created collectively, the entrant shall provide written assurance of legal ownership; if such assurance cannot be provided, the work shall be entered in the name of all authors.

2. Copyright of entries remains with the entrants. The Organizing Committee may digitally archive selected works. By registering, all entrants are deemed to have authorized the Organizing Committee to use their entries and related materials (without further notice or payment of remuneration) in the following circumstances:

- (1) For promotional activities on the Organizing Committee's official media, partner media, and partner platforms;
- (2) For the award ceremony;
- (3) For exhibition of the Competition (including touring exhibitions);
- (4) For production and printing of shortlisted entries portfolios;
- (5) For use in the series of supporting activities of the Cyber Sousa Award Animation Competition.

X. Invitations

1. All entrants of shortlisted entries will be invited to attend the award ceremony and supporting activities, subject to final notification by the Organizing Committee.

2. All shortlisted entries will be given priority for introduction to the Organizing Committee's partners.

XI. Awards Ceremony

1. The award ceremony will be organized by the Organizing Committee and is tentatively scheduled for October 2026.

2. The Organizing Committee will invite representatives of shortlisted entries to attend the award ceremony. Invited individuals shall be the core creative personnel (for individual works) or a deputy general manager or higher executive of the enterprise (for enterprise works). Winners unable to attend in person may authorize another person to accept the award on their behalf; the representative shall submit a written authorization letter and corresponding identification to the Organizing Committee. If special circumstances apply, please contact the Organizing Committee in advance. Failure to notify in advance and absence from the ceremony will be deemed as forfeiture of the award.

3. Gold Prize and Silver Prize winners will receive a trophy, prize money, and certificate from the Organizing Committee; Nomination Prize winners will receive a certificate.

4. Subject to the winner's consent, the Organizing Committee will arrange media interviews.

XII. Legal Matters

1. All entrants shall ensure that the information in the registration form is true and valid, that they are the legal owners of their entries and hold the copyright, and bear corresponding legal responsibilities. Any losses or liabilities arising from claims by third parties shall be borne by the entrant. If the entrant causes serious impact or loss to the Organizing Committee or the Competition, the entrant shall bear compensation liability.

2. Entrants are not restricted by the Organizing Committee from using their entries in other similar competitions or commercial activities outside the timeframe of this Competition; however, any consequences arising from conflicts with the regulations of other competition organizers or relevant institutions shall be borne by the entrant.

3. By submitting a completed registration form, entrants are deemed to have unconditionally accepted the rules and regulations established by the Organizing Committee. In the event of any dispute, it shall be submitted to the Xiamen Arbitration Commission for arbitration. Only the Chinese version of these Entry Rules has the force of law.

XIII. Supplementary Provisions

1. These competition rules and other related regulations involved shall be published by the Organizing Committee through the official website at www.cybersousa.com.cn.

2. These competition rules shall take effect from the date of publication.

3. The Organizing Committee reserves the right of final interpretation of these competition rules.

XIV. Contact Information

ASIFA-CHINA

Address: Room 1002, Building 3, Zijin Digital Park, Haidian District, Beijing

Tel: 010-62662716

Email: works@asifa.cn

Xiamen International Animation Festival Organizing Committee Office

May 18, 2026