

NAMIBIAN ANNUAL MUSIC AWARDS (NAMAs)

Policy. Extended Version

Prepared by: NAMAs Adjudication Committee

Approved by: NAMAs Steering Committee

Approval date:

8-3-2026

Contents

1. Definitions	4
2. Introduction	10
3. Category Overview	10
3.1 Entry Categories	10
3.2 Non - Entry Categories	11
3.3 Special Recognition Awards	11
3.4 Public Vote Category	11
3.5 Top 5 Awards (Premier Awards)	11
4. General Rules:	11
5. How to Enter	14
5.1 Online Submissions	14
5.2 Physical Submissions	15
6. Awards Date	18
7. Eligibility of Entrants	18
8. Prizes	20
9. Broadcast and Exploitation Rights	22
10. General Notes	23
11. Complaints Relating to Unauthorised Submissions	23
12. Categories definitions & Regulations	24
12.1 Non-Entry Categories	24
1) Most Streamed Song Award	24
2) Most Radio Played Song Award	25
3) Best Song	25
4) Best Album Award (Premier Award)	26
5) Best Overall Artist(s) Award (Premier Award)	26
6) Best Newcomer Award	27
7) Best Producer Award	27

8) Best Duo/Group Award.....	27
12.2 Entry Categories	28
1) Best Single	28
2) Best Folklore Music Contribution Award	28
3) Best Langarm Album.....	29
4) Best Ma /Gaisa Album.....	29
5) Best Oviritjie Album.....	29
6) Best Shambo Album.....	30
7) Best Epera Album.....	30
8) Best Shikoshoshi Album	30
9) Best Dance Music (House, Amapiano, Afro-Tech, Progressive House and Electronic Dance Music (EDM)) Album	30
10) Best African Contemporary (Afro-fusion, Soukous/Kwasa Kwasa, Kwiku, Kizomba)	31
11) Best Urban Popular Music (Afro Pop, Afro Beats, Township Disco) Album.....	31
12) Best Kwaito Album.....	32
13) Best Gospel Album	32
14) Best R&B/Soul Album	32
15) Best Rap/Hip Hop Album.....	33
16) Best Reggae/Dancehall Album.....	33
17) Best Jazz/Blues Album.....	33
18) Best Rock/Alternative Album.....	34
19) Best Instrumental Award.....	34
20) Best Collaboration	34
21) Best Choir Album	35
22) Best Music Video Album	35
23) Best Live Music Performance (Act).....	36
12.3 Special Recognition Awards	37

1) Lifetime Achievement Award.....	37
2) International Achievement Award (Special Award).....	37
3) Music Development Award (Special Award).....	38
12.4 Public Vote Category	38
1) Best Song	38

1. Definitions

Adjudicate

Adjudicate means to assess, evaluate, score and determine the merit of a submission in accordance with the approved awards criteria and judging procedures.

Adjudication Committee

The Adjudication Committee is the body of the Secretariat responsible for administering the process and overseeing third parties, including the Vetting Committee, Judges and Auditors, evaluating eligible submissions and determining nominees and winners in accordance with the approved judging criteria and procedures.

Album

A musical project consisting of at least five (5) original tracks and a total running time of 15 minutes or more or a total playing time of 30 minutes or more regardless of the number of tracks, released as a single body of work during the eligibility period. Compilation albums, "best of" collections, reissues, remastered releases and previously released albums are not eligible for entry.

Auditor

An Auditor is an independent person or entity appointed by the NAMAs Secretariat to verify, oversee and certify the integrity of the adjudication, voting, nomination and awards processes.

Awards Ceremony

The Awards Ceremony is the official event at which nominees, winners and special honourees are publicly recognised and awards are presented.

Awards Cycle

The Awards Cycle refers to the complete process of a single edition of the NAMAs, including the Call for Submissions, vetting, adjudication, nominations, public voting (where applicable) and the Awards Ceremony.

Call for Submissions

The Call for Submissions is the official period during which artists and eligible entrants may submit their work/s for consideration in the NAMAs. The opening and closing dates of the submission period will be announced by the NAMAs Secretariat.

Commercial Release / Commercially Released Music

A Commercial Release or Commercially Released Music refers to a musical work that has been officially released to the public during the Eligibility Period through recognised physical or digital distribution channels for purchase, streaming, download, broadcast or public consumption. A commercial release may include distribution through recognised digital music platforms, record labels, distributors or other legitimate commercial channels.

Music that has not been officially released to the public, including demos, rehearsal recordings, private recordings, unpublished works or music distributed solely for promotional, evaluation or internal purposes, shall not be regarded as commercially released unless otherwise provided for in the NAMAs Policy.

Category

A Category is a specific award classification established by the NAMAs to recognise achievement within a particular genre, discipline or area of artistic excellence.

Citizen

A Citizen is a person who holds Namibian citizenship in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Namibia.

Collaborative Work

A Collaborative Work is a creative work that has been jointly created, performed, produced or contributed to by two or more artists or creators.

Conflict of Interest

A Conflict of Interest arises when an individual involved in the administration, vetting, adjudication, auditing or governance of the NAMAs has a personal, professional,

financial or other interest that may compromise or appear to compromise, their impartiality.

Disqualification

Disqualification is the removal of an entry, nominee or winner from the awards process due to non-compliance with the awards rules, eligibility requirements or applicable laws.

Eligibility Period

The Eligibility Period is the timeframe determined and published by the NAMAs during which a song, album, music video, performance or other eligible work must have been officially released to qualify for consideration in a specific awards cycle. Only works released within the published Eligibility Period shall be eligible for entry, unless otherwise stated in the category rules.

Entry

An Entry is a submission made into a specific award category for consideration by the NAMAs.

Entry Categories

Entry Categories are award categories that are open for public submissions. Eligible artists may submit their works during the official Call for Submissions for consideration. All entries in these categories must be submitted in accordance with the NAMAs rules, eligibility criteria and submission requirements. Works submitted will be reviewed through the vetting and adjudication process before nominees and winners are selected.

EP (Extended Play)

An EP is a musical project consisting of three (3) to six (6) original tracks with a total running time of less than thirty (30) minutes, released as a single body of work during the eligibility period.

Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property refers to any legally protected creative work, including but not limited to musical compositions, lyrics, recordings, performances, artwork, photographs, videos, trademarks and copyrights.

Judge

A Judge is an individual appointed by the NAMAs to independently assess, score and evaluate submissions based on the approved adjudication criteria and procedures.

NAMAs Producer

The NAMAs Producer is the entity appointed by the Republic of Namibia to oversee the planning, coordination and execution of the awards programme and related events. The Producer is responsible for ensuring the successful delivery of the awards process, including production management, event operations, logistics, stakeholder coordination and compliance with approved policies, procedures and timelines.

Nomination Launch

The Nomination Launch is the official announcement by the NAMAs of the shortlisted nominees who have successfully progressed through the vetting and adjudication processes and are eligible for consideration for an award.

Nominee

A Nominee is an eligible artist, group or work that has been selected through the adjudication process to compete for an award within a specific category.

Non-Entry Categories

Non-Entry Categories are award categories in which no public or artist submissions are accepted. Nominees and winners in these categories are selected directly by the appointed judges based on merit, industry contribution or special recognition criteria established by the NAMAs. These categories are not open for entry and are determined solely through internal nomination and selection processes.

Permanent Resident

A Permanent Resident is a non-citizen who holds valid, officially recognised permanent residency status in Namibia, issued by the competent immigration authority. Proof of permanent residency may be required at the time of submission and the status must be valid on the date of entry into the NAMAs.

Public Vote

A Public Vote is a vote cast by an eligible member of the public in accordance with the voting rules established by the NAMAs.

Public Vote Categories

Public Vote Categories are award categories in which the outcome, or a portion thereof, is determined through votes cast by members of the public in accordance with the voting rules and system established by the NAMAs.

Qualifying Live Performance

A public performance of original musical works before a live audience during the Eligibility Period. The performance may take place at a concert, festival, theatre, cultural event, or other public music event and must be supported by satisfactory evidence acceptable to the Adjudication Committee.

Secretariat

The Secretariat is the administrative body responsible for the day-to-day management, coordination, communication and implementation of the NAMAs and their associated processes.

Single

A Single is a standalone musical recording consisting of one (1) primary track released during the eligibility period. A single may include accompanying versions, such as radio edits, remixes, instrumental versions or acoustic versions, provided that the primary track remains the main release.

Song

A Song is an individual musical composition consisting of lyrics and/or instrumental elements, which may be recorded and released as part of a Single, EP, Album or other format during the eligibility period. A Song refers to the creative work itself, regardless of the format in which it is distributed.

Special Award

A Special Award is a non-competitive award granted in recognition of exceptional contribution, achievement, service or impact as determined by the NAMAs.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee forms part of the Secretariat and is the oversight body responsible for providing strategic direction and governance for the NAMAs. The committee ensures that the awards are conducted fairly and transparently, in accordance with approved policies, procedures and governing structures.

Submission

A Submission is the complete set of application materials, supporting documents and artistic works submitted by an artist or authorised representative for consideration in the NAMAs.

Vetting Committee

The Vetting Committee is the independent body appointed by the NAMAs Secretariat to review all submissions and verify their eligibility, completeness, compliance with the awards rules and category suitability before they proceed to adjudication.

Vetting Period

The Vetting Period is the official stage of the NAMAs Awards Cycle during which all submissions are reviewed by the Vetting Committee to verify their eligibility, completeness, compliance with the NAMAs Policy, supporting documentation and suitability for the category entered. During this period, artists, authorised submitters and creators may be contacted to provide clarification or additional information. Failure to respond within the prescribed timeframe for any clarity required may result in disqualification of the submission.

Winner

A Winner is a nominee that has received the highest score, ranking or number of votes in accordance with the applicable judging and voting procedures and is awarded the category title.

2. Introduction

The 11th Namibia Annual Music Awards (NAMAs) celebrate and recognise outstanding achievements within Namibia's music industry, honouring individuals, groups, and creative professionals who have demonstrated excellence and contributed to the growth and development of Namibian music since the last edition held in 2020.

3. Category Overview

The NAMAs comprise approximately 38 award categories that celebrate the diversity, creativity, and excellence within Namibia's music industry. The categories recognise outstanding contributions across various musical genres, artistic disciplines, and industry roles, providing a platform to honour both established and emerging talent.

The following provides an overview of the award categories:

3.1 Entry Categories

- 1) Best Single
- 2) Best Folklore Music Contribution Award
- 3) Best Langarm Album
- 4) Best Ma /Gaisa Album
- 5) Best Oviritjie Album
- 6) Best Shambo Album
- 7) Best Epera Album
- 8) Best Shikoshoshi Album
- 9) Best Dance Music (House, Amapiano, Afro-Tech, Progressive House and Electronic Dance Music (EDM)) Album
- 10) Best African Contemporary (Afro-fusion, Soukous/Kwasa Kwasa, Kwiku, Kizomba)
- 11) Best Urban Popular Music (Afro Pop, Afro Beats, Township Disco) Album
- 12) Best Kwaito Album
- 13) Best Gospel Album
- 14) Best R&B/Soul Album
- 15) Best Rap/Hip Hop Album
- 16) Best Reggae/Dancehall Album
- 17) Best Jazz/Blues Album
- 18) Best Rock/Alternative Album
- 19) Best Instrumental Award
- 20) Best Collaboration

- 21) Best Choir Album
- 22) Best Music Video
- 23) Best Live Music Performance (Act)

3.2 Non - Entry Categories

- 1) Most Streamed Song Award
- 2) Most Radio Played Song Award
- 3) Best Song
- 4) Best Album Award
- 5) Best Overall Artist(s) Award
- 6) Best Newcomer Award
- 7) Best Producer Award
- 8) Best Duo/Group Award

3.3 Special Recognition Awards

- 1) Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2) Music Development Award
- 3) International Achievement

3.4 Public Vote Category

- 1) Song of the Year (People's Choice Award)

3.5 Top 5 Awards (Premier Awards)

- 1) Best Overall Artist(s) Award
- 2) Best Newcomer Award
- 3) Best Duo/Group Award
- 4) Best Album of the Year
- 5) Lifetime Achievement Award

The 11th NAMAs exist to recognise accomplishment in the Namibian music industry by celebrating individuals and groups who have excelled in the music industry since it was last held in 2020.

4. General Rules:

- 1) Only artists who are 18 years old or older may enter the NAMAs.
- 2) Artists and creators must submit their entries using their legal names. Where applicable, their stage name, brand name or performing name must also be provided in the designated section of the online or physical application form.

- 3) Applicants may only submit entries in categories for which the work is eligible. A separate application form must be completed for each submission.

Examples:

- a) An artist entering **Best Single** and **Best Music Video** for the same song completes two separate applications.
 - b) An artist entering one album into **Best Jazz/Blues Album** and **Best Instrumental Award** also completes two separate applications.
 - c) Each application receives its own reference number, supporting documents, and adjudication record.
 - d) An artist, creator, group, or authorised submitter may submit a maximum of two (2) entries per entry-based award category only, provided that each entry independently meets the eligibility requirements of the NAMAs.
- 4) Only commercially released music is eligible for entry into the NAMAs. Music submitted without proof of commercial release will not be accepted. All entries must have been officially released to the public during the Eligibility Period. Entrants must provide proof of commercial release as part of their submission. Acceptable proof includes digital streaming or download links, distributor records or any other evidence accepted by the Adjudication Committee. Music submitted without satisfactory proof of commercial release shall be deemed ineligible.
- 5) Entries are open to:
- Namibian citizens.
 - Permanent residents upon submission of a valid Permanent Residence Permit.
 - Holders of a valid Certificate of Domicile.
 - African guests
- 6) Immigration eligibility and status verification shall be subject to the Immigration Control Act and all applicable Namibian immigration laws and regulations.
- 7) Namibian citizens and eligible residents living or working outside the country may submit entries, provided they meet all other eligibility requirements.
- 8) Entry to the NAMAs is free of charge. No submission or entry fee will be charged to artists and creators.

- 9)** Artists and creators are required to provide proof of citizenship or residency, as applicable.
- 10)** Artists and creators must also submit certificates of music ownership, proof of age and any other documentation required to verify their eligibility.
- 11)** All submitted materials must be accompanied by the relevant copyright certification issued by an authorised entity or recognised copyright management organisation.
- 12)** All submitted materials must have been commercially released during the Eligibility Period and must be accompanied by proof of commercial release. Any material that has not been commercially released during the Eligibility Period will be disqualified. Proof must be provided.
- 13)** Any entry submitted with false, misleading or incomplete information will be disqualified.
- 14)** The NAMAs recognise and celebrate human creativity. Accordingly, works that are wholly or substantially generated by artificial intelligence (AI) are not eligible for submission and shall be disqualified. The NAMAs reserves the right to apply appropriate detection, verification, or assessment methods to determine whether a submitted work satisfies the human authorship requirements of this Policy. The decision of the Adjudication Committee shall be final.
- 15)** Artists must disclose the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the creation of submitted works. The NAMAs reserve the right to determine whether the use of AI renders an entry ineligible. Failure to disclose the use of AI may result in disqualification.
- 16)** All submitted works must comply with applicable intellectual property (IP) laws, rights ownership requirements, and licensing obligations. Artists and creators shall be responsible for ensuring that they hold, or have obtained, all necessary rights, permissions, licences, and approvals for any collaborative, third-party, or incorporated content included in their submission.
- 17)** The following supporting documents must be submitted for each entry and each application, where applicable:
 - Authorised Applicant Consent Letter (where required)
 - Signed AI Declaration Letter (mandatory)
 - Signed Copyright Declaration (mandatory)
 - Signed Producer Consent Declaration (where required)
 - Collaboration Agreement (where required)
 - Lyrics (where required)
 - Performance Act Declaration Letter (where required)

- 18) Any entry found to contain unauthorised use of another person's work, copyright infringement or misrepresentation of ownership will be disqualified.
- 19) Artists may submit multiple entries per category. However, the Adjudication Committee reserves the right to limit the number of nominations per artist in any single category.
- 20) Authorised submitters, artists and creators are required to remain available and contactable during the official Vetting Period, scheduled for **21-30 September 2026, 08H00-18H00**, to respond to any verification requests or provide additional information if required by the Vetting Committee.
- 21) Once an artist has submitted an entry to the NAMAs, withdrawal of that entry will not be permitted. All applicants must confirm and accept this condition by signing the entry form, whether submitted digitally or in physical format.
- 22) Additional eligibility provisions are detailed in the document below in **section 3.7 and 4**.

5. How to Enter

Artists enter themselves in categories of choice at no charge on an annual basis on a stipulated date. The due date for this year's call for submissions is **11 September 2026**. No entries will be accepted after this date and all entries are encouraged to be submitted online via the digital dashboard. Physical submissions can be accommodated under strict regulations and must be submitted in hard copy with an attached application form available at www.nama.com.na

5.1 Online Submissions

- 1) Submissions are encouraged to be made through the NAMAs online dashboard available www.nama.com.na. Artists and creators must ensure that all mandatory fields are completed and that all required supporting documents are uploaded before submitting their application. Submissions will be unsuccessful if any mandatory fields are left incomplete or if any required supporting documents are missing or incorrectly uploaded.
- 2) Applicants are required to create a single online profile. Once registered, applicants may submit more entries/application through their profile, provided that each entry is submitted separately using the online entry form and complies with the eligibility requirements for the selected award category.
- 3) Online submissions may be completed by the artist or creator or by an authorised representative such as a manager, record label or designated agent. However, all submissions must be made with the full knowledge and consent of the artist and the artist remains fully responsible for the accuracy and completeness of all information

provided. By submitting an entry, the representative confirms that they are duly authorised to act on behalf of the artist.

- 4) Supporting documents, including certificates, letters, declarations and other supporting evidence, must be submitted in PDF format. Where supporting documents are submitted in another file format, the Vetting Committee may request that the entrant resubmit the documents in PDF format within the prescribed timeframe. Failure to comply with such a request may result in the disqualification of the submission.

5.2 Physical Submissions

- 1) Physical submissions may be accommodated for artists who do not have access to digital submission methods. All physical submissions must be submitted in a **sealed** envelope and must contain:

- i. A completed application form – available at www.nama.com.ng
- ii. All required supporting documents and
- iii. A clearly labelled USB containing the submission material for the category or categories entered into.

The USB must be clearly labelled with:

- i. The artist's/creator's legal full name.
- ii. The artist's stage or professional name (if applicable); and
- iii. The category or categories being entered.

- 2) Applicants must submit one (1) physical application form per award category entry. Each application form may only be used for one category and one eligible submission. Applicants submitting entries in multiple categories must complete a separate application form for each category. Multiple completed application forms may be compiled and submitted together in one envelope/package, provided that each application form is complete and all required supporting documents are attached to the relevant submission. Each submission will be processed separately and assigned its own entry reference number.

- 3) Each category for submission must have its own application and USB folder.

The **sealed** envelope must be clearly labelled with:

- i. Legal full name.
- ii. Artist name (if applicable).
- iii. Region.
- iv. Email address.
- v. Cellphone number.

Please note the following:

- i. All files and folders on the USB must be clearly labelled. USB submissions containing unlabelled or incorrectly labelled folders may be disqualified.

- ii. Physical submissions that are incomplete, open envelopes, improperly prepared, missing required documents or incorrectly labelled items will be deemed invalid and will not be considered.
- iii. Application forms that are not signed will be disqualified.
- iv. Applications that are illegible or difficult to read due to handwriting may be disqualified.
- v. Applicants are advised to ensure that all information is clearly legible and, where necessary, to submit typed or printed hard copies.
- vi. Artists are responsible for ensuring that all submission materials are organised and accessible on the USB.
- vii. No physical submissions, supporting documents or USBs will be returned to applicants.
- viii. Only USB flash drives will be accepted. Submissions provided on CDs, floppy disks, external hard drives or any other storage device will be disqualified.
- ix. Email and WhatsApp submissions will not be accepted.
- x. Physical submissions delivered late will not be accepted.
- xi. All physical submissions must be delivered in a sealed envelope. Any submission received in an unsealed or opened envelope will be disqualified.
- xii. Staff at designated submission offices are not responsible for reviewing applications or verifying the completeness of submissions. It is the sole responsibility of the artist and creator to ensure that all required forms, documents and materials are included before submission.
- xiii. All artists submitting physical entries must sign the submission register at the designated office upon delivery. The register serves as confirmation that a sealed submission envelope has been received by the NAMAs.
- xiv. Physical submissions may be delivered to the following offices countrywide:

1) Khomas Region: National Theatre of Namibia (NTN)

Head Office, Windhoek, Khomas Region

Location: 12 John Meinert St, Windhoek

Phone: +264 61 37 44 00

Working hours: 08H00-13H00, 14H00-17H00, Monday - Friday

2) MICT - Erongo Regional Office

Physical Address: Corner of Rakotoka and Dusch Street, Swakopmund

Working hours: 08H00-13H00, 14H00-17H00, Monday - Friday

3) MICT - Hardap Regional Office

Physical Address: 388 Katrina Himarwa Hanse Street, Mariental

Working hours: 08H00-13H00, 14H00-17H00, Monday - Friday

4) MICT - ǀKharas Regional Office

Physical Address: Cul de Sac Street, Old President Building, Keetmanshoop

Working hours: 08H00-13H00, 14H00-17H00, Monday - Friday

- 5) **MICT - Omaheke Regional Office**
Physical Address: Portion 59 Thlabanelo Street, Gobabis
Working hours: 08H00-13H00, 14H00-17H00, Monday - Friday
- 6) **MICT - Otjozondjupa Regional Office**
Physical Address: 5 Polisie Street, Otjiwarongo
Working hours: 08H00-13H00, 14H00-17H00, Monday - Friday
- 7) **MICT - Kunene Regional Office**
Physical Address: Vita Thom Street, Opuwo
Working hours: 08H00-13H00, 14H00-17H00, Monday - Friday
- 8) **MICT - Oshikoto Regional Office**
Physical Address: Penda ya Ndakolo Street, Omuthiya
Working hours: 08H00-13H00, 14H00-17H00, Monday - Friday
- 9) **MICT - Ohangwena Regional Office**
Physical Address: Hifikepunye Pohamba Street, Eenhana
Working hours: 08H00-13H00, 14H00-17H00, Monday - Friday
- 10) **MICT - Oshana Regional Office**
Physical Address: 850 Robert Mugabe Street, Oshakati
Working hours: 08H00-13H00, 14H00-17H00, Monday - Friday
- 11) **MICT - Omusati Regional Office**
Physical Address: Isack Pondo & Namaungu Street, Outapi
Working hours: 08H00-13H00, 14H00-17H00, Monday - Friday
- 12) **MICT - Kavango East Regional Office**
Physical Address: Eugene Kakukuru Road (Ndama), Rundu
Working hours: 08H00-13H00, 14H00-17H00, Monday - Friday
- 13) **MICT - Kavango West Regional Office**
Physical Address: 824 Ext 2 Behind Mass Housing, Nkurenkuru
Working hours: 08H00-13H00, 14H00-17H00, Monday - Friday
- 14) **MICT - Zambezi Regional Office**
Physical Address: 333 Soweto Street, Portion Y, Katima Mulilo
Working hours: 08H00-13H00, 14H00-17H00, Monday - Friday
- 5) The 11th NAMAs are open for entry from **10 August 2026 to 11 September 2026**. A formal announcement is made at the official launch prior to the opening date

through the media, direct communication to the members and music labels, Namibian Society of Composers and Authors of Music (NASCAM), as well as social media platforms. The closing date for both online and physical submissions is strictly **11 September 2026 at 17H00.**

- 6) Entries received will be screened for compliance with the rules and regulations to ensure that the entries were submitted in the correct category. The purpose of this process, known as vetting, is to ensure that each entry is eligible and not at risk of disqualification later. The Vetting Committee of the NAMAs will perform this function. No artistic or technical judgments are made at this stage.
- 7) The qualified entries are then sent to the judges. *(Please note: Qualified entries are not the final nominations yet.)*
- 8) Entries are forwarded to the judges for adjudication in accordance with defined guidelines and category-specific assessment criteria. Judges apply their music industry knowledge, market analysis and technical expertise in determining the nominees in each category. The public is not involved at this stage.
- 9) All the categories in the NAMAs, except for the public vote categories, are adjudicated by a panel of independent judges. There might be a different panel for each category, but depending on the particular expertise of a judge, he/she may serve on more than one panel. The panel of judges is reviewed annually. They are selected for their expertise in their respective fields.
- 10) Final nominations are announced at the Nomination Launch.
- 11) The winners in each category are announced at the award ceremony, which will take place on a date to be formally announced.

6. Awards Date

The awards ceremony will take place on a suitable date that will be decided by the NAMAs Steering Committee every year.

7. Eligibility of Entrants

- 1) General rules in **section 3.1** must be applied.
- 2) Entries are open to eligible local artists and creators, including recording artists, directors, producers, engineers and other recognised music practitioners, who meet the following requirements:

- The entrant must be a Namibian citizen, permanent resident, African guest or domicile holder of Namibia at the time of submission, as defined in this Policy.
 - Where a master recording is jointly owned by a Namibian and a non-Namibian individual or entity, the entrant must:
 - be a Namibian individual with citizenship; and
 - own at least fifty per cent (50%) of the master recording submitted for entry
- 3) In the case of a duo or group, not less than fifty per cent (50%) of the members must meet the eligibility requirements set out in this Policy.
 - 4) The Vetting Committee reserves the right to request documentary proof of citizenship, residency, domicile, ownership, authorship or any other information necessary to verify the eligibility of any artist, producer, director, engineer or creator.
 - 5) Failure to provide satisfactory proof within the prescribed timeframe may result in the disqualification of the entry.
 - 6) Unless the category states otherwise (for example, Best Producer), international collaborations/productions between qualifying artists and international artists are allowed, provided the Namibian qualifying artists' participation is given star or equal billing and that the song belongs to the Namibian artists and creators.
 - 7) All recordings submitted for the NAMAs must have been commercially released (in other words first made available for sale by any recognised retail trade or online music platform) in Namibia or elsewhere during the period between **1 January 2020 and 31 December 2025**, but only commercially released recordings during the entry period will qualify for entry on condition that written proof of release details for the entry period is submitted together with the fully completed application. The Vetting Committee is entitled to request further or better proof in its discretion.
 - 8) An artist, creator group or authorised submitter may submit a maximum of two (2) entries per **entry-based** award category only, provided that each entry independently meets the eligibility requirements of the NAMAs. Entries submitted in excess of this limit will not be considered and only the first two (2) complete and compliant entries reviewed by the Vetting Committee for that category will be accepted.
 - 9) Categories that do not specifically require an album may be entered using an eligible single, EP, performance recording, music video or other qualifying work, as specified for that category. Refer to the Definitions section for the meaning of these terms.

The following categories are excluded from this requirement:

- i. Best Song
- ii. Most Streamed Song (Special Recognition Award)
- iii. Most Radio Played Song

- iv. Best Folklore Music Contribution
- v. Music Development Award (Premier Award)
- vi. International Achievement (Premier Award)
- vii. Best Instrumental
- viii. Best Music Video
- ix. Best Producer
- x. Best Live Music Performance (Act)

- 10) Artists who do not have a commercially released album will not be eligible for nomination in the Top 5 Awards/Premier Awards.
- 11) Multi-artist compilations comprising previously released recordings are not eligible for submission in any genre category, irrespective of the predominant genre represented in the compilation.
- 12) Entries in album genre categories must comprise a predominance of 70% of tracks pertinent to the genre entered.
- 13) Where a song is a collaboration between artists from different genres, the entry shall compete only in the genre that best represents the primary artist and the musical style of the recording. A collaborating or featured artist may not enter the same song into a different genre category solely based on their participation in the recording.
- 14) Non-entry categories will not involve the public but will purely be based on the independent Judges' scores.
- 15) Singles and albums previously released and entered into the previous NAMAs and now remixed will not be eligible for entry.

8. Prizes

- 1) Cash prizes are awarded to the winning artists except where the category states otherwise. Artists and creators who are nominated in any category are expected to attend the awards ceremony.
- 2) Nominees who fail to attend the Awards Ceremony, either in person or through an authorised representative, shall not be eligible to receive the cash component of the award. They would receive the award statuette only.

Exceptions to this rule may be considered only in exceptional circumstances. A nominee seeking an exemption must submit written notice, together with a motivation and supporting documentation where applicable, to the NAMAs Adjudication Committee within fourteen (14) days of the announcement of nominees.

- 3) Upon notice of unexpected Awards Ceremony absence, the nominee will be required to record an audio-visual interview for each category entered for broadcast

purposes, a copy of which must be delivered to the National Theatre of Namibia Head Office no later than 3 weeks prior to the Award ceremony.

4) The cash prizes awarded to the winners for the NAMAs are as follows:

Entry Categories		
1.	Best Folklore Music Contribution of the Term	N\$50,000.00
2.	Best Langarm Album of the Term	N\$50,000.00
3.	Best Ma /Gaisa Album of the Term	N\$50,000.00
4.	Best Oviritje Album of the Term	N\$50,000.00
5.	Best Shambo Album of the Term	N\$50,000.00
6.	Best Epera Album of the Term	N\$50,000.00
7.	Best Shikokoshi Album of the Term	N\$50,000.00
8.	Best Dance Music Album of the Term (House, Amapiano, Afro-Tech, Progressive House, and Electronic Dance Music (EDM))	N\$30,000.00
9.	Best African Contemporary Album of the Term (Afro-fusion, Soukous/Kwasa Kwasa, Kwiku, Kizomba)	N\$30,000.00
10.	Best Urban Popular Music Album of the Term (Afro Pop, Afro Beats, Township Disco)	N\$30,000.00
11.	Best Kwaito Album of the Term	N\$30,000.00
12.	Best Gospel Music Album of the Term	N\$30,000.00
13.	Best R&B/ Soul Album of the Term	N\$30,000.00
14.	Best Rap/Hip Hop Album of the Term	N\$30,000.00
15.	Best Reggae/Dancehall Album of the Term	N\$30,000.00
16.	Best Jazz/Blues Album of the Term	N\$30,000.00
17.	Best Rock/Alternative of the Term	N\$30,000.00
18.	Best Instrumental Composition for the term	N\$30,000.00
19.	Best Collaboration of the Term	N\$30,000.00
20.	Best Choir Album of the Term	N\$30,000.00
21.	Best Music Video of the Term	N\$30,000.00
22.	Best Live Performing Act of the Term (Premier Award)	N\$60,000.00
23.	Best Single of the Term	N\$30,000.00
Non-Entry Categories		
24.	Most Streamed Song of the Term	N\$30,000.00
25.	Most Radio Played Song of the Term	N\$30,000.00
26.	Best Song (People's Choice Award) (Premier Award)	N\$50,000.00
27.	Best Album of the Term (Premier Award)	N\$60,000.00
28.	Best Overall Artist of the Term (Premier Award)	\$200,000.00
29.	Best Newcomer of the Term	N\$30,000.00
30.	Best Producer of the Term	N\$30,000.00

31.	Best Duo/Group of the Term	N\$30,000.00
Special Recognition Awards		
32.	Lifetime Achievement (Premier Award)	N\$100,000.00
33.	Best International Achievement of the Term	N\$50,000.00
34.	Best Contribution to Music Development of the Term	N\$50,000.00

Cash prizes will not be paid earlier than 30 business days after the date of the Main Award Ceremony.

9. Broadcast and Exploitation Rights

- 1) To produce the awards ceremony, the NAMAs will require the following from each nominated artist, creator, producer, director and engineer who is nominated as a finalist in any category:
 - i. The right to use each nominee's photograph, name, likeness, image, biography, interviews and recorded performance at each event of the awards, for the marketing, advertising, filming, broadcast and commercial exploitation of the awards, including the broadcast production.
 - ii. The right to use the sound recordings or part thereof embodied in the album entered in the awards for the marketing, advertising, filming, broadcasting and commercial exploitation of the awards.
- 2) All nominees and invited performers shall, as a condition of participation in the NAMAs Awards Programme and Awards Ceremony, be required to sign the prescribed Participant and Broadcast Release Form issued by the NAMAs and its official broadcasting partner.

The signed release authorises the recording, filming, photographing, broadcasting, livestreaming, rebroadcasting and promotion of the nominee's or performer's participation in connection with the NAMAs across television, radio, digital platforms, social media and other media channels.

The release is intended solely for the promotion, broadcast, archival and commercial exploitation of the NAMAs and related content. Failure to sign the prescribed release form within the required timeframe may result in the withdrawal of a nominee or performer from participation in the awards ceremony, broadcasts, promotional activities or live performances.

10. General Notes

- 1) All entrants hereby waive any claim of whatsoever nature which they have against the NAMAs Secretariat, Committees, Judges, Partners, Stakeholders, Organisers and any affiliated individuals or entities arising out of or in connection with their participation in this competition and will ensure that the nominees will do the same.
- 2) The Sponsor shall not be liable to an entrant for any reason whatsoever, whether in contract or delict, or otherwise arising out of, or in connection with, the NAMAs. The entrant hereby fully and effectually indemnifies the sponsors and their successors, assigns, licensees and each of their officers, directors, employees and agents and holds them harmless from and against any and all claims, liabilities, judgments, losses, damages, costs and expenses (including reasonable legal expenses) directly or indirectly due to any breach of these rules by the entrant. This indemnity shall survive the completion of the NAMAs.
- 3) By submitting a fully completed entry for the NAMAs, the entrant agrees to abide by the rules as stated in this document.
- 4) The Steering Committee reserves the right to suspend or disqualify an entrant who has provided false information, violated these Rules and Regulations, committed copyright infringement or engaged in conduct that materially brings the Awards into disrepute. Any such decision shall be documented and communicated in writing.
- 5) No artists will be allowed to withdraw any entry after they have submitted it to the NAMAs.

11. Complaints Relating to Unauthorised Submissions

- 1) An author, composer, songwriter, performer, producer or any other rights holder may submit a written complaint to the NAMAs Steering Committee where they reasonably believe that their work has been entered into the NAMAs without their knowledge, consent, authorisation or any other lawful right.

The complaint must be supported by sufficient evidence of ownership or legal interest in the work. Upon receipt, the Steering Committee may refer the matter to the Vetting Committee and Adjudication Committee for investigation.

Where the complaint is substantiated, the NAMAs reserve the right to suspend, reject or disqualify the entry, require additional proof of authority or take any other action considered necessary to protect the integrity of the awards and the intellectual property rights of the parties concerned.

Complaints may be forwarded to:

NAMAs Steering Committee

manager@nama.com.ng

- 2) All decisions with respect to the acceptance of any entry and eligibility of entries are made by the NAMAs Secretariat and shall be final and binding upon all entrants.

12. Categories definitions & Regulations

12.1 Non-Entry Categories

These categories are not open for entry and will be purely based on the defined criteria given to the Independent Judges.

- 1) Most Streamed Song Award
- 2) Most Radio Played Song Award
- 3) Best Song
- 4) Best Album Award
- 5) Best Overall Artist(s) Award
- 6) Best Newcomer Award
- 7) Best Producer Award
- 8) Best Duo/Group Award
- 9) Lifetime Achievement Award (Premier Award)
- 10) Music Development Award (Premier Award)

1) Most Streamed Song Award

This award is not open for direct entry. All eligible songs submitted during the official NAMAs Call for Submissions will automatically be considered.

The award recognises the eligible song with the highest verified combined number of streams across all recognised digital streaming platforms during the Eligibility Period.

The winner will be determined using verified streaming data obtained from recognised digital music platforms, distributors, record labels or other credible sources approved by the Adjudication Committee. Where necessary, entrants may be required to provide supporting documentation, including streaming analytics, distributor reports, ISRC information, platform links or other evidence requested by the Adjudication Committee.

Recognised streaming platforms include:

- 1) Spotify
- 2) Apple Music
- 3) YouTube Music (official music content only)
- 4) Deezer
- 5) Boomplay
- 6) Audiomack
- 7) TIDAL

The Steering Committee may recognise additional streaming platforms where appropriate.

Entrants are responsible for providing complete and accurate streaming information with their submission. The NAMAs shall not be responsible for considering streaming data or supporting documentation submitted after the close of submissions, unless specifically requested by the Adjudication Committee.

2) Most Radio Played Song Award

This award is not open for entry. All eligible songs submitted to the NAMAs during the official Call for Submissions shall automatically be considered for this award.

The award recognises the commercially released song that has received the highest verified radio airplay across approved Namibian radio broadcasters during the Eligibility Period. The winner shall be determined using independently verified broadcast data and official playlist reports obtained by the Adjudication Committee.

The winner will be determined using the following methodology:

- 1) Only radio airplay recorded during the official Eligibility Period shall be considered.
- 2) Only commercially released songs that have been validly submitted to the NAMAs shall be eligible.
- 3) Airplay data shall be obtained from approved public, private, community and online radio broadcasters licensed by the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN).
- 4) The Adjudication Committee may obtain and verify broadcast data through official playlist reports, recognised music reporting systems, broadcaster records or other authorised sources.
- 5) Where available, audience reach and frequency of airplay may be considered in determining the overall radio performance of a song.
- 6) The Adjudication Committee shall determine the approved broadcasters, reporting systems and verification methodology for each Awards Cycle.
- 7) Fraudulent, manipulated or unverifiable broadcast data shall not be considered.
- 8) Where sufficient or independently verifiable broadcast data cannot be obtained, the Adjudication Committee may recommend that the award not be presented for that Awards Cycle.

3) Best Song

This award is **not open for entry**. It is a 100% public voting category, recognising it as the People's Choice Award that reflects public popularity rather than adjudicated artistic merit.

The award recognises the most popular Namibian song of the Eligibility Period as determined by public vote.

The NAMAs Secretariat shall compile a shortlist of the five (5) eligible songs with the highest verified national radio airplay during the Eligibility Period. The shortlist shall be independently verified and approved by the independent judges.

The shortlisted songs shall be presented to the public for voting through the official NAMAs voting platforms.

The song receiving the highest number of valid public votes shall be declared the winner.

4) Best Album Award (Premier Award)

The award is not open for entry and will go to the artist whose entry is an album that, in the opinion of the judges, is, by its excellence, regardless of its genre, better than any other album entered for the NAMAs. This category is for the entry of an album wherein the packaging of the album, including artwork, is considered uniquely creative and appealing

Criteria include:

Artistic Excellence

Musical Cohesion

Production and Audio Quality

Value / Impact

Song Writing

5) Best Overall Artist(s) Award (Premier Award)

This award is the highest recognition of the Namibian Music Awards and honours an artist or group whose overall body of work demonstrates exceptional artistic achievement, innovation and contribution to Namibian music during the eligibility period.

The award recognises sustained excellence across released works, including musical quality, originality, creative development, cultural relevance and measurable contribution to the growth and visibility of Namibian music. Assessment shall be based on artistic merit and documented achievements rather than popularity alone.

Eligibility:

Open to eligible solo artists, duos, groups or ensembles that have released qualifying works during the eligibility period.

Criteria include:

Artistic excellence across all submitted works

Creativity and originality

Consistency of output and quality

Commercial and/or public impact

Contribution to the growth of the music industry

6) Best Newcomer Award

This award celebrates an emerging artist who has made a significant breakthrough and demonstrated exceptional promise, creativity and artistic growth during the eligibility period.

In recognition of the five-year suspension of the Namibian Music Awards, the category acknowledges the unique circumstances faced by artists who entered the industry during this period. To ensure fair opportunity, eligibility will recognise both:

New to the Music Industry: Artists who are beginning their professional music journey and have established themselves as emerging talents within the industry.

New to the NAMAs: Artists who have been active in the music industry but have not previously had the opportunity to be recognised by the Namibian Music Awards.

Criteria include:

Originality and artistic potential

Quality of debut or breakthrough work

Impact and public recognition

Growth and development during the eligibility period

7) Best Producer Award

This category is for producers who have produced a recording of music by an artist who is eligible for entry within the allocated release period as stipulated within the rules of entry. This award recognises the producer(s) who has/ have demonstrated outstanding skill, creativity and impact in music production during the eligibility period.

Criteria include:

Production quality and technical excellence

Creativity and innovation

Sound design and arrangement

Contribution to the artistic success of recorded works

Overall industry impact

'Best Producer' nominees will be decided by the 4 overall best scores received from the independent judges vote for musical entries nominated within Top 4 categories.

Where a musical work has been produced by more than one producer, only producers who meet the NAMAs eligibility requirements shall be eligible for this award. The involvement of a non-qualifying producer shall not, on its own, render the work ineligible, provided that the eligible producer's contribution to the production can be satisfactorily verified.

8) Best Duo/Group Award

This award recognises outstanding performance by a duo or group during the eligibility period.

Criteria include:

Group cohesion and performance quality
Musical creativity and originality
Quality of recorded works and/or live performance impact
Consistency of output
Contribution to the music industry

12.2 Entry Categories

1) Best Single

This award recognises excellence in a **standalone single release** issued during the eligibility period. It honours an individual track that demonstrates exceptional artistic merit through songwriting, performance, production, originality and audience impact.

Eligibility Rules

- The submitted song must be a standalone single release and must not form part of an album, EP, mixtape or any other multi-track project.
- Each artist or group may submit only one (1) single for consideration in this category during the eligibility period.
- The submitted work must have been officially released within the eligibility period.

Criteria

Songwriting and composition
Vocal or performance quality
Production quality
Originality and creativity
Commercial performance and audience impact

2) Best Folklore Music Contribution Award

This award recognises an outstanding contribution to the preservation, promotion, development and celebration of Namibia's traditional and indigenous musical heritage. It honours artists, groups or musical works that authentically showcase traditional music, indigenous languages, cultural practices, instruments, rhythms and performance traditions, while contributing to the continuity and appreciation of Namibia's diverse cultural identity.

Entries may include traditional or contemporary interpretations of indigenous music, provided they demonstrate a clear connection to Namibia's folklore and cultural heritage.

Criteria include:

Authenticity in folk music style

Danceability and audience engagement
Musical arrangement and instrumentation
Vocal and performance quality
Production quality

3) Best Langarm Album

This award recognises excellence in Langarm music.

Criteria

Adherence to recognised genre characteristics of Langarm
Originality
Musical arrangement
Production quality
Artistic quality

4) Best Ma /Gaisa Album

This award recognises excellence in Ma /Gaisa music and honours an artist whose album best reflects the unique cultural identity, musical traditions and artistic expression of the Ma /Gaisa genre during the eligibility period.

Criteria:

Adherence to recognised genre characteristics of Ma /Gaisa
Originality
Musical arrangement
Production quality
Artistic quality

5) Best Oviritjie Album

This award recognises excellence in Oviritjie music and honours an artist whose album best showcases the distinctive sound, cultural heritage and artistic excellence of the Oviritjie genre during the eligibility period.

Criteria:

Adherence to recognised genre characteristics of Oviritjie
Originality
Musical arrangement
Production quality
Artistic quality

6) Best Shambo Album

This award recognises excellence in Shambo music and honours an artist whose album best reflects the distinctive sound, cultural heritage and artistic expression of the Shambo genre during the eligibility period.

Criteria:

Adherence to recognised genre characteristics of Shambo

Originality

Musical arrangement

Production quality

Artistic quality

7) Best Epera Album

This award recognises excellence in Epera music and honours an artist whose album best demonstrates the unique musical characteristics, cultural significance and artistic excellence of the Epera genre during the eligibility period.

Criteria:

Adherence to recognised genre characteristics of Epera

Originality

Musical arrangement

Production quality

Artistic quality

8) Best Shikoshoshi Album

This award recognises excellence in Shikoshoshi music and honours an artist whose album best reflects the distinctive rhythms, cultural identity and artistic expression of the Shikoshoshi genre during the eligibility period.

Criteria:

Adherence to recognised genre characteristics of Shikokoshi

Originality

Musical arrangement

Production quality

Artistic quality

9) Best Dance Music (House, Amapiano, Afro-Tech, Progressive House and Electronic Dance Music (EDM)) Album

This award recognises excellence in Dance Music and honours the artist whose album demonstrates outstanding creativity, innovation and technical excellence within the House, Amapiano, Afro-Tech, Progressive House or Electronic Dance Music (EDM) genres during the Eligibility Period. The award celebrates albums that showcase exceptional

production, rhythmic composition, musical cohesion and artistic execution while contributing to the growth and evolution of dance music

Criteria:

Beat production and rhythm quality
Dancefloor impact and audience response
Creativity in sound design
Vocal or instrumental integration
Production quality and mastering

10) Best African Contemporary (Afro-fusion, Soukous/Kwasa Kwasa, Kwiku, Kizomba)

This award recognises excellence in African Contemporary music and honours an artist whose album best showcases the richness, diversity and evolution of African musical styles, including Afro-fusion, Soukous, Kwasa Kwasa, Kwiku, Kizomba and related contemporary African genres. The award celebrates outstanding musicianship, creativity and cultural expression during the eligibility period.

Criteria:

Fusion and modern interpretation of African styles
Musical arrangement and instrumentation
Vocal performance and delivery
Production quality
Cultural relevance and innovation

11) Best Urban Popular Music (Afro Pop, Afro Beats, Township Disco) Album

This award recognises excellence in Urban Popular Music and honours an artist whose album best demonstrates creativity, musical excellence and broad audience appeal within genres such as Afro Pop, Afro Beats, Township Disco and related contemporary African popular music styles. The award celebrates outstanding artistic achievement and contribution to the growth of urban popular music during the eligibility period.

Criteria:

Commercial appeal and audience engagement
Song writing and lyrical content
Production quality
Vocal performance
Creativity and originality

12) **Best Kwaito Album**

This award recognises excellence in Kwaito music and honours an artist whose album best reflects the creativity, cultural significance and distinctive sound of the genre during the eligibility period.

Criteria:

Authenticity and representation of the Kwaito genre

Originality and creativity

Lyrical content and delivery

Musical arrangement and production quality

Cultural relevance and entertainment value

13) **Best Gospel Album**

This award recognises excellence in gospel -inspired music and honours an artist whose album demonstrates outstanding artistic merit, meaningful lyrical expression, and musical achievement during the eligibility period.

The award celebrates music that inspires, uplifts, and reflects faith through excellence in songwriting, performance, and production. Eligible entries include music rooted in the gospel and Christian faith.

Criteria:

Lyrical content and thematic development

Vocal and musical performance

Arrangement, composition and musicianship

Production quality and technical execution

Album structure, sequencing and overall artistic presentation

14) **Best R&B/Soul Album**

This award recognises excellence in R&B and Soul music and honours an artist whose album best demonstrates outstanding vocal performance, musicality, emotional expression and artistic excellence during the eligibility period. The award celebrates music that showcases the distinctive characteristics of the R&B and Soul genres through compelling songwriting, performance and production.

Criteria:

Originality

Musical arrangement

Production quality

Artistic quality

Adherence to recognised R&B and Soul music characteristics

15) Best Rap/Hip Hop Album

This award recognises excellence in Rap and Hip-Hop music and honours an artist whose album best demonstrates lyrical excellence, creativity, artistic expression and overall contribution to the Rap and Hip-Hop genre during the eligibility period. The award celebrates music that showcases strong storytelling, originality, performance and production quality.

Criteria:

Originality

Musical arrangement

Production quality

Artistic quality

Adherence to recognised Rap/Hip Hop music characteristics

16) Best Reggae/Dancehall Album

This award recognises excellence in Reggae and Dancehall music and honours an artist whose album best demonstrates the distinctive rhythms, lyrical expression, cultural influence and artistic excellence of the Reggae and Dancehall genres during the eligibility period. The award celebrates music that reflects the spirit, creativity and impact of these genres while showcasing outstanding performance and production quality.

Criteria:

Originality

Musical arrangement

Production quality

Artistic quality

Adherence to recognised Reggae and Dancehall music characteristics

17) Best Jazz/Blues Album

This award recognises excellence in Jazz and Blues music and honours an artist whose album best demonstrates outstanding musicianship, artistic expression and innovation within the Jazz and Blues genres during the eligibility period. The award celebrates music that showcases exceptional instrumental and/or vocal performance, musical sophistication and creative interpretation.

Criteria:

Originality

Musical arrangement

Production quality

Artistic quality

Adherence to recognised Jazz and Blues music characteristics

18) Best Rock/Alternative Album

This award recognises excellence in Rock and Alternative music and honours an artist whose album best demonstrates originality, energy and artistic expression within the Rock and Alternative genres during the eligibility period. The award celebrates music that showcases strong instrumentation, creative sound identity and impactful performance.

Criteria:

Originality

Musical arrangement

Production quality

Artistic quality

Adherence to recognised Rock and Alternative music characteristics

19) Best Instrumental Award

This award recognises excellence in instrumental music and honours an artist or composer whose original composition demonstrates outstanding musical craftsmanship, technical skill and artistic expression during the eligibility period.

The award celebrates newly created instrumental works that demonstrate compositional excellence, sophisticated arrangement, instrumental mastery and a distinctive artistic vision.

Eligibility Requirement:

Entries must consist of original compositions created and released during the eligibility period. Interpretations, adaptations, arrangements or performances of previously existing works are not eligible.

Criteria:

Technical musical proficiency

Original composition and structural development

Arrangement and orchestration

Instrumental performance and execution

Artistic interpretation and presentation

20) Best Collaboration

This award recognises excellence in a collaborative musical work and honours a single recorded song or album featuring two or more artists who have come together for a distinct creative collaboration during the eligibility period.

The award celebrates the artistic exchange, creative contribution and successful integration of different voices, styles or musical approaches within one original

collaborative recording. This category recognises temporary artistic partnerships and excludes permanent duos or groups eligible under the Best Duo/Group category.

Criteria:

Contribution and integration of each collaborating artist within the recording
Originality and creative approach of the collaborative work
Vocal and instrumental performance quality
Arrangement, composition and production quality
Overall technical and artistic execution of the recording

Please note that applications for this category must be accompanied by a signed Collaboration Agreement Letter.

21) Best Choir Album

This award recognises excellence in choral music and honours a choir who's originally composed album demonstrates outstanding vocal artistry, musical craftsmanship and technical excellence during the eligibility period.

The award celebrates choral albums featuring original compositions that demonstrate excellence in vocal harmony, arrangement, ensemble performance and recording production, while contributing to the development of Namibia's choral music landscape.

Eligibility Requirement:

Entries must consist of an album comprising original choral compositions released during the eligibility period.

Albums consisting primarily of adaptations, arrangements, reinterpretations or previously released compositions are not eligible.

Criteria:

Vocal harmony, blend and ensemble precision
Original composition and choral arrangement quality
Musical interpretation and performance execution
Recording, mixing, mastering and production quality
Album structure, cohesion and overall technical execution

22) Best Music Video Album

This award recognises excellence in music video production and honours an artist whose visual work demonstrates creativity, storytelling and technical execution during the eligibility period.

The award celebrates music videos that extend and enhance the artist's creative vision and interpretation of the song through effective visual expression, production quality and collaboration between the artist and the creative production team.

Criteria:

Alignment with the artist's creative vision and interpretation of the song

Concept development and originality

Visual storytelling and direction

Technical production quality (cinematography, editing, lighting and visual effects)

Overall artistic execution and presentation

23) Best Live Music Performance (Act)

This award recognises excellence in live musical performance and honours an act that demonstrates outstanding musicianship, technical proficiency and artistic execution during the eligibility period.

The award celebrates live performances across different formats, including solo artists, duos, groups and ensembles, that demonstrate excellence in musical delivery, arrangement, stage execution and live production quality.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Entries are open to solo artists, duos, groups and ensembles.
- The act must perform originally composed music. Covers, adaptations or reinterpretations of previously composed works are not eligible.
- Artists must submit an Electronic Press Kit (EPK) and evidence of at least two qualifying live performances during the eligibility period.
- Each entry must include high-quality video recordings of the qualifying live performances. The recordings must clearly capture the overall performance and enable the Adjudication Committee to assess the musical, technical, and artistic merits of the act.
- Supporting evidence of the performances may include event programmes, posters, promotional material, contracts, venue confirmations, ticketing records, media coverage, photographs, or any other documentation accepted by the Adjudication Committee.
- The Adjudication Committee reserves the right to request additional evidence to verify the authenticity of any submitted live performance.

Recognition of the Act:

- Where the live performance is presented under the name of a solo artist, the award shall be presented to the solo artist.
- Where the performance is presented under the name of a duo, group, band, choir, ensemble, orchestra, or other recognised performing entity, the award shall be presented to that collective Act.
- Accompanying musicians, session musicians, backing vocalists, musical directors, conductors, or technical personnel shall not be recognised as separate recipients of the award unless they form part of the officially credited performing Act.

- The official billing, promotional material, ticketing information, and performance credits may be used by the Adjudication Committee to determine the identity of the recognised Act.

Criteria:

Live vocal and/or instrumental performance proficiency
Musical accuracy, timing and ensemble coordination
Arrangement, interpretation, and execution of original material
Stage production quality, including sound, lighting and technical presentation
Overall technical and artistic execution of the live performance

Note: The Live Performance Act Deceleration Letter is mandatory for this category.

12.3 Special Recognition Awards

1) Lifetime Achievement Award

This award recognises an individual with an exceptional and sustained contribution to the music industry over a significant period.

Criteria:

International visibility and recognition
Success of work outside Namibia
Contribution to raising the profile of Namibian music globally
Verified international performances, releases, or collaborations

2) International Achievement Award (Special Award)

This award is not open for entry.

The award recognises a Namibian artist or music industry professional who has achieved notable international recognition during the Eligibility Period.

Eligible recipients shall be shortlisted by the adjudicators based on verified information from credible sources. The shortlisted candidates shall be independently assessed and the recipient selected by the independent judges.

Criteria:

International visibility and recognition
Success of work outside Namibia
Contribution to raising the profile of Namibian music globally
Verified international performances, releases, or collaborations

The decision of the independent judges shall be final.

3) Music Development Award (Special Award)

This award recognises an individual or organisation that has made a long-term contribution to the development and growth of the music industry.

Criteria:

Contribution to music development and industry growth
Support for emerging artists and talent development
Investment in music infrastructure, education or systems
Long-term impact on the music ecosystem
National cultural contribution

12.4 Public Vote Category

1) Best Song

This award is **not open for entry**. It is a 100% public voting category, recognising it as the People's Choice Award that reflects public popularity rather than adjudicated artistic merit.

The award recognises the most popular Namibian song of the Eligibility Period as determined by public vote.

The NAMAs Secretariat shall compile a shortlist of the five (5) eligible songs with the highest verified national radio airplay during the Eligibility Period. The shortlist shall be independently verified and approved by the independent judges.

The shortlisted songs shall be presented to the public for voting through the official NAMAs voting platforms.

The song receiving the highest number of valid public votes shall be declared the winner.