

Ethical Guidelines for Panel Judges

As a Nomination Panel Judge for the VES Awards, you have a great power and responsibility over the award process. We expect you, as a professional, to act impartially on any submission, and there should be no question about the impartiality of your review.

Protecting Ideas

As a Nomination Judge for the VES Awards, it's crucial to maintain the confidentiality of the submissions you review. This responsibility includes:

- Not discussing or sharing the submission with anyone outside the designated review team, including colleagues or students.
- Not to reproduce, store in a retrieval system, or transmit/share in any form or by any means any video clips or documents used for viewing.
- Avoid showing supporting materials (e.g., PDFs, ballots) to non-reviewers.

Safeguarding the Submitter

Avoid discussions about specific submissions or reviews with others in the VES community, especially friends or colleagues who might have a vested interest in the submission. If there are any concerns about feedback or comments, it is important to contact the Event Lead or Panel Lead to address the situation.

Avoiding Conflicts of Interest

As a VES Awards juror, it is vital to avoid any conflict of interest that could call into question the impartiality of your review. Potential conflicts include but are not limited to:

- For the General Categories 1-8: You were involved in the submitted work where you would receive credit in some way.
- For Craft Categories 9-23: You are of the craft being judged and worked on one of the submitted entries, even if your personal works are not highlighted in the entry.
- You collaborated with one of the submitters of an entry.
- You have an advisory relationship with one of the submissions.

In these situations, it is best to alert the Panel Lead and you will be reassigned to another Panel. Please note that due to the wide intermixing of the VFX Community, we cannot have judges recuse themselves purely by the project in the Craft categories. We must assume you will judge impartially for the craft being considered even if you worked on the project (for example you are an animator on a film, and you are judging the compositing and lighting submissions which include the film project you worked on). If you feel you cannot be impartial, please inform the Panel Lead so you can be moved or excused.

Commitment to the Review Process

The review process is taken seriously, and it is expected that all jurors invest the time and effort necessary for a thorough review. Panel personnel will enforce this process and will help keep judges from distractions during the judging. If time constraints or other commitments prevent

you from being able to stay for the entirety of the panel, it is better to announce this ahead of time. The Awards Committee can help find a panel assignment that better fits your schedule and find someone to take your place on your current panel.

Final Thoughts

Maintaining ethical standards throughout the review process is vital for ensuring the integrity of the VES Awards. While adhering to these guidelines may sometimes seem less convenient or efficient, doing so is critical for the long-term health of the awards process.