



ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS

1. **Awards Eligibility Year -October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017.**

Recordings are eligible for the 33rd Annual Stellar Awards if they have been **released, sold and played nationally for the first time during the Eligibility Year (October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017)**. In addition, eligible entries **MUST chart in the top 25 for at least four (4) weeks on at least two of the Nielsen charts (Billboard, SoundScan & BDS) during the eligibility period.**

2. **Definition of Release Date and distribution eligibility**

It is very important that you provide accurate release dates. The Release Date is the “**date of the first shipment from the manufacturer to the distributor for the purpose of sale**”. An ineligible entry which is processed during an Awards Year will be disqualified.

“General Distribution” is defined as 1) sales by the label to a branch or recognized independent distributor or 2) mail order and/or retail sales for a recording or tape that is marketed nationally.

It is the responsibility of the claimant in any eligibility dispute to provide the *Stellar Awards* with evidence of eligibility satisfactory to the *Stellar Awards*.

3. **Entries are not nominations.** They are RECOMMENDATIONS of eligible achievements that will appear on the entry list from which the Stellar Awards Nominating Committee will consider. The Nominating Committee may disallow entry forms that have insufficient information to verify the entry’s eligibility and forms for which no contact information is readily available. The Committee also has the right to withdraw any category in any year, if there are an insufficient number of eligible entries in that category and to place the affected entries in another category, where appropriate. Each category is limited based on the dictate and discretion of the Stellar Awards Nomination Committee therefore all entries **cannot** be included on the ballot. Technical quality, lyrics, voice quality, charting duration, project content and charting performance will be reviewed for inclusion on the ballot. All Stellar Awards Nomination Committee selections are final.

Entries will then be placed on the first official Stellar Awards ballot, which will be available online starting on or around November 6, 2017 and continuing to midnight on November 27, 2017. The Stellar Awards Gospel Music Academy (SAGMA) members will be the only voting body for the first ballot. Entries that move on to the final ballot will be voted on by the Public, which will determine the four (4) nominees for each category and the winners in each category.

4. **Special Circumstance Clause** - If the release date of your product is within ten (10) days of the eligibility cut-off date (September 30, 2017), it may be eligible for the current eligibility year or the next year’s eligibility period.

5. **Product Deadline** - Although you will enter your artist eligibility information online, it is important to complete the process by submitting the Entry Form, product, and SAGMA application and non-refundable membership fee for each artist entry by mail no later than October 1, 2017.

6. The Nominating Committee may encounter product submissions that raise questions about whether the product’s lyrics are appropriate for the Stellar Awards. If it is determined that the lyrics or genre are not appropriate, the Nominating Committee reserves the right to remove the product from submission.

**The deadline for the product submission is:
October 1, 2017**

**ANY ENTRY PACKAGES RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE
WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS VOTING PERIOD.**