

Sakura-Con AMV Contest 2023 - Official Rules

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

DEADLINE: Friday, 11:59 PST, February 17, 2023

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

GENERAL RULES FOR ALL ENTRIES

- 1) Submission duration limits:
 - a) AMV Entries: 75 seconds minimum, 6 min maximum
 - b) Trailers: 1 min minimum, 3 min 30 sec maximum.
 - c) Intros & Commercials: 15 seconds minimum, 2 minute maximum.
- 2) Must not have premiered online nor at any event prior to July 15th, 2022.
- 3) No more than three (3) entries per person or group.
 - *(Commercials & Intros ARE AN EXCEPTION — send as many as you wish.)*
- 4) All entries must be age 13+ appropriate in content as well as context.
- 5) Must satisfy our audio/video quality metrics.
- 6) Clipshow style entries (i.e. “AMV-Hell”) will not be accepted.
- 7) No irrelevant subtitles, karaoke lyrics, credits, watermarks, trademarks, self-promotion, nor references to other events.
 - *(Commercials, Trailers, & Intros ARE AN EXCEPTION.)*
- 8) Video content must primarily consist of material that fits the anime/manga style and spirit.
- 9) Audio content must primarily be music, with or without lyrics. No speeches unrelated to music.
 - *(Commercials, Trailers, & Intros ARE AN EXCEPTION.)*

NOTE: Rule exceptions may be considered under rare circumstances. See “Additional Details & Policies” #7 for details on how we determine such exceptions.

CATEGORIES

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

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

Entries are subject to recategorization if deemed incorrect for the category the editor requested. Also, the categories themselves may be modified to ensure competitive balance in the event that a category receives a low number of entries.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS & POLICIES

- 1) 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 – If it qualifies, it advances.)*
- 2) Entries may not include their own inextricable credit slates. We create a uniform credit slate for all entries we exhibit.
- 3) Entries that consist of largely uncut segments of the original source video may be disqualified as “minimal effort”.
- 4) Entries may not contain excessive gore, obscene language, nudity, heavy sexual innuendo, nor any content that is demeaning or demoralizing.
- 5) Sakura-Con AMV staff and contest judges are ineligible to compete.
- 6) All entries must be the work of the person or group specified on their entry form. Plagiarism of other AMVs (in whole or in part) may result in disqualification and/or banishment from future AMV events.
- 7) The coordinators may choose to accept an entry that would otherwise be disqualified if the entry meets all of the following circumstances:
 - a) The entry would adversely be affected by a rule in an unanticipated manner or against the rule’s intent.
 - b) The entry exhibits an impressively unique concept, exceptional craftsmanship, and zero technical flaws.
- 8) All entrants unconditionally and irrevocably grant Sakura-Con/ANCEA the eternal and limitless permission to use, copy, share, and exhibit all submission(s) in any way including for purposes and usages outside of or unrelated to this event, and grant this permission with no expectation of compensation, remuneration, or any form of obligation from neither Sakura-Con, ANCEA, its staff nor its officers.
- 9) The AMV Contest Coordinators and judges are the final arbiters of all rules. Their decisions are final.
- 10) All rules, prizes, and methods of judging for the Sakura-Con AMV Contest are subject to change at any time without notice. Reasonable efforts will be made to announce such changes via the Sakura-Con website and the AnimeMusicVideos.org forums.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

- 1) We strongly recommend the MP4 file format.
- 2) We recommend H.264/AVC 8-bit codecs. We DO NOT recommend next-generation codecs such as 10-bit, AV1, or H.265/HEVC.
- 3) We recommend file sizes of 350 MB or smaller.
- 4) We recommend inserting one second of empty black silence to the start and end of each entry.

BE ADVISED: We accept entries that don’t follow the above standards, but such entries will be adjusted to conform to them. We will do this with care, but there is a risk of a quality impact. To avoid this risk, please follow the above standards.

AUDIO & VIDEO QUALITY METRICS

- 1) The following video issues shall be considered technical flaws:
 - a) Interlacing
 - b) Squashed or stretched aspect ratios, or improper letterboxing/matting
 - c) Chunky/blocky video
 - d) Color banding (i.e. Color gradients caused by video re-compression)

- e) Blurry video
 - f) Heavily aliased/jagged lines
 - g) Low-resolution entries
 - i) 720p is the minimum if using sources that were officially released in HD.
 - ii) 480p is the minimum if using sources that were never officially released in HD.
- 2) The following audio issues shall be considered technical flaws:
- a) Audible distortion
 - b) Levels that are overdriven or clipped
 - c) Levels that are too low. We recommend normalizing to -0.5db peak
 - d) Low sample-rate/bitrate
 - e) Audible discontinuities or jumps caused by flawed audio edits
 - f) 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.

SUMMARY OF AWARDS

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

- Audience's Best of Show
- Best of 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, please specify them when registering to participate.

HOW WE PRESENT YOUR ENTRIES

Finalists will be shown during the main contest exhibition. During event seating, a pre-show whereby selected non-finalist entries chosen by the coordinators are presented on a non-competing basis, time permitting. Other accepted non-finalist entries are played in the AMV Theatre during the weekend, time permitting.

SUBMISSION METHODS

You will need to provide a way for us to obtain your entry. We recommend Dropbox or Google Drive, but we will accept most other methods as well.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions, please contact us at amv@sakuracon.org. Thank you!