

# SAKURA-CON 2019 AMV CONTEST RULES

October 19, 2018

Sakura-Con's AMV contest is an event for fans to showcase their creative talents in the form of music videos. The Contest is open to anyone, be they amateur or professional. Attendance is not required, but is strongly encouraged.

Finalists will be shown during the main competition while selected non-finalist entries will be presented during the pre-show just before the main competition, time permitting. All other accepted non-finalists will be played in the AMV Theatre during the weekend, time permitting.

**DEADLINE:** Friday, 11:59 PST, March 1, 2019

**GO TO THE FOLLOWING LINK TO REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE:** <http://sakuracon.org/contests/amv/>

## QUICK RULES SUMMARY:

- Submission duration limits: The duration limits for each submission are as follows:
  - AMV Entries: 75 seconds minimum, 6 min maximum.
  - Trailers: 1 min minimum, 3 min 30 sec maximum.
  - Commercials: No minimum, 60 sec maximum.
  - Intros: 15 seconds, 1min 30 sec maximum.
- No more than three entries per person/group. Commercials & Intros ARE AN EXCEPTION from this rule.
- No subtitles, watermarks, logos, credits, references to other contests or text that is unnecessary to the concept.
- Must not have premiered before September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.
- The majority of your entry's video content must consist of anime-styled or manga-styled content.
- Audio for all AMV entries (except Trailer/Commercial/Intro) must be majority music. No excessive dialogue.
- Must be age 13+ appropriate.
- AMV-Hell style entries will not be accepted.
- Must satisfy our technical requirements.

## SUMMARY OF CATEGORIES

Entrants are to classify each entry under one of the following categories:

- Action
- Drama
- Humor
- Fun & Play
- Romance & Sentiment
- Rhythm
- Trailer
- Commercials & Intros

Depending on the kind of entries we receive, these categories may be modified or combined to ensure competitive balance. The coordinators and judges may re-categorize any entry they deem incorrect for the category the creator intended.

## SUMMARY OF AWARDS

AUDIENCE AWARDS (as chosen by Ballot during the contest screening at con):

- Audience's Best of Show
- Best video in each category

JUDGES AWARDS:

- Judges' Choice
- Best Technical
- Best Concept

We will attempt to ship awards and prizes to those not present at the event. Depending on the destination, we may require you to pay part of the postal fee. We will contact you after the event to make any arrangements.

A proxy may also be named to pick up awards and trophies for any creator(s) not present. If you wish to name a proxy, follow all the instructions on the "Generate Proxy Form" page when logged into Sakura-Con's 2019 AMV Contest page.

## OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

1. The duration limits for each submission are as follows:
  - o AMV Entries: 75 seconds minimum, 6 min maximum.
  - o Trailers: 1 min minimum, 3 min 30 sec maximum.
  - o Commercials: No minimum, 60 sec maximum.
  - o Intros: 15 seconds, 1min 30 sec maximum.
2. Only three entries will be accepted per individual or group. Entrants may submit multiple entries into a single category, but even if two or more qualify for the finals, only the highest scoring entry may advance. Commercials & Intros ARE AN EXCEPTION from this rule and have NO submission limits.
3. All entries submitted must be the work of the person or group as listed on their entry form. Entries found to have been plagiarized from other AMVs may result in disqualification and/or banishment from our future AMV events.
4. The majority of your entry's video content must consist of anime-styled or manga-styled content. Consideration will be given to other sources that also fit the spirit of this event.
5. The audio content of all AMV entries must primarily be music. Entries with an excess of non-musical content (i.e. narration or dialogue) may be disqualified. Trailers, Commercials, and Intros are exempt from this rule.
6. Entries that use footage containing subtitles, watermarks, text, studio logos, and references to other contests or graphic overlays may be disqualified. Exceptions may be granted if such usage is intentional and plainly necessary to the video's concept.
7. Entries that include any inextricable credits, bumpers or slates will be disqualified. Sakura-Con will create custom-designed titles.
8. The content and context of each entry must be suitable for an age 13+ audience. This includes (but is not limited to) gore, vulgar language, nudity, heavy sexual innuendo, and material that is demeaning or demoralizing.
9. Entries that are primarily a reel of multiple unrelated and random micro-AMVs (AKA: AMV-Hell styled entries) are not eligible.
10. Minimum-effort entries may be disqualified. A minimal effort entry is an entry that consists of largely uncut segments of the original source video.
11. Previously released videos (i.e. AMVs shown publicly at other contests or downloadable on the internet) must not have premiered prior to **September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018** in order to be able to participate in the contest.
12. All entries must satisfy our Technical Requirements.
13. Sakura-Con AMV staff and contest judges are ineligible to compete.
14. You unconditionally grant us eternal, irrevocable, and limitless permission to use, copy, share, and exhibit your submission(s) in any way including for purposes and usages outside of or unrelated to this event, and you grant this permission with no expectation of compensation, remuneration, or any form of obligation from us of any kind.
15. The AMV Contest Coordinators and judges are the final interpreters of all rules. Their decisions are final.
16. All rules, prizes, and methods of judging for the Sakura-Con AMV Contest are subject to change at any time without notice. We will attempt advise any changes via the Sakura-Con website and the AnimeMusicVideos.org and similar forums.

## TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATIONS\*

1. We recommend MP4 or MKV file formats. We also accept AVI, MOV, M2TS, or MPG, but they are not recommended. Any other file format will be rejected.
2. We recommend H.264/AVC 8-bit codecs. We strongly recommend *against* using antiquated codecs such as XVID, or bleeding-edge codecs such as 10-bit or H.265/HEVC.
3. We recommend file sizes of 350 MB or smaller. We reserve the right to reject files that we deem to be excessively large.
4. We recommend inserting one second of empty black silence to the start and end of each entry.

**\*BE ADVISED:** For the convenience of our judges, we reserve the right to transcode any entries to fit the above recommendations.

## QUALITY METRICS:

1. The following video issues shall be considered technical flaws:
  - Interlacing
  - Squashed or stretched aspect ratios, or improper letterboxing/matting
  - Chunky/blocky video
  - Color banding (i.e. Color gradients caused by video re-compression)
  - Blurry video
  - Heavily aliased/jagged lines
  - Low-resolution entries
    - 720p is the minimum if using sources that were officially released in HD.
    - 480p is the minimum if using sources that were never officially released in HD.
2. The following audio issues shall be considered technical flaws:
  - Audible distortion
  - Levels that are overdriven or clipped
  - Levels that are too low. We recommend normalizing to -0.5db peak
  - Low sample-rate/bitrate
  - Audible discontinuities or jumps caused by flawed audio edits
  - Pitch-shifted or speed-adjusted audio (unless by obvious artistic necessity)

Entries that require a strange or unusual degree of difficulty to work with shall be considered technically flawed.

If you have questions regarding these technical requirements, please contact us at [amv@sakuracon.org](mailto:amv@sakuracon.org).

## SUBMISSION METHODS

To submit your entry(s), you will need to enter all the required information into the online system (found on the AMV Contest page at [www.sakuracon.org](http://www.sakuracon.org)) following these steps:

- Create a user account. Please be sure to provide all the required information.
- Under "Submit Video", enter the information for each of your entries. Choose a delivery method for each entry (FTP or LINK).

**FTP:** Use the FTP information provided under "FTP Info", upload your entries as follows:

- Create a Directory to match your submitted studio name (or real name if you don't have one).
- Name your uploaded file with your Submission number and video title.

**LINK:** Videos may be accepted via upload sites (i.e.: web links, Dropbox, Sendspace, etc) provided that we do not need to subscribe for access. Provide the URL link in the space provided. (Streaming sites such as YouTube will not be accepted.)

If you're unable to get us your entry in any of the above methods, please contact us at [amv@sakuracon.org](mailto:amv@sakuracon.org) to see if we can work out an alternative method.