

RULES OF THE FAAPA MEDIA GRAND PRIZE COMPETITION

Preamble

Considering the decision of the Atlantic Federation of African Press Agencies (FAAPA) which approved, during its 1st General Assembly held on November 26 and 27, 2015 in Rabat (Morocco), the creation of the FAAPA Grand Prize, which is intended to reward the best article, the best photo, the best video report and the best audio report of the journalists and reporters belonging to the news agencies members of this African federation;

Whereas after several editions of this Grand Prize, the rules of which were adopted in Casablanca on December 9, 2016, the Executive Council mandated the FAAPA General Secretariat to revise these rules and clarify them, particularly with regard to the modalities of participation and selection as well as the criteria for the analysis and evaluation of competing productions;

Whereas the Executive Council, which met on November 26, 2021 in Dakar, Senegal, finalized the draft of the amended rules of the FAAPA Media Grand Prize Competition for submission to the General Assembly for approval;

The Sixth General Assembly of the Atlantic Federation of African Press Agencies, held on October 06 and 07, 2022 in Rabat (Morocco), unanimously approved these rules of the "FAAPA Media Grand Prize" as amended, as follows:

Article 1: Purpose

As part of the promotion of excellence in the editorial and production departments of its members, the Atlantic Federation of African Press Agencies has instituted the competition entitled "FAAPA Media Grand Prize".

Article 2: Objectives

2.1. The FAAPA Media Grand Prize aims to reward each year the best journalistic productions in different categories (written press, photo, TV, radio) within the news agencies members of FAAPA.

2.2. The main objectives of the FAAPA Media Grand Prize are to:

- contribute to the consolidation of the editorial innovation;
- generate sustained interest from news agencies in the production of feature articles, photos and audiovisual reports on current issues;

- encourage journalists and reporters in news agencies to be quality production actors in accordance with professional and ethical standards;
- encourage the specialization of news agency journalists on development issues of their choice;
- promote a strong involvement of news agencies in debates on development issues.

Article 3: Terms of participation

3.1. The FAAPA Media Grand Prize is open to journalists and reporters working in the African news agencies, members of FAAPA.

3.2. Nominations are submitted to the FAAPA Media Grand Prize in the following categories:

- Written and online press;
- Photo;
- Television;
- Radio.

3.3. The articles, photos, video and audio reports submitted must deal with themes concerning the African continent.

3.4. In submitting their work, journalists and reporters must specify the theme and the category in which they are competing (best article, best photo, best video or best audio report).

3.5. Each news agency may enter the FAAPA Media Grand Prize competition with only one production in each category (only one article, and/or only one photo, and/or only one video report, and/or only one audio report).

3.6. Journalists and reporters participate in the FAAPA Media Grand Prize as individuals. Even if the production is the result of collaboration, as is the case for audiovisual works, it must be presented by a single candidate who is considered the author of the content submitted.

3.7. The FAAPA Media Grand Prize excludes from participation in the competition, as production authors, organizers, jury members, and general and central directors of African news agencies, including directors of production and specialized departments.

Article 4: Published and broadcast period

The proposed articles, photos, video and audio reports must have been published and/or broadcast by the applicant news agency within the last twelve (12) months prior to the deadline for receipt of journalistic productions.

Article 5: Way of sending

The submitted content (Articles, photos with captions, video and audio reports) must be sent by e-mail or by express mail to the address of the FAAPA General Secretariat before the deadline indicated in the competition announcement. Entries submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

Article 6: Languages

Candidate news agencies must communicate their productions and content in French or English. However, translation into English or French is required for journalistic productions that were not originally published and/or broadcast in either of these two languages.

Audiovisual productions may be submitted in local languages of the applicant's country with subtitles in French and English.

Article 7: Registration and validation

7.1. Registration for the FAAPA Media Grand Prize is only definitively validated upon receipt of the proposed productions and content.

7.2. Entries that are incomplete, inaccurate, or do not comply with the terms and conditions specified in these rules will not be accepted.

7.3. Items submitted and transmitted by applicants from news agencies and not selected will not be returned to the participants.

Article 8: Ethics and deontology

The productions and content submitted by the applicant news agency must respect the principles of ethics and the rules of professional deontology of journalism.

Article 9: Copyright

9.1. Entries for the FAAPA Media Grand Prize competition must be the original work of the journalist or the team identified as the author.

9.2. Applicants must own the copyright for any component of the content submitted by their news agency. In case of dispute, they shall be fully

responsible. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification from participation in the competition.

9.3. The a posteriori discovery of a case of plagiarism or fraud concerning the authorship of a production will lead to the withdrawal of the title of the winner concerned.

Article 10: Technical and professional standards

Entries submitted for the competition must be sent to the FAAPA General Secretariat in accordance with the following technical and professional standards:

10.1. The video production must be downloaded or uploaded in the best known formats (MP4...) with high definition.

The video report must not exceed eight (8) or ten (10) minutes maximum. Each video production must be accompanied by a synopsis and a presentation sheet indicating the title, duration, date of broadcast, language used, name of producer and director.

10.2. The audio production must be downloaded or uploaded in the best known formats (MP3...) with excellent sound quality.

The audio report must not exceed three (3) or six (6) minutes maximum. For the audio report, the script must be attached, in addition to the HD audio format.

10.3. The article in competition must be submitted in its published and/or broadcast version in a format compatible for reading and exploitation (Word, PDF).

The article must not exceed 1500 words. For this purpose, the use of Arial font size 12 is recommended.

An abstract of the article (10 lines maximum) in French and English must be provided with the full text.

10.4. The photo in competition must be sent in JPEG or PNG format, with a resolution of 300 dpi. Photos can be in color or black and white.

The photo must contain a caption or be accompanied by an explanatory note not exceeding one hundred (100) words at most in both English and French,

indicating in particular the subject, place, date, name and quality of the photographer- reporter.

Article 11: Preselection of productions

11.1. A preselection phase of the productions received will be carried out by the FAAPA General Secretariat, which will assess their relevance and admissibility by verifying their compliance with the FAAPA Media Grand Prize rules.

11.2. The contents received will be reproduced in as many copies as necessary to allow their examination and evaluation by the Jury, which the candidate expressly accepts.

11.3. The FAAPA General Secretariat shall send copies of the various preselected productions to the members of the Jury, for analysis and evaluation, fifteen days after the closing date of the competition or at least one week before the Jury meeting.

Article 12: Jury and selection of winners

12.1. The preselected productions are examined by a jury, composed of the news agencies members of the Executive Council and chaired by the President of FAAPA, and in case of absence or impediment, by one of the Vice Presidents.

12.2. The jury shall conduct its work and deliberations in accordance with the provisions of these rules, with the assistance of the FAAPA General Secretariat.

12.3. The jury reserves the right to disqualify any journalistic production containing elements that could be construed as defamatory, offensive, hurtful or immoral.

12.4. Wherever possible, the jury members adopt a consensual approach in selecting the winners. If they deem it necessary, they shall proceed to the vote by show of hands or secret ballot.

12.5. The jury assigns an overall mark for each production, deliberates and classifies the winners by category. It chooses a winner in each category and announces the winners.

12.6. The president of the jury has a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes. The quorum for deliberations is five (5) members.

12.7. If a member of the jury has a conflict of interest with a production entered in the competition, he or she will not participate in the evaluation of that production.

12.8. The decisions of the jury are made impartially and objectively. They are final and irrevocable.

12.9. The members of the jury do not receive any compensation.

Article 13: Evaluation criteria and designation of winners

13.1. The productions in competition are evaluated according to clearly predefined criteria. The productions having obtained the highest score (on a scale of 0 to 10) in each category are declared winners of the awards.

13.2. The jury analyzes the productions in competition and determines the winners according to the following evaluation criteria, which relate to the form and the substance:

13.2/1- Criteria relating to the form: 3 points

- Clarity, readability, structural coherence: **1 point**
- The original approach of the theme, the respect of professional characteristics and journalistic quality standards (style, spelling, grammar, format, size, quality of visuals and audibility, expressiveness ...): **2 points**

13.2 / 2- Criteria relating to the substance: 7 points

- Relevance and added value from the point of view of the impact of the production (Is it an important subject or a current issue? what issues and approaches? influence on society...): **2 points**
- The rigor in the analysis, the methodological approach, the coherence and the mastery of the subject in its different dimensions (Is the subject based on a well-documented work, supported by evidence and relying on diversified sources?): **2 points**
- The quality of the realization and the production, in particular the accuracy of the facts and the wealth of information, the innovation, the creativity and the originality in the approach of the facts: **2 points**
- Objectivity in the treatment of the subject: **1 point**

13.3. If the jury considers that none of the shortlisted productions deserves to be awarded a prize, it may decide not to award prizes in one or more categories.

13.4. If the winner declares his or her intention not to subscribe to the commitments stipulated in these rules, the prize may be awarded in the same category to the next candidate on the list of choices established after deliberation by the jury.

13.5. The winners will be officially informed of their nomination and the terms for awarding prizes by e-mail at least fifteen days before the organization of the ceremony.

Article 14: Prizes and rewards granted to the winners

14.1. The awards ceremony will take place at an official ceremony organized for this purpose in the country to host the FAAPA General Assembly on the date to be indicated in the invitation letters sent to the members of the federation.

14.2. The incentives and rewards are as follows:

14.2/1. FAAPA Media Grand Prize

- The winner of each category will receive one thousand dollars (US \$ 1000);
- Each winner will also receive a trophy and a certificate signed by the President of FAAPA;
- The winners will be invited to participate in the award ceremony and will be offered a one-week stay in the country to host the General Assembly.

The costs incurred by the winners' travel to attend the award ceremony (round-trip airline ticket, hotel, catering) will be covered by FAAPA, it being understood that only one person will be supported for each category, including for the case of video and audio reports.

14.2/2. Certificate of Merit

Certificates of Merit may be awarded with the encouragement of the jury to candidates in the different categories in recognition of their outstanding efforts. Where applicable, no payment of the travel and subsistence expenses of these candidates will be provided.

14.3. A short presentation of the winners will be made at the award ceremony. The winners will be invited to make a brief statement on the awarded production.

Article 15 - Valorization of award-winning productions

15.1. The awarded productions will be disseminated and/or published on the FAAPA website, in the media as well as in the federation's information materials.

15.2. The winners grant FAAPA, free of charge, the right to reproduce and exploit the winning entries for the purposes of communication and promotion of the FAAPA Media Grand Prize.

Article 16: General provisions

16.1. The FAAPA Media Grand Prize for the best article, the best photo, the best video report and the best audio report, is awarded each year, except in cases where there is no participation or competition at the candidate level.

16.2. The productions and content transmitted by the candidate news agencies are treated confidentially and are only communicated for purposes related to the selection procedure of the winners.

16.3. Participation in the FAAPA Media Grand Prize competition implies full and complete acceptance of all the clauses of the present rules.

16.4. No recourse based on the terms and conditions of the competition or the results shall be admitted. Candidates must accept as irrevocable all decisions of the jury.

16.5. Cases not provided for by the provisions of these rules are left to the discretion of the jury. Any possible difficulties regarding the application of the rules will be subject to a sovereign interpretation by the jury.

16.6. The present rules may be amended by the General Assembly in plenary session on the proposal of the FAAPA Executive Council.

16.7. These regulations shall enter into force on the day of their adoption by the General Assembly.

Adopted in Casablanca, December 09, 2016

Amended in Rabat, October 07, 2022