

ORF Terms of Use for the Eurovision Song Contest 2026

Event Venue: Wiener Stadthalle, Roland Rainer Platz 1, 1150 Vienna

Organizer: AUSTRIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION, (ORF)

Hugo-Portisch-Gasse 1, 1136 Vienna, Austria

1. Preamble

The ORF will host the Eurovision Song Contest 2026 (short “ESC 2026”) in the Wiener Stadthalle (Vienna, Austria) from May 11 to May 16, 2026, holding a total of nine public events and producing them as live television broadcasts.

The Eurovision Song Contest is Europe’s largest TV entertainment show, implemented and used across media as an international co-production of the European Broadcasting Union (short “EBU”) within the framework of the Eurovision program exchange. The ESC attracts a three-digit million audience every year and uses all electronic media channels.

These house and site regulations (hereinafter “House Rules”) apply to the Eurovision Song Contest 2026 (hereinafter ESC), organized by the ORF (hereinafter “Organizer”) for the entire duration of the event and across the entire event area.

The event area includes all halls, foyers, other ancillary rooms, and their outdoor areas (entire premises) of the Wiener Stadthalle, including Märzpark and Vogelweidplatz (hereinafter ESC premises).

These House Rules generally apply to every person entering the event area. They do not apply to emergency services and public authorities. If different regulations apply to participating persons (artists, employees, volunteers, etc.), they are defined in separate provisions.

2. Duration of Validity

These House Rules apply to the following events:

Date	Show	Start ID Check (Opening Märzpark)	Start Entrance WSH (Opening Doors)	Start Entrance Hospitality Area	Show starts	Show ends	Curfew
Semi Final 1:							
Monday, May 11, 2026	Evening Preview Show	6:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	-	9:00 p.m.	11:15 p.m.	2:00 a.m.
Tuesday, May 12, 2026	Afternoon Preview Show	12:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.	-	3:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, May 12, 2026	Live Broadcast TV Show	6:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	11:15 p.m.	2:00 a.m.
Semi Final 2:							
Wednesday, May 13, 2026	Evening Preview Show	6:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	-	9:00 p.m.	11:15 p.m.	2:00 a.m.
Thursday, May 14, 2026	Afternoon Preview Show	12:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.	-	3:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	
Thursday, May 14, 2026	Live Broadcast TV Show	6:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	11:15 p.m.	2:00 a.m.
Grand Final:							
Friday, May 15, 2026	Evening Preview Show	6:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	1:00 a.m.	2:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 16, 2026	Afternoon Preview Show	10:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	-	1:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	
Saturday, May 16, 2026	Live Broadcast TV Show	6:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	1:00 a.m.	2:00 a.m.

3. Access and Presence in the Venue

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During the period of validity of these house rules, only persons with the corresponding accreditation and admission tickets may be present in the respective areas of the ESC premises.

The accreditation or ticket must be presented upon entering the ESC premises and upon request at any time to security personnel or stewards and to emergency services. Refusal will result in denied entry or a request to leave the ESC premises. Additionally, every participant must carry an official photo ID and present it upon request to the security or stewarding service and to emergency services.

Once the official program has ended, visitors must leave the event area immediately after the conclusion of each event.

Tickets are non-transferable, must be kept until leaving the Wiener Stadthalle, and must be presented to the control authorities at any time upon request. Tickets are accepted only in digital form via the Ö-Ticket app. Tickets are personalized. The security service is authorized to conduct ID checks for identity verification using an official photo ID.

The event period is defined as the period from the audience's entry to the ESC premises until the last visitor has left the event area.

Accreditations are non-transferable and must be visibly carried at all times. Individuals carrying improperly attached or damaged accreditations may be expelled from the ESC premises by the Organizer or security service. Entry to and presence on the ESC premises, even outside event hours, is permitted only with valid accreditation.

Individuals under the influence of drugs or consciousness-altering medications, drunk persons, troublemakers, and persons who violate the rules of public decency or otherwise violate the provisions of the Vienna Provincial Security Act, the Security Police Act, or the Criminal Code will be denied access to the ESC premises or expelled from the ESC premises.

The possession and consumption of narcotic drugs on the ESC premises are strictly prohibited.

Denial of Entry

Entry may be denied to visitors without ticket reimbursement if they:

- refuse to consent to security checks;
- do not follow the instructions of the security service;
- are visibly under the influence of significant amounts of alcohol or drugs;
- are visibly willing to engage in violence or to incite acts of violence;
- have previously violated the House Rules or the General Terms and Conditions;
- are subject to a local ban from the premises;
- are visibly intending to disrupt the event;

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- intend carrying prohibited items.

Entry may also be denied if official regulations, an evacuation order, or other safety-related reasons prevent entry.

4. Age Restrictions

- Children under the age of 3 are not permitted to enter due to the lighting effects, noise levels, and other show effects that are not suitable for this age group.
- Children under the age of 14 may only attend if accompanied by an adult and only in seating areas.
- Young people between the ages of 14 and 16 may attend the Afternoon Preview Shows, Evening Preview Shows, and Semi-Final Shows (Live Broadcast TV Shows) in the seating area alone. In the standing area and at the Final Show (Live Broadcast TV Show), young people between the ages of 14 and 16 must be accompanied by an adult..
- There are no age restrictions for persons aged 16 and above.
- For children under the age of 12, hearing protection is mandatory. Parents or guardians are strongly recommended to provide ear-muff hearing protection.

5. Prohibited Items

The following items are prohibited on the ESC premises:

- weapons of any kind
- knives of any kind (e.g., pocket knives, kitchen knives, etc.)
- bags and containers of any kind, except transparent plastic bags no larger than A6
- lighters
- studded bracelets and studded belts
- items and objects that can be used as weapons, striking, thrusting, stabbing weapons, or projectiles
- addictive substances
- sticks and poles, except flagpoles made of flexible plastic up to 1.2 m in length and 2 cm in diameter
- bulky and dangerous items such as ladders, stools, (folding) chairs, bicycles, and other vehicles, backpacks, suitcases, sports bags, umbrellas (except medical walking aids);
- pyrotechnic items: fireworks, smoke powder, smoke bombs, etc.
- gas spray cans, deodorant sprays, corrosive, flammable, coloring, or otherwise dangerous

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substances or liquids, or containers with substances that could impair health or are easily flammable. Exception: commercially available lighters

- mechanically operated noise instruments such as megaphones, gas horns, whistles, horns, etc.
- laser pointers
- shattering or fragile items
- animals (except service dogs and guide dogs in seating areas)
- advertising items (banners, flyers, etc.)
- other objects that could compromise the safety and/or reputation of the event or the Organizer
- any items and substances that may pose a threat to the protective interests listed in §18 (1) of the Vienna Event Act (especially the threat to life and health of people and the threat to operational safety).
- Flags, banners, signs and other decorative materials that do not meet fire protection class B1
- disturbing transmitters that could interfere with radio equipment using electromagnetic waves (signal jammers).

For flags, banners and signs:

Flame-retardant fabric flags, banners, and signs with a maximum size of 1.0 x 0.8 m and without a fixed frame are permitted, provided they comply with the following specifications.

All flags, banners, and signs must be displayed or waved in such a way that they do not obstruct the view of other visitors, disrupt a smooth TV production, cover emergency exits or signs, or pose any other safety risk.

A maximum of one flag/banner/sign is permitted per person.

Flags, banners, and signs that do not provide proof of compliance with fire protection class B1 must be surrendered at the entrance. The organizer will not be able to return them after the show. These flags, banners, and signs will be disposed of by the organizer.

Prohibited flags, banners, and signs

Prohibited are:

- Flags, banners and signs with racist, sexist, discriminatory, offensive, disrespectful prints
- Flags, banners and signs with prints that can be associated with terrorism, hatred or violence

Flagpoles

- Flagpoles made of wood and/or metal are prohibited.
- Flagpoles made of flexible plastic (e.g., KIR-pipes) and telescopic flagpoles made of flexible plastic

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are allowed up to a length of 120 cm and a diameter of 1,5 cm.

The Organizer and the security coordination have the right to deny entry to the event for violations or to remove prohibited items brought into the event site.

In case of doubt, the classification of items as prohibited or allowed under these House Rules is at the discretion of the security officer in charge.

The Organizer reserves the right to search/scan clothing of individuals and any items carried with them for prohibited items, using technical aids such as metal detectors if necessary.

Under certain circumstances, both for security and reasons, even items deemed safe may be confiscated. This also applies to flags, banners and signs.

Persons who resist inspection or carry prohibited items may be denied access to the ESC site.

It is noted that the Organizer does not take custody of prohibited items on-site. These will be disposed of.

6. Cloakroom

Outerwear must be left at the cloakroom. Leaving items elsewhere is prohibited. Sticks may only be taken by frail persons as an indispensable support.

7. Vehicles

Driving vehicles in public areas is prohibited while visitors are present. Furthermore, driving and parking motor vehicles within the ESC grounds is only permitted with authorization (clearly displayed vehicle or parking permit) from the organizer. The rules of the road apply, and a speed limit of 10 km/h is in effect.

8. House Rights

The Organizer exercises house rights over the entire ESC site. They may transfer the exercise of house rights to the security service commissioned by the Organizer.

The Organizer and the security and stewarding service appointed by the Organizer will ensure that the House Rules are followed, in accordance with the applicable legal provisions.

9. Video Surveillance

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The visitor acknowledges that the ESC site is monitored by video surveillance in accordance with applicable data protection regulations. Video surveillance serves the preventive protection of property, protection of house rights, clarification of any criminally relevant and security-relevant incidents, and securing evidence in connection with criminal and civil proceedings. Any criminally relevant behavior will be reported immediately and without exception.

10. Smoking Ban

Smoking bans in accordance with the provisions of the Tobacco Act in its current version must always be observed. A strict smoking ban applies on the ESC site. This smoking ban also applies to e-cigarettes and vapes. Exceptions are the designated smoking areas outdoors.

11. Noise

Due to increased volume, there is a risk of potential hearing and health damage at events. Hearing protection is provided free of charge by the Organizer.

12. Behavior

Every person entering the ESC site must:

- follow the instructions of the Organizer, the security and stewarding service, and the emergency services, including any announcements over loudspeakers. Anyone who willfully or negligently fails to comply with these instructions may be expelled from the event area by security and public order services or the police.
- behave in a way that does not endanger, harm, or - more than unavoidably under the circumstances - disturb others.
- follow the contents of information, instruction, and prohibition signs on the ESC site.
- not cause damage or destruction to buildings, decorations, equipment, or other objects through their behavior.
- immediately report accidents or damage to the security service or the Organizer.
- keep entrances and exits as well as emergency, escape, and rescue routes clear. Additional requirements may be imposed in individual cases to prevent or eliminate danger to life, health, or property may be imposed. Instructions issued for this purpose by the security and stewarding service, security forces, and police must be followed.
- dispose of waste, packaging materials, and empty containers in the waste bins provided in the event

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area. Willful littering of the event area (including green areas) is prohibited.

It is forbidden to:

- enter areas not intended for event visitors (backstage areas, technical areas, press center, event organization, catering, etc.) without permission.
- make fires, ignite fireworks, flares, smoke powder, smoke bombs, or other pyrotechnic items.
- express or disseminate political propaganda and actions, racist, sexist, discriminatory, xenophobic, or right-wing extremist slogans, or to wear or disseminate corresponding symbols, lettering, signs, or emblems.
- behave in a manner that others could interpret as provocative, threatening, discriminatory, or offensive. This includes inappropriate shouting, whistling, making noise, especially during the performances of artists.
- endanger one's own life or safety or the life or safety of others or cause personal injury or property damage at any time.
- climb or cross structures and facilities not intended for general use, especially fences, walls, enclosures, barriers, lighting systems, trees, masts of all kinds, and roofs or similar.
- narrow or obstruct traffic routes, access, and exit routes to visitor seats and rescue routes.
- spray, write, paint, or stick on structural installations, facilities, pillars, walls, fences, or paths.
- relieve oneself outside the toilets or otherwise contaminate the event area.
- enter the ESC site intoxicated or under the influence of other substances.

13. Behavior in Case of Fire

In case of fire, the security and stewarding service and the fire department must be informed immediately. The instructions of all emergency services, the fire department, authorities, stewards, and security personnel must be followed. Please remain calm!

14. Behavior in Case of Danger

In case of danger (e.g., accidents with personal injury, etc.), the security and stewarding service and the police must be informed immediately. The instructions of all emergency services, security personnel, stewards, and police must be followed. Please remain calm!

15. Behavior in Case of Evacuation

In the event of a necessary evacuation of the entire ESC grounds or parts thereof, please follow the instructions of all emergency personnel, stewards, organizers, security services, and law enforcement.

Please remain calm!

16. Lost or Found Items

Lost, found, or handed-in items must be handed over immediately to the Organizer's staff or security personnel.

17. House Ban

The Organizer reserves the right, in the event of violations of the house rules or concrete indications of expected violations, to request the identification of the persons concerned for the purpose of recording personal data, to issue a ban on entering the venue, and to forward the data to the security authorities.

The monitoring authorities of the Vienna State Police Directorate are authorized to expel individuals from the venue if the expulsion is necessary to maintain public order and safety, or if the person violates the House or Site Rules, the Organizer, or a supervisory person appointed by him requests the removal and this is necessary to ensure the orderly conduct of the event. Disregard of the expulsion by monitoring authorities of the Vienna State Police Directorate constitutes an administrative offense. In the event of non-compliance with the route instructions, the monitoring authorities are authorized to enforce them by means of direct coercive measures in accordance with §§ 29 and 50 of the Security Police Act (SPG), Federal Law Gazette (BGBl.) No. 566/1991, as amended by Federal Law Gazette I (BGBl. I) No. 122/2024, with immediate coercive force.

Criminally relevant offenses will be reported without exception and claims for damages will be pursued under civil law.

18. Legal Binding

According to § 27 (5) of the Vienna Event Act 2020, Provincial Law Gazette (LGBl.) No. 53/2020, persons who do not comply with the provisions of this approved and published House Rules are not allowed to stay at the venue. Any violation of these House Rules may be penalized with expulsion from the venue. According to § 27 (6) of the Vienna Event Act 2020, Provincial Law Gazette (LGBl.) No. 53/2020, it is pointed out that disregarding an order to leave by the monitoring authorities of the Vienna State Police Directorate constitutes an administrative offense. Any conduct that may be relevant under civil or criminal law will be reported to the competent authorities without exception.

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Special attention is drawn to the provisions of the Vienna Youth Protection Act.

For employees, the statutory employee protection regulations also apply.

Vienna, Februar 2026

The Organizer

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