

## **VOTING AND SOLICITATION GUIDELINES: PRESERVING THE INTEGRITY OF THE GRAMMY AWARDS PROCESS**

It is the Recording Academy's goal to ensure that the GRAMMY® Awards process is led in a fair and ethical manner and requires that voting members make their choices based solely on the artistic and technical merits of the eligible recordings. In efforts to maintain a high degree of integrity and transparency, it is crucial that the following guidelines be understood and observed.

If any activity is determined to work in opposition to the Recording Academy's guidelines, the Academy may take any corrective actions, including disqualification of submission. Furthermore, any member who has authorized, executed or otherwise enabled a voting solicitation activity that is deemed to have undermined the letter or spirit of these regulations may be subject to suspension of membership or expulsion from the Recording Academy.

For more information about the Awards Rules, including eligibility and submission procedures, [click here](#).

### **Voter Code of Conduct**

- Voters shall not allow their choices to be suggested, directed or influenced by anything other than their own conscience, including, but not limited to: personal friendships, company loyalties, regional preferences or mass sales.
- Voters shall not accept money or anything of value in exchange for votes or access to other members (member lists and contact information are confidential).
- Voters shall not enter into any agreements or understandings on how to vote. This includes without limitation:
  - 'Voting Blocs,' or groups of voters who agree to vote together. Such groups may include but are not limited to: voters affiliated with a particular record label, management company, or voters linked through social media.
  - 'Vote Trading,' or offering to vote in any manner in exchange for another's vote.

### **For Your Consideration (FYC) Policies**

While FYC-type events, screenings, advertisements and formal communications are not prohibited outside of the Recording Academy, the numbers specific to an official Awards category, field and/or balloting are proprietary information belonging to the organization; such information, including entry lists and finals lists, may not be used, disclosed, published or otherwise distributed in connection with any event, advertisement, or for any other purpose.

### **Hosting FYC Events**

Independent FYC events, programs, or activities may be hosted if they adhere to the guidelines set forth in this document. FYC activities may not include any complimentary meals, alcoholic beverages, gifts, or any other hospitality that could be inferred as a value exchange for vote consideration. Anything considered ‘unreasonable’ promotion or gifting and reported to the Recording Academy by a member will be considered prohibited.

### **Attending FYC Events**

If members are invited to a ticketed FYC event or program, they must purchase tickets at full price (no comps).

### **Gifting Show Tickets**

As normal course of business, talent can provide individual ticket access and meet & greet opportunities through their own personal networks. However, wide-spread gifting of show tickets to members as part of an explicit FYC/vote solicitation campaign is not allowed, and opportunities will not be provided through the Chapter to its membership, Governors and/or Trustees. Said tickets must be purchased by the member invitee at full price (no comps) – this includes tickets to films and musical theater productions.

### **FYC Communications and Advertisements**

Marketing communications (“communications”) include, but are not limited to: emails, mailings, invitations, social media, websites, and print ads. For any kind of communications to be permitted, an opt-out option must be provided. The Recording Academy does not release the contact information of its members, therefore any vendor purporting to have accurate contact lists of Academy members is misrepresenting themselves. Proceed in doing business with such companies with caution (see below).

Communications *may* include the following:

- Lists of the creators who worked on the recording
- Brief, unembellished descriptions of the recording or creators
- Artwork related to recording product under consideration
- References to any current nominations, once nominations are announced
- Links to websites that promote eligible recordings
- Link to Recording Academy website where Vote Solicitation Guidelines are posted
- Copies of product

Communications may *not* include:

- Any Recording Academy trademarks, logos, or any other protected information <https://www.grammy.com/legal>
- Any attempt to cast a negative or derogatory light on a competing recording. Any tactic that singles out the “competition” by name or title is not allowed
- Featured nominees on invite as host, moderator or special guest
- Personal signatures, personal regards or pleas to listen to the eligible recordings
- Extolling the merits of the music, an achievement or an individual

- Honors or awards, past or present, received by either the recording or those involved with production
- Envelopes with a stamp or other graphic or text element that refers to any of the above
- Academy Office Mailings: Any mailing of FYC product or marketing materials to any of the Recording Academy offices will not be distributed to members or Board Members. It will be disposed of or returned to sender

### **Telephone Lobbying**

Contacting Academy members by phone to promote a GRAMMY-eligible product or achievement is not allowed, even if such contact is in the guise of checking to make sure a sample product or other was received.

### **Third Party Solicitation by Independent Contractors**

There are several marketing companies that claim to have special access to Recording Academy member lists and/or Recording Academy staff. Any business purporting to have such access is misrepresenting its service. Such companies are not endorsed by the Academy and are prohibited from, through a third party or indirectly, participating in any activities that are in violation to the rules contained herein.

Additionally, they may not use subscriber-based publications to distribute prohibited promotional materials to an Academy member unless the member is a subscriber to those publications. The Academy defines “subscriber” as a member who has taken the intentional step of requesting that a publication be sent to him or her on a regular basis. The member does not necessarily have to pay for that subscription.

Marketers are also urged to familiarize themselves with the Recording Academy’s regulations for using its intellectual properties: <https://www.grammy.com/legal>

### **Billboard Issue for Members**

Recording Academy members receive a complimentary copy of the Billboard GRAMMY Issue unless they choose to opt out. Featured subjects and content are determined independent of the Recording Academy. The Billboard GRAMMY mailing is handled by an independent third-party mailing house who has signed a non-disclosure agreement – the Recording Academy does not disclose the contact information of its members to Billboard. To opt out, sign into your RecordingAcademy.com member account, visit subscriptions.

Any member can take out an advertisement. Advertising restrictions listed above apply. Special rates exist for independent creators. For more information on ad rates, email [membership@recordingacademy.com](mailto:membership@recordingacademy.com)

### **Recording Academy FYC Website Feature**

For Your Consideration promotional listings are available on RecordingAcademy.com free of cost. These listings are intended to provide a fair and equal platform for members to

showcase their releases that have been accepted as official entries in the GRAMMY Awards balloting process as specified in the Entry List. Members whose releases have been accepted as official entries, or members who made entries on behalf of others, as specified in the Entry List, are permitted to post a link or upload their entries. These entries may only be posted once in each of the approved FYC categories, as specified in the Entry List. If a release has been accepted in multiple categories as specified by the Entry List, posting the release once in each of the accepted categories is permitted.

To maintain an equal and fair platform for all members, the FYC groups are the only place to post a link or upload official entries on RecordingAcademy.com during Awards balloting season. Members are NOT permitted to post or promote entries in other areas of the website. Duplicate posts of the same entry in a FYC category, entries posted in the wrong category (aka “miscategorized”) and promoting entries outside of the For Your Consideration groups are considered violations of these guidelines. Content will be removed, and users are subject to additional penalties should violations continue.

### **Blackout Period**

Submission and balloting season is observed by the Recording Academy from September-January and is often referred to as the “blackout period.” Contact information provided below if you would like the exact dates for this year.

Blackout period applies to Recording Academy events, GRAMMY.com, and all GRAMMY social channels. No talent with product submitted for consideration shall be individually featured by the Recording Academy during this time.

### **Recording Academy-hosted activities**

September through final ballots closing in January, GRAMMY-submitted product cannot be the topic of any Recording Academy voting member activity nor promotion. Any artists/creators who have submitted product for awards consideration during the current voting cycle, will not be featured by the Recording Academy at voting member events, in social media, in recorded/streaming content, or in any other context where it may be perceived the Recording Academy is promoting an eligible product to voting members.

Talent *not* submitting product for Awards consideration during the current voting cycle, are eligible to participate in all Recording Academy activities, including membership events, digital or social content.

During this time, FYC product distribution at Recording Academy-hosted events is prohibited. Anyone who violates this will be asked to leave the event and are subject to additional penalties should violations continue.

### **Contact Us**

For further information about these guidelines and regulations, please contact us: 877-637-6816 / [awards@recordingacademy.com](mailto:awards@recordingacademy.com)

It should not be assumed that any tactics or activities not specifically addressed by these regulations are acceptable. The Recording Academy is willing to review any materials or answer any questions that arise in advance.

We encourage our community to help us monitor violations of these guidelines and ask that you report any findings to: 877-637-6816 / [awards@recordingacademy.com](mailto:awards@recordingacademy.com)

**Thank you for your compliance and support in ensuring the integrity of the GRAMMY Award process.**