



Arena Fantasy Magazine
11 East Street, Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX26 2EY
Tel: 07528924361 | Email:
arenafantasy magazine@gmail.com

Submission Competition and Contributor Advertising Terms

Version dated 2 October 2026

These terms cover general submissions, paid competition entries and the advertising benefits available to published contributors. Please read them alongside the requirements on the relevant AFM website page and Jotform before submitting or paying.

1 Organiser and contact

Arena Fantasy Magazine (AFM) is operated by Andy Hesford, trading as Arena Fantasy Magazine. Enquiries, payment queries and withdrawal requests should be sent to arenafantasy magazine@gmail.com. Include your name, the competition name, entry titles and PayPal transaction reference where relevant.

2 Submission route and eligibility

All work must be submitted through the relevant official AFM Jotform linked from the AFM website. Work sent by email or post will not be accepted. Email is for correspondence and withdrawal requests only.

General submissions and competition entries are open worldwide to people aged 18 or over at the time of submission. By submitting, you confirm that you meet this requirement. AFM may request reasonable proof of age where necessary. Any additional geographical restrictions will be stated before entry.

Written submissions must be in English and use British English spelling and punctuation. Dialogue may reflect a character's accent, dialect or background where appropriate.

3 General submissions

General submissions are free of charge and unpaid. Published contributors receive the complimentary advertising benefits described in sections 18 to 20. Competition fees apply only to competitions and do not guarantee publication, shortlisting or a prize.

All submissions are considered on an editorial basis and acceptance is not guaranteed.

4 Previously published and simultaneous submissions

AFM accepts previously published work where the contributor retains the necessary rights and publication would not breach an existing agreement. Identify where and when it was published and any required original publisher credit in the form. Any competition restriction on previously published work will be stated before entry.

Simultaneous submissions are permitted only where the other publication or competition also allows them. Notify AFM promptly if work is accepted elsewhere, and confirm whether it remains available. Withdraw it if another agreement prevents AFM publication.

5 Original authorship and AI assistance

Written submissions must be the contributor's own work. AFM does not accept AI-generated creative writing, including stories, scripts, poetry or articles. AI tools may assist with spelling, grammar checking and proofreading of the contributor's own writing, but must not generate or substantially rewrite the submission. Contributors remain responsible for accuracy, originality and rights clearance.

6 Content suitability

AFM accepts adult themes, including strong language, violence, horror and sexual themes, where appropriate to the story. Work is assessed in context, and AFM may decline material unsuitable for its readership or editorial direction. Identify significant sensitive content in the form so that reader advisories can be considered.

7 File formats and presentation

Prose must be submitted as DOCX; screenplays must be submitted as PDF. Prose should use a readable 12-point font, at least 1.5 line spacing and numbered pages. Screenplays should follow standard screenplay formatting and include numbered script pages. Include the title and word count for prose, or script page count for screenplays. Supply contributor details in the form.

Each competition page and form specify the theme, permitted entry types, word or page limits and any additional requirements. Entries must meet these requirements and clearly respond to the advertised theme, which may be interpreted creatively.

Screenplay competitions may accept complete short screenplays and opening extracts from longer screenplays, as specified for each competition. Identify which type you are submitting. A title page does not count towards the script page limit. Publication of a prize-winning extract covers the submitted extract; publication of the complete screenplay requires a separate agreement.

8 Copyright and publication permission

Contributors retain copyright. By submitting, you confirm that you own the work or hold the permissions necessary to submit it and authorise publication. Copyright is not transferred to AFM.

If accepted, you grant AFM non-exclusive permission to publish your work in an electronic edition, with credit under your name or agreed pseudonym. That edition may remain available after publication. Competition winners and runners-up additionally grant non-exclusive permission to publish their awarded work on the AFM website.

AFM will seek separate permission before publishing work in print or using promotional extracts, images or other material beyond these agreed uses.

9 Editing and feedback

AFM may correct spelling, grammar, punctuation and formatting, including British English and house style adjustments, while preserving meaning and creative voice. Substantial changes, significant cuts or content alterations will be agreed before publication.

Individual feedback, scores and judging notes are not included unless expressly offered before submission or purchase. Administrative queries and concerns about compliance with published rules may still be raised.

10 Separate competitions and entry fees

AFM initially plans one prose and one screenplay competition per issue; categories and numbers may vary in future issues. Each has its own form, theme, requirements, judging criteria and schedule. Fees, bundles, entry limits and prize calculations apply separately to each competition. Bundles cannot be shared between competitions.

Fees are £8 for one entry, £14 for two entries and £18 for three entries. Additional purchases are allowed up to six distinct entries per person per competition. Six entries purchased as two three-entry bundles cost £36. Each work counts as one entry, including works purchased in a bundle. The same work cannot be entered twice in the same competition.

11 Payment and matching entries

Pay competition fees through the official PayPal links on the AFM website, and submit work separately through the relevant Joform. Provide the PayPal transaction reference in the form. Identify any difference between the payer's and entrant's name or email so payment can be matched.

Both the completed submission and required payment must be received by the closing deadline. Late entries will not be considered. Where a payment cannot be matched or an entry is incomplete, AFM will seek clarification where practicable. Payment does not itself constitute a valid submission.

12 Prizes in each competition

Each separate prose or screenplay competition offers the following awards. Cash amounts depend on the eligible paid entry count for that competition alone.

- Winner: up to £80, publication on the AFM website and in the electronic magazine, and a two-year electronic subscription.
- Runner-up: up to £40, publication on the AFM website and in the electronic magazine, and a one-year electronic subscription.
- Up to three highly commended entries: one free electronic copy of the issue associated with the competition each. No cash prize.

The winner and runner-up also receive the contributor advertising benefits described in sections 18 to 20.

13 Cash prize calculation

Full cash prizes of £80 and £40 apply at 30 or more eligible paid entries. This is the full-prize threshold, not a minimum entry count required to run the competition.

Below 30 entries, the winner's prize is $£80 \times N \div 30$ and the runner-up's prize is $£40 \times N \div 30$, rounded to the nearest penny. N is the number of eligible paid entries remaining after withdrawals and refunds. Prizes are capped at £80 and £40. At 15 entries, cash prizes are £40 and £20; at 20 entries, they are £53.33 and £26.67.

Publication and subscription prizes are not reduced proportionately. Each entrant may receive only their highest-ranked award in a competition. Their other entries are excluded from further awards, which pass to the next eligible entries by other entrants. An entrant may receive awards in different competitions.

14 Prize notification and withdrawals

Seven days before the published closing date, AFM will email entrants the current eligible paid entry count, anticipated cash prizes, publication and subscription awards, and instructions for withdrawal. Entrants may withdraw until the closing deadline for a refund. Entrants joining during the final seven days will be shown equivalent information before payment.

Anticipated amounts may change as further entries and withdrawals are received. After closing, AFM will determine eligibility and confirm final prize amounts to remaining entrants before judging begins.

Withdrawing all entries from a competition produces a full refund of its entry fees. For partial withdrawals, the refund is the amount paid minus the lowest-cost combination of published bundles for the entries retained across all purchases in that competition. For an £18 three-entry purchase, retaining two entries gives a £4 refund; retaining one gives a £10 refund; withdrawing all gives an £18 refund.

Send withdrawal requests to arenafantasy magazine@gmail.com by the deadline, identifying the competition, entries to withdraw and payment reference.

15 Schedule and deadlines

Each competition closes at 11:59 pm UK time on the 7th of the month preceding the relevant issue's publication. UK time means GMT or BST as applicable. The exact date and time will be displayed on the competition page and form.

Judging takes place after closing and finishes before award notification. Winners and runners-up are contacted 10–12 days before publication. Publication permission, biographies and final formatting are confirmed between the 1st and 3rd of the issue month. The magazine is finalised by the 6th and published on the 10th.

AFM will give prize recipients clear instructions and deadlines for supplying publication materials and payment details. Results will be announced in connection with the relevant issue.

16 Judging

Entries are not judged anonymously; entrant details are available to the judge. AFM's editor, Andy Hesford, will normally judge entries. Any additional judges will be identified on the competition page. Personal relationships or conflicts of interest must not influence the outcome.

Prose criteria are relevance to the theme, originality, characterisation, structure, use of language and overall impact. Screenplay criteria are relevance to the theme, originality, characterisation, dramatic structure, dialogue, visual storytelling and screenplay formatting.

Screenplay assessment takes account of whether an entry is a complete short screenplay or an opening extract. Extracts are assessed on how effectively they establish the story, without requiring a complete resolution. The judge's decision on rankings is final, but concerns about adherence to published rules may be raised with AFM.

17 Prize payments refunds and subscriptions

Cash prizes are stated and paid in pounds sterling. AFM will pay within 30 calendar days of award notification or receipt of valid payment details, whichever is later.

Refunds will be processed within 30 calendar days of a valid withdrawal request or announcement of competition cancellation, normally through the original payment method. If AFM cancels a competition, all its entry fees will be refunded.

For an existing subscriber, a subscription prize extends their current subscription by two years for the winner or one year for the runner-up. For a new subscriber, it begins with the issue featuring their awarded work and covers electronic issues released during that period.

18 Complimentary contributor advertising

Contributors whose work is accepted and published, including competition winners and runners-up, receive complimentary advertising in the electronic issue containing their work and on the AFM website, subject to AFM's advertising specifications and approval.

Advertising may promote the contributor's work, services or creative business. The magazine advertisement remains part of that issue. The website advertisement runs for at least three months from going live, continuing until the next issue is released if that occurs later.

Contributors may purchase advertising in subsequent issues at a discounted contributor rate. The rate and period will be provided before booking. Renewal is optional and is not automatic.

19 Artwork and optional design service

Contributors may supply their own advertisement artwork at no additional charge. It must meet AFM's specifications and deadline. Contributors must hold the necessary rights to its wording, images, logos and other materials.

Alternatively, AFM offers an optional £30 design service covering one advert design adapted for the electronic magazine and website, plus one round of amendments. The scope is agreed before payment. The contributor supplies the required wording, images, logos and links, with permission to use them. AFM provides a proof for approval before publication.

Further amendments or additional designs will be quoted separately and agreed before work begins. The design fee does not include an upgraded website position.

20 Optional website placement upgrades

Contributors may pay an additional fee for a more prominent website advertising position, subject to availability. Placement, duration and fee will be explained before booking. Upgrades are optional; the standard complimentary allocation does not require an upgrade purchase.

Purchasing advertisement design, renewals or placement upgrades will not influence editorial acceptance or competition judging.

21 Administration and fair treatment

Entrants are responsible for supplying accurate contact and payment information and checking the requirements before submission. AFM may reject or disqualify work that breaches eligibility, originality, rights or competition requirements. AFM will explain the reason and any applicable refund position; these terms do not impose blanket forfeiture of all fees for every administrative error.

AFM will not extend a competition deadline simply because entry numbers are low. Any necessary change to the schedule or administration will be communicated promptly and handled fairly for existing entrants. Cancellation entitles entrants to a full refund as described in section 17.

Future changes to fees, prize structures or other terms apply to future competitions and bookings. They will not retrospectively reduce agreed benefits or override entrants' rights in an existing competition. Mandatory consumer rights are unaffected.

22 Personal information and publication credits

AFM uses submission and payment information to administer entries, communicate decisions, arrange publication, deliver prizes and subscriptions, and provide agreed advertising. Entrant contact and payment details are not intended for publication.

Accepted work will carry the contributor's name or agreed pseudonym. AFM will agree the biography and publication credit with published contributors. The relevant form will explain proposed winner announcements and how entrants can raise privacy concerns before entry.

Further information about data handling, service providers and retention will be provided in AFM's privacy notice, made available from the website and submission forms. Submission does not by itself constitute consent to unrelated marketing.

23 Acceptance of these terms

By submitting through an official AFM form, you confirm that you have read these terms and the relevant submission or competition requirements. Competition entrants also acknowledge the variable cash prize calculation and the separate payment process.

For queries or clarification, contact contact-us@arenafantasymagazine.co.uk