

Skate Producer Awards

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Guide

General

1. How many Skate Producer Awards (SWAs) categories are there?

The Skate Producer Awards has a total of 10 categories.

Categories
House Track of the Year
JB Track of the Year
No Samples Track of the Year
Slow Walk Track of the Year
Snap Track of the Year
Steppers Track of the Year
Collab Track of the Year
Skate Track of the Year
Skate Album of the Year
Skate Producer of the Year

2. What tracks qualify for entry?

The “track eligibility period” is Jan. 1st – Dec. 31st. Any track released for sale (or for free) via general distribution or a recognized streaming service during the eligibility period qualifies for entry. All tracks must have a verifiable online release date.

3. Which websites and streaming services are recognized by the Skate Producer Awards?

The websites and streaming services recognized by the Skate Producer Awards are Bandcamp, Soundcloud, Spotify, Apple Music, and Tidal.

4. How do Skate Producers submit tracks for nomination?

Skate Producers must send an email to skateproducerawards@gmail.com. The email must include a link to their track, samples used, category that he/she would like the track to be nominated, and Collaborators. To make this process easy, Skate Producers are encouraged to use the Track Entry Form.

5. When can Skate Producers submit their track(s) for nomination for a category?

Skate Producers can submit tracks for nomination between Jan. 1st – Jan. 31st. The deadline to submit a track is 11:59pm PST on Jan. 31st. Any track submitted after Jan. 31st will not be accepted as an entry.

6. What’s the difference between an entry and a nomination?

Entries are all tracks submitted for Skate Producer Awards nomination. Entries that meet all submission requirements and rank amongst the top 5 in their respective category (based on scores by the judges) are considered nominations.

7. How much does it cost to participate in the Skate Producer Awards?

There is absolutely no cost to participate in the Skate Producer Awards.

8. What is the format for the Awards Presentation?
The Skate Producer Awards Presentation will take place on a virtual on a platform. A link to the virtual Awards Presentation will be available to the public. A live Awards Presentation may be possible in the future.
9. When are the winners announced?
The winners are announced during the Awards Presentation in May.
10. Can a Skate Producer actively promote the tracks/album nominated for an award?
Yes, a Skate Producer can actively promote the tracks/album nominated for an award. It is believed that the promotion of nominated tracks/album will help create awareness of the event and will not influence the scoring.
11. What do Skate Producers receive if their track is selected as the winner for a category?
The winner(s) of a category will receive a customized trophy engraved with their name, track name, category, and year.
12. How does a Skate Producer receive their award?
Skate Producers must provide their home address so the award can be mailed to them.
13. Does the runner-up for the category receive anything?
The Skate Producer Awards does not produce a ranked result with a winner and ordered runner-up. As a result, the winner of the category is the only Skate Producer who receives an award. NOTE: The only exception is if an investigation finds that the winner of a category broke a rule.
14. How are the Skate Producer Awards (SPAs) different from the Producer Face Off (PFO)?
The PFO is a phenomenal competition with a long, rich history. The SPAs was not created as an attempt to compete with or replace the PFO. The SPAs is entirely different!

PFO	SPA
Entry fee required	No entry fee required
Bracket-style Competition	Category-based Competition
Short production cycle	Long production cycle
2 producers compete head-to-head per round	Multiple producers compete per category
Skate Producers submit unreleased tracks	Skate Producers submit released tracks
1 winner for the entire competition	1 winner per category
The judges are known	The judges are anonymous
Winner announced the same day	Winners announced months later
Winner receives cash prize and a trophy	Winners receive a customized trophy

15. Are producer tags allowed?
Yes, producer tags are allowed. Skate Producers will not be required to submit an edited version of tracks that they have already released.
16. Are there any restrictions to the type/font of producer names and track titles?
Skate Producers are allowed to use special characters in their name and track titles, so long as the characters used can be found on a computer keyboard and engraved on the award.

17. What happens if The Committee finds that the winner of a category broke the rules after the competition?

The Skate Producer is no longer recognized as the winner and a trophy is given to the runner-up.

18. Will changes ever be made to the Skate Producer Awards (SPAs) process?

The awards process is flexible and evolves to reflect what’s happening in the Skate World. Each year, the SPAs will request proposals for changes on everything from awards categories to rule revisions. In the event of a change, a notification will be sent along with an updated FAQ Guide.

19. How does someone recommend a proposed change?

All proposed changes must be submitted in writing to skateproducerawards@gmail.com during the “Proposed Change Period” .

Categories

1. What are the submission requirements for each category?

Category	Samples Allowed	BPM Range	# of Producers Allowed
House Track of the Year	Yes		1
JB Track of the Year	Yes		1
No Samples Track of the Year	No	n/a	1
Slow Walk Track of the Year	Yes		1
Snap Track of the Year	Yes	75 - 105	1
Steppers Track of the Year	Yes		1
Collab Track of the Year	Yes	n/a	2+

2. Who should be considered as a Collaborator for Collab Track of the Year?

A Collaborator is an artist or producer credited with at least 33% contribution to the track. The contribution can be in the form of vocals, production, post-production, arrangement, etc. The names of all Collaborators must appear in the song title, artist name or credits.

3. Can an Executive Producer be considered as a Collaborator?

The Executive Producer is typically responsible for securing funding for a project. While he/she may be responsible for the overall concept and monitor the progress of a project, the SPAs does not consider an Executive Producer to be a Collaborator. In order to qualify, he/she must be credited with at least 33% contribution to the track in the form of vocals, production, post-production, arrangement, etc.

4. Will Collaborators receive a trophy for Collab Track of the Year?

Collaborators credited with at least 33% contribution to the production of a track will receive a trophy. If a track has more than 3 Collaborators, each person will receive a certificate instead of a trophy, including the original Skate Producer.

5. Are sampled drum loops allowed on the No Samples Track of the Year?

The No Samples category was added as a tribute to D Millz. No samples of any kind are allowed on the No Samples Track of the Year. That includes melodic samples, vocal samples, one-shots, and drum loops. If a No Samples Track contains a sample, it will be automatically disqualified for nomination.

6. What factors are considered for Skate Track of the Year?
Track of the Year will be judged by the same criteria (Originality/Creativity, Skate-ability, and Quality) as other categories. Skate Producers are encouraged to submit their best released track within the past calendar year for nomination regardless of release date, popularity, number of spins, track sales, etc.
7. What factors are considered for Skate Album of the Year?
Skate Album of the Year is awarded for a whole album and the award is presented to the Skate Producer for that album. In this context, “album” means a recorded collection of songs (multi-track EP or LP), not the individual songs or their compositions. The album will be judged based on its overall Originality/Creativity, Skate-ability, and Quality.
8. Is there a minimum number of tracks for the Album of the Year entry?
Yes, in order for album to qualify for Album of the Year, the project must contain at least 5 different tracks and a total playing time of 15 minutes or a total playing time of at least 30 minutes with no track requirement. The album must be available for sale (or free) to the public or available on a recognized streaming service. All albums must have a verifiable online release date.
9. Can a Compilation album be submitted for Album of the Year?
A Compilation album cannot be submitted for Skate Album of the Year. To clarify, a Compilation album is considered (1) an album with individual tracks from multiple Skate Producers or (2) a collection of single tracks by the same Skate Producer.
10. Can a DJ submit a mixtape for nomination for Skate Album of the Year?
No, a DJ cannot submit a mixtape for Skate Album of the Year. DJ mixtapes typically include commercially released and licensed songs. The Skate Album of the Year category is intended for Skate Producers who release a recorded collection of songs that they’ve produced containing either sampled songs, royalty free loops or no samples at all.
11. What factors are considered for Skate Producer of the Year?
Every award category (with the exception of Skate Producer of the Year) has an assigned point value. As Skate Producers win categories, they accumulate points. The Skate Producer with the most points through 9 categories will win the award for Skate Producer of the Year.

Category	Point Value
House Track of the Year	2
JB Track of the Year	2
No Samples Track of the Year	2
Slow Walk Track of the Year	2
Snap Track of the Year	2
Steppers Track of the Year	2
Collab Track of the Year	1
Skate Track of the Year	3
Skate Album of the Year	4

Nominations

1. What happens after a track is submitted for nomination?
Skate Producers will receive notification that their submissions were received. The judges also known as the Nominations Review Committee (or “The Committee”) reviews each entry to confirm eligibility for the respective category. Once eligibility has been confirmed, entries are scored by each judge and narrowed down to the final nominations. If a Skate Producer’s track is nominated, he/she will receive an additional notification with a full list of categories that they were nominated for.
2. Will a Skate Producer be notified in advance if the track he/she track submitted does not meet the submission requirements for a category?
Skate Producers will not be notified if their track does not meet the submissions requirements. It is his/her responsibility to ensure that all tracks meet the submission requirements for the category prior to submitting it.
3. How many tracks will be nominated for each category?
Each category will be limited to a minimum of 2 nominations and a maximum of 5 nominations.
4. What happens if a category has less than 2 entries?
If a category has less than 2 entries, the category will go on hiatus for the current year and no award will be given. Selecting a winner due to “No Contest” is not an option. If a category has less than 2 entries for two consecutive years, the SPAs will consider removing the category and/or replacing it with another category.
5. What happens if a category has less than 5 entries?
If a category has 2-4 tracks entries, each track will be submitted for nomination and scored by the judges. Narrowing the entries down to 5 nominations is only necessary when more than 5 tracks are submitted for one category.
6. How will the category entries be narrowed down to 5 tracks nominations?
If, for example, a category has 7 entries, all tracks will be scored by the Judges but only the highest 5 scores will be nominated for the category.
7. Can a Skate Producer submit more than one track for nomination per category?
No, a Skate Producer can only submit one track for nomination per category. NOTE: A Skate Producer is allowed to have multiple nominations for Collab Track of the Year.
8. Can a Skate Producer submit the same track for nomination for multiple categories?
The Skate Producer Awards (SPAs) does not have an “excessive nomination” rule. If a Skate Producer has a published track that meets the qualifications for multiple categories, he/she is allowed to submit the track for nomination.
9. Can a Skate Producer be nominated more than once for the Collab Track of the Year?
Yes, a Skate Producer is allowed to be nominated more than once for Collab Track of the Year. However, each collaboration pairing must be unique (*ex. If Producer A and Producer B submit a track for nomination, they cannot nominate another track in this category. However, Producer A and Producer C can submit a track for nomination and so can Producer B and Producer D*).

10. Can a Skate Producer submit a Single for nomination?

Yes, Skate Producers can submit a Single for nomination. Tracks do not have to be part of an album to qualify for nomination.

11. Can a Skate Producer re-release an old track/album and submit it for nomination?

A Skate Producer cannot re-release an old track/album and submit it for nomination. If a Skate Producer submits an old track/album, it will be automatically disqualified for nomination.

12. Can a Skate Producer submit a remix of a pre-released track for nomination?

Yes, as long as the remix is “significantly different” than the original version of the track and has been publicly released on a qualified platform within the track eligibility period, it can be submitted for nomination. Essentially, a Skate Producer cannot submit a different version of a track exclusively for the judges that hasn’t been made available for the public.

NOTE: Only one version of a track is eligible in the Skate Producer Awards process in any year. In cases where different versions of a track are released in the same eligibility period, the decision as to which version of a track will be submitted for nomination is to be made by the Skate Producer.

13. What would cause a Skate Producer’s track to be disqualified for nomination?

A Skate Producer’s track would be disqualified for nomination for the following reasons:

- The track wasn’t released on a qualified platform
- The track was released outside of the track eligibility period
- The track doesn’t have a verifiable online release date
- The track doesn’t meet the submission requirements for the specific category
- The track was submitted without all of the required information

14. What should a Skate Producer/Artist do if a track is submitted without crediting him/her as a Collaborator?

Ultimately, the Skate Producer/Artist is responsible for working with the original Skate Producer to assign credit. A deadline has been established for those not credited appropriately to claim status as a nominee: two weeks after the announcement of the nominations.

The process for corrections to be made to nominations is to have the potential recipient inform the Skate Producer Awards of the correction in writing detailing what was inaccurately submitted or omitted, and what steps are being taken to correct the mistake. The SWAs may also in its due diligence require further documentation regarding the claim as it sees fit to substantiate its authenticity. Once the information is reviewed and approved, the correction is then made and the nomination corrected.

NOTE: If a claim is made and substantial evidence is not found to support the claim, The SWA’s decision shall be communicated to the challenger in writing and shall be final.

Judging

1. Who are the judges for the Skate Producer Awards?

The judges also known as the Nominations Review Committee (or “The Committee”) is a carefully selected group of members with creative and technical expertise who span across a variety of different roles within the skate community. While their identities are anonymous, the judges are a combination of Skate Producers, DJs, Skaters and Skate Party Coordinators from different regions across the country. This means that all Skate Producer Award winners are determined by their peers.

2. Why are the judges anonymous?

The decision to make the judges anonymous is intended to eliminate or greatly reduce the chances of a Skate Producer from using his/her personal friendships to influence the scoring.

3. Why don't the judges meet together to score the tracks at the same time?

Judging the tracks independently and separate from the other judges eliminates the likelihood of “Voting Blocs” or groups of people who agree to give the same score. This also ensures that judges are not influenced by the scoring of other judges.

4. Do judges know the identity of other judges?

No, judges do not know the identity of other judges. The judges are anonymous to everyone except the organizers of the SPAs.

5. What happens if a person discloses that he/she is a judge and is no longer anonymous?

If the identify of a judge is somehow disclosed, he/she will be removed from The Committee and replaced with a different judge.

6. How much time do the judges have to listen and score tracks?

Rarely (if ever) can someone make a quality analysis of a track on the first listen. As a result, the judges have 60 days to listen to all tracks. This gives the judges the opportunity to listen to each track multiple times and on different speakers that they might have available (*i.e. sound system, computer, mobile device, car, etc.*). This also reduces the likelihood that a judge might score a track poorly based on an impulse decision caused by an extremely limited amount of time.

7. How are the tracks scored by the judges?

All tracks are scored on a 1-10 scale for each of following criteria:

- Originality/Creativity: How well did the producer create an original or new version of the track
- Skate-ability: How well would the track be received by a crowd at a skating event
- Quality: How well is the track arranged, mixed, and mastered for the best listening experience

The maximum score that a track could receive from a judge is 30. The judges will score each track independently. Then, scores from all judges will be tallied to provide the final score for the track. The track with the highest final score will be the winner of the category.

SCORE EXAMPLE (1 JUDGE)

Track Name: "Skaters Dream"	
Criteria	Score
Originality/Creativity	3
Skate-ability	9
Quality	6
Total Score	18

In this example, the judge gave a score of 18 for the track. For Originality/Creativity, a score of 3 may have been given because the track was "too similar" to the original sample and the producer simply added a kick and a clap in the same position of the original song. For Skate-ability, a score of 9 may have been given because the track contained a familiar sample and it had great energy at a tempo that skaters would enjoy. For Quality, a score of 6 may have been given because certain elements (*ex. kicks, snares, JB vocals, etc.*) of the track are too loud resulting in distortion in a few areas.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A Skate Producer could take less of a risk by simply looping the sample of an original song and adding drums to receive a low score for Originality/Creativity. He/She could take more of a risk by looping an unfamiliar section or by slicing the sample to make it "recognizable but different" than the original song and receive a high score for Originality/Creativity. **Keep in mind that a track with less Originality/Creativity could still have higher Skate-ability and vice versa!**

A great Skate Producer is able to take risks in Originality/Creativity and still make a song with high Skate-ability and great sound Quality.

8. How would a judge be able to accurately score a track on its Originality/Creativity?

Each track that contains a sample will be submitted with an attachment or link (*ex. YouTube*) to the original sample. This will give Judges the opportunity to listen to skate tracks and the samples used to make them. After extensive analysis, Judges will be able to analyze techniques such as looping, chopping, interpolating, drumming, and vocal isolation to determine the Originality/Creativity demonstrated by the Skate Producer.

Important Dates

Skate Producer Awards Calendar Year (2022)	
Track Eligibility Period	Jan. 1, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2022
Proposed Change Period	Oct. 1, 2022 – Oct. 31, 2022

Skate Producer Awards Calendar Year (2023)	
Track Submission Period	Jan. 1, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2023
Track Submission Deadline	Jan. 31, 2023 (11:59pm PST)
Track Review and Scoring	Feb. 1, 2023 – Mar. 30, 2023
Nominations Announced	April 22, 2023
Nomination Claim Deadline	May 6, 2023
1 st Annual Skate Producer Awards	May 21, 2023

Preserving the Integrity of the Skate Producer Awards

It is the goal of the Skate Producer Awards (SPAs) organizers to ensure that the SPAs process is led in a fair and ethical manner and that all judges make their decisions based solely on the artistic and technical merits of the eligible skate tracks. In an effort to maintain a high degree of integrity and transparency, it is crucial that guidelines are understood and followed by all participants.

If any activity is determined to work in opposition to the SPAs guidelines, the organizers may take corrective actions, including disqualification of entries. Furthermore, any participant who has authorized, executed, or otherwise enabled a solicitation activity this is deemed to have undermined the spirit of the SPAs guidelines may be subject to suspension or termination of participating in the SPAs.

Committee Code of Conduct

Judges shall not allow their choices to be suggested, directed or influenced by personal friendships, regional preferences, or sales volume/popularity. All scoring should be based nothing other than their own analysis of the music. Judges shall not accept money or anything of value in exchange for higher scores. Judges shall not enter into any agreements or understanding on how to score, including “Voting Blocs”, groups of people who agree to make the same decision.

Rights & Regulations

The Skate Producer Awards reserves these rights regarding entries:

- To disqualify an entry if was released before or after the track eligibility period
- To disqualify an entry if doesn't meet the submission requirements for a category
- To disqualify an entry if information is incorrect or incomplete
- To disqualify a Skate Producer if the Nomination Review Committee finds any violation including, but not limited to, lobbying and bribery
- To take whatever measures it deems necessary to protect the integrity of the SKATE PRODUCER Awards from outside influence, bias, and any other factors that could jeopardize the process
- To make the final determination of the person(s) entitled to awards recognition
- To hold Skate Producers accountable for reviewing submission requirements for categories prior to submitting an entry
- To withdraw and/or replace a category in any one year if it is determined that there is an insufficient number of entries from the previous year
- To change dates and deadlines if deemed necessary

Terms & Definitions

Album – A recorded collection of songs (multi-track EP or LP), not the individual songs or their compositions. In order for album to qualify as an album, the project must contain at least 5 different tracks and a total playing time of 15 minutes or a total playing time of at least 30 minutes with no track requirement. The album must be available for sale (or for free) to the public or available on a recognized streaming service.

Category – A group or general classification containing a distinguished set of parameters

Collaboration – A track or project with production contributions by 2 or more people. A combination of creative skills, styles, and knowledge in one song. This usually results in something better than they could have made individually.

Collaborator – The person who generally shares some of the responsibilities with another Skate Producer and is assigned credit by the original Skate Producer. This person makes significant contributions to the outcome of the production. This person is typically credited with at least 33% contribution to the track. The contribution can be in the form of vocals, production, post-production, arrangement, etc. The names of all Collaborators must appear in the song title, artist name or credits.

Committee – An anonymous group of judges who score the skate tracks. This group is a combination of Skaters, DJs, Producers and Skate Party Coordinators from different regions across the country.

Compilation - An album with individual tracks from multiple Skate Producers or a collection of single tracks by the same Skate Producer

Eligibility Period – Beginning and end dates to which tracks must be released in order to qualify for entry for the Skate Producer Awards. This period typically matches the full calendar year.

Entry – A track submitted for Skate Producer Awards nomination

General Distribution – The broad release of a track, available nationwide via brick-and-mortar stores, third-party online retailers, and/or streaming services

Hiatus – A gap in time when a category will not have a designated winner

Interpolation – A melody of portion of a melody from a previously recorded song that is re-recorded instead of sampled. This is often used by a producer when an artist/label who owns a piece of music declines to license the sample or the licensing of the piece of music is too costly.

Nomination – An entry that meets all submission requirements and rank amongst the top 5 in their respective category (based on scores by the judges)

Nomination Claim Deadline – The last date that someone can submit a claim for nomination status

Proposed Change Period – Period of time when the general public is allowed to proposed changes and ideas that they feel will improve for next annual Skate Producer Awards

Sample – An element of a previously released recording incorporated into a new recording. Samples can be entire parts of earlier recordings or isolated sections of earlier recordings including, but not limited to, tracks with vocals removed, hooks, riffs, bass lines, or background vocals.

Single – A song or instrumental recording that is released separately from an album

Skate Producer – The primary person accountable for the task of delivering music catered to the skate world as a finished product. This person has overall creative and technical oversight of the track

Streaming Service – A paid subscription, full catalog, or on-demand streaming music download service

Remix – A different version of a music recording

Track – An individual song or instrumental recording released as part of an album

Track Eligibility Period – Period of time when tracks have to be released for sale (or for free) via general distribution or a recognized streaming service in order to qualify for entry for the upcoming annual Skate Producer Awards

Track Submission Period – Period of time when Skate Producer are allowed to submit tracks or nomination

Track Entry Form – A form provided by the Skate Producer Awards to help Skate Producers simplify the track submission process and ensure that all necessary information is provided to avoid track disqualification. Skate Producers are not required to use this form, but they are highly encouraged.

Voting Bloc – Groups of people who agree to give the same score

Contact Us

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Email: skateproducerawards@gmail.com

Potential Judges

Producers

Skaters

DJs

Skate Party Coordinators