

## AnimeNEXT 2012 Anime Music Video Contest Rules

Please read these rules in their entirety. All dates are for 2012 unless specified otherwise. Entries that fail to follow these rules are subject to disqualification. Any questions about these rules should be directed to: [amv@animenext.org](mailto:amv@animenext.org)

- 1. Deadline:** All entries submitted online must be in by **11:59 P.M. Eastern Time on May 5**. All entries submitted by post must be postmarked by **May 5** and arrive at our P.O. box by **May 12**. All entries must be accompanied by a completed **entry form**, the blank version of which is available at: <http://www.animenext.org/wordpress/events/amv>
- 2. Who May (Not) Enter:** Any videos created in whole or in part by a member of the AnimeNEXT staff may not be submitted, except as noncompeting. Anyone else may enter, with the understanding that by so doing, you give us permission to show your video(s) at AnimeNEXT 2012. You do not need to attend AnimeNEXT in order to enter, and indicating that you will/won't attend the con will not affect your chances of making the finals or winning.
- 3. Number of Entries:** You may submit a maximum of **two (2) videos** to the contest. Each video you submit must be your own work, either in whole or as part of a collaboration. A collaborative video counts against the two-video maximum for every collaborator, no matter which collaborator actually submits it.
- 4. Rule #4:** There is no rule #4.
- 5. Age of Entries:** All entries must have been completed on or after **May 1, 2011**.
- 6. Length of Entries:** Trailer/commercial-style videos have a minimum length of **30 seconds**. All other videos have a minimum length of **1 minute**. There is **no maximum length**.
- 7. Video Sources:** The video component of each entry must consist of **at least 75%** footage from anime, manga, and/or video games of Japanese origin. Anime is here defined as animation produced by the Japanese and originally released primarily for a Japanese audience (plus special cases such as *Vampire Hunter D: Bloodlust* and *Afro Samurai*).
- 8. Audio Sources:** Except for trailer/commercial-style videos, the audio component of each entry should be mostly music. Audio from English dubs of anime is not permitted, as North American voice actors and industry representatives regularly attend the convention.
- 9. Objectionable Content:** Sexual nudity and excessive gore/violence are not permitted. Any profanities that would not be permissible to broadcast uncensored on terrestrial radio between 6 A.M. and 10 P.M. are not permitted (see <http://transition.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/obscene.pdf> for details). Bleeping out such profanities is fine, as is pasting in a similar part of the audio that does not contain profanity.
- 10. Other Prohibited Video Elements: Bumpers or credit sequences** to identify yourself or the sources used in your video are not permitted. (We will be creating our own standard title cards containing all of this information for each video.) **Subtitles** are not permitted unless you added them yourself. **Watermarks and logos**, whether belonging to broadcasters, fansub groups, codecs (such as the DivX logo that can be disabled from the codec options), or whatever else, are not permitted. See

the Subtitle & Logo Removal Guide at <http://www.a-m-v.org/guides/> if you need help removing such distractions from your video. Of course, the best way to avoid this problem is to support the industry and buy the home video releases.

**11. Judging:** In the highly probable event that we receive more competing entries than can fit into the two hours allowed for our contest screenings, our panel of judges will prescreen the videos and select the finalists. Even if an entry does not make finals, it will still be shown at one of our overflow/noncompeting screenings, as long as it is not disqualified for breaking the rules given above. The exception to this is the unlikely event that we receive so many entries that we cannot fit them all into these blocks. In that case, we would not be able to guarantee that any particular video would be played, but we would prioritize videos whose creators had indicated they would attend the convention.

**12. Categories:** After the finalist videos have been selected, we will decide on the categories, based on the thematic elements present in the qualifying videos. In other words, we will select the categories to fit the finalists instead of fixing the categories up front, so that categories are not considered in the selection of the finalists. Therefore, we do not know yet what the final categories will be, except that they will be some combination of the following:

- Action
- Artistic
- Character Profile
- Comedy
- Dance
- Dramatic/Serious
- Fun
- Horror
- Romance
- Segmented/"Hell"-style
- Sentimental
- Trailer/Parody
- Uplifting

Entrants should select two to four (2-4) of the above elements for each video entered as competing on the entry form. Though we will do our best to honor the creators' preferences as specified on the entry form, the judges have final say over how the qualifying videos are sorted into categories.

**13. Awards:** The audience will vote on the qualifying videos at the convention. These votes will decide the Best [Category] awards and runners-up. In addition, the judges will select one video for the Judges' Award, to be awarded to an entry we deemed worthy of special recognition that did not win the audience vote in its category (runners-up are still eligible). The winners will be announced at the Masquerade intermission on Saturday night of the convention.

**14. Technical Specifications:**

- Resolution: Minimum and preferred height is 480 pixels. Anything smaller is bound to look poor when played on the big screen at the convention, and nobody wants that; anything bigger will be downscaled to a DVD-compliant resolution. **Please be mindful of title-safe/action-safe zones**, so that nothing important in your video gets cut off when played over the projectors at the convention.
- (Display) Aspect Ratio: Use either 4:3 or 16:9. Yes, we will accept MPEG-1 and MPEG-2 files

encoded for anamorphic 16:9 playback.

- Framerate: 23.976 and 29.97 are strongly preferred. As we are running the contest from DVD, higher framerates just mean we will have to drop frames to get it down to spec. We will do our best to accommodate other frame rates, but we recommend you do the conversion yourself to be sure that the result looks the way you want it.
- Audio channels: Mono or stereo only. The screening rooms at the convention are not equipped for surround sound.
- Audio sample rate: 48000 Hz is preferred; at least 44100 Hz is required.
- Audio bit depth: Minimum and preferred depth is 16 bits.
- Bitrate: With the exception of MPEG-2s (see below), send us the highest-quality file you can. Size is no object.

**15. Acceptable Video Formats:** We will accept videos in the following containers. If you don't see it on this list, don't ask.

- **MPEG-2: Preferred**, as all other formats will be converted to MPEG-2. Please send a DVD-spec file if possible so that we do not have to re-encode: 720x480, minimum video bitrate 2000kbps, maximum 8000kbps, 48000 Hz MPEG-1 Layer II audio at 384kbps (or send the audio as a separate file). Yes, 23.976fps progressive with the 3:2 pulldown upon playback flag set is acceptable.
- **MPEG-1:** Send the highest quality file possible.
- **AVI:** We can transcode from a variety of codecs, but we prefer a lossless codec (HuffYUV, Lagarith, etc.) for maximum video quality. Uncompressed audio is also preferred. We will let you know if we cannot decode the file.
- **Matroska/MKV:** see AVI
- **MPEG-4:** see AVI
- **Windows Media (WMV)** - Please only use this as a last resort; if you edited your video in Windows Movie Maker, it is highly preferable to export it using the "DV AVI" option instead, or else use the very high bitrate WMV profile at:  
<http://www.aquilinestudios.org/VHQWMV2.prx> (save it to C:\Program Files\Movie Maker\Shared\Profiles\)
- **Quicktime (MOV)** - Please only use this as a last resort

**16. Acceptable Audio Formats:** Sending the audio as a separate file is always acceptable; we accept WAV (linear PCM only please), MP2, MP3, OGG, AAC, AC3, M4A, and FLAC. Otherwise, keep it in with the video file and use one of the same codecs just mentioned.

**17. Filename:** Whether submitting by mail or online, please name your file in the format: "[pseudonym/studio name] - [video title].[extension]" (or if you did not specify a pseudonym on the entry form, then your real name). For example: "Aquiline Studios - And Now, a Word From Our Sponsors.mpg"

**18. Submitting by Post:** If you choose this option, please send your file on a data CD or DVD. We do not accept submissions on VHS tape. If sending a DVD, do not author a video disc; just burn as a normal data disk. Please use a marker to label the surface of the disc with your pseudonym/studio name (or if you did not specify one on the entry form, then your real name) and the title of your video(s). **Include a copy of your completed entry form**, either printed out or as a file on the disk. Do not send your only copy, as you will not get the disc back. Again, videos sent by post must be

postmarked by **May 5** and arrive by **May 12**. The address to send your entries to is:

**AnimeNEXT 2012 AMV Contest**

**c/o Peter Tom-Wolverton**

**P.O. Box 383**

**Lake Hiawatha, NJ 07034**

**19. Submitting Online:** If you choose this option, you must send an e-mail to [amv@animenext.org](mailto:amv@animenext.org) to request an FTP account (and your video(s) need not actually be completed yet for you to send this request). The deadline for getting a guaranteed FTP account is the end of **April 29**; we will do our best to fulfil requests after this date, but we cannot make guarantees. No account requests that arrive on May 5 or later will be fulfilled.

Once you receive a reply indicating that your account has been activated, use an FTP client such as Core FTP, FileZilla, WS\_FTP, etc. to upload your video(s) to our FTP server. Then, send us another e-mail to indicate that the upload completed successfully, so that we know we can download it and start processing. (We wouldn't want to mistake a partial upload for the real thing!) **Include a copy of your completed entry form**, either as an attachment to your e-mail or by uploading it with your video(s) to our FTP server. Again, videos sent online (and their respective entry forms) must be completely received by the end of **May 5**.

- We will not accept direct links from file storage websites such as RapidShare, MediaFire, YouSendIt, etc. or from your own webspace, nor will we allow file transfers over services such as IRC or AOLIM.

**20. Because We Say So:** The AnimeNEXT AMV staff reserve the right to make clarifications to these rules as necessary. We also reserve the right to reject any entry for any reason.