

Bram Stoker Award® Rules for 2013 – Summary of Major Changes

The Board of the Horror Writers Association voted unanimously on 18 Nov 2012 to approve the Bram Stoker Award® Rules for 2013 as authorised by ByLaw X:2.

Note: These Rules apply to works published in the calendar year 2013, for the Awards year 2013. The Awards for 2013 will be presented in the first half of 2014. They also apply to subsequent years unless further amended by authority of the Board.

The following is a summary of the notable changes from the Rules that prevailed for the 2012 calendar year Awards season.

The Etiquette is now part of the Rules

The HWA publishes etiquette outlining what is and is not acceptable when submitting works for Bram Stoker Award consideration at: <http://www.horror.org/stoker-etiquette.htm> . These now assume the status of being Rules under Rule II I:

The HWA Board is hereby authorized to establish the Rules for the Bram Stoker Award Etiquette, which are part of the Bram Stoker Award Rules and should be treated as such by all parties. The Etiquette Rules define what is acceptable and what is not acceptable when promoting a work for Bram Stoker Award consideration, both for HWA members and non-members. The HWA Board will publicize the Etiquette Rules by posting them at the HWA's official website.

Breaches of the Rules

There is now a defined process for the action the HWA may take against those who breach the Bram Stoker Award Rules – Rule II m:

In the event that individuals, publishers, groups or other entities breach these Rules the Board is empowered to take action as codified in this clause. If a Board Member, or the Bram Stoker Awards Committee brings a complaint to the Board, the Board should ensure that the complaint has been fully investigated; that the offending party has been given reasonable opportunity to correct their breach; and has either failed to do so, or has committed multiple breaches of the Rule within a twelve month period. If those requirements are met:

a. And the offending party is a member of the HWA, the Board will issue a final warning. If the breach is not corrected in a manner agreeable to the Board within 14 days (for instance, the removal of a post, a correction email, a public apology, or other forms of rectification) the Board has the following rights: If the breach relates to a specific Bram Stoker Award eligible work and that breach is caused by the author, editor and/or publisher (or the publisher's representative) of that work, then the work may be declared ineligible for that year's Bram Stoker Awards and that ruling will be announced to the membership. The Board will consider one appeal against its Ruling by those affected by any such declaration and if it rules the work is still ineligible there will be no further appeals. If a member continues to breach the Rules after one work has been declared ineligible due to their breaches the Board will consider whether it is appropriate to expel the member under ByLaw III:24, or to take other appropriate actions.

b. If the offending party is a not a member of the HWA the Board will issue a final warning. If the breach is not corrected in a manner agreeable to the Board within 14 days (for instance, the removal of a post, a correction email, a public apology, or other forms of rectification) the Board has the following rights:

i. If the breach relates to a specific Bram Stoker Award eligible work authored, edited or published by an HWA member and the breach was not caused by the HWA member, the Board will issue a notice to the membership of the details of the breach, sanctioning the party causing the breach; and indicating to the membership that the breach was not caused by, nor sanctioned by the HWA member. The Board will consider one appeal against its notice by those affected by any such declaration after which there will be no further appeals.

ii. If the breach relates to a specific Bram Stoker Award eligible work that is not authored, edited or published by an HWA member then the work may be declared ineligible for that year's Bram Stoker Awards and that ruling announced to the membership. The Board will consider one appeal against its Ruling by those affected by any such declaration and if it rules the work is still ineligible there will be no further appeals.

All Board votes under this Clause require a two-thirds majority to pass.

Claims of Delayed Publication Where a Work Has Been Subject to a Campaign

A new Rule defining what happens where there has been a campaign on behalf of a work and a later claim that the work was not published in the original campaign year. Rule III r reads:

Claims of Delayed Publication Where a Work Has Been Subject to a Campaign: Any work that any author, editor, and/or publisher has (A) submitted to any Bram Stoker Awards category Jury for consideration; (B) offered Bram Stoker Award consideration copies of by email or a social media service (Facebook, Twitter, etc.); or (C) posted any link to the work, or ways of accessing the work, on the HWA website for Bram Stoker Award consideration; within a given calendar year, then such work is deemed to have been published and released in that year for the purposes of Bram Stoker Awards eligibility. Submitting or offering works in this manner is prima facie evidence that relevant parties have 'campaigned' for a work to be eligible in the year in which they make such submissions or offerings.

Should any author, editor, and/or publisher of the work subsequently discover that the release or publication date is being delayed or postponed until a subsequent calendar year (regardless of whether they were the party that originally 'campaigned' for the work) and they desire to change that work's Awards consideration to the new release year, they are required to send formal written notice of their request to withdraw the work from consideration in the current year. This notice is to be sent to the Chair or Co-Chair of the Bram Stoker Awards Committee and to the Verifier and must be received no later than 11:59 PM (PST) on January 14 of the year following the year of original eligibility. The request must contain the specific reasons for withdrawal from consideration, along with verifiable evidence that the work was not

published in the original year.

The intent of this rule is to create an affirmative duty upon authors, editors, and/or publishers to properly notify the Bram Stoker Awards Committee of the need to withdraw a work from consideration in a current year where there is delayed publication; with such notification being received by the Committee prior to the official closing of general membership Recommendations and of the determination by the Juries of their preliminary ballot submissions on January 15th. For purposes of clarification, if an author/editor or publisher has 'campaigned' for a work they have a duty to monitor its publication date. Therefore, claims that the relevant party discovered after January 14 that the publication date had been changed must not be entertained by the Committee.

In summary, any request to withdraw the work from eligibility in one year to make it eligible in a following year due to a change in publication date that is made subsequent to January 14, or that does not contain verifiable evidence of the change in publication date, must not be considered by the Committee.

Should any other Bram Stoker Awards Rule, or any portion thereof, conflict with or differ from this rule, this rule shall take precedence.

Change to the Definition of a Fiction Collection

Previously a Fiction Collection was defined as at least three works of prose fiction by a single author, working in collaboration with one or more others. The new Rule now requires four works; and more clearly defines the requirements around collaborations; states that collections must have at least 25% newly collected material; defines which collections by deceased authors are eligible for the Award and states that such an Award goes only to the author - Rule IV I:

A fiction collection is hereby defined as:

- i. At least four separate works of prose fiction, all by a single author offered for sale or distribution as a single package, whether in book form, an audio book, an electronic book, or any other means. The single author may collaborate with other writers on one or more of the works in the collection; or*
- ii. Where two authors co-author every story in a collection, the pair will be treated as if they were a single author and cannot write any of the works separately from each other; the collection must also be at least four separate works of prose fiction offered for sale or distribution as a single package, whether in book form, an audio book, an electronic book, or any other means.*
- iii. The aggregate length of the works in a collection must be at least 40,000 words. The package may include additional material, such as verse, non-fiction, or illustrations, in addition to the fiction, but the additional material must not be longer, in terms of words, than the fiction content. The package must be presented by the publisher or distributor as a single work. A series of chapbooks or an online source that happens to carry four or more stories by a single author is not eligible. Individual stories in the collection may have been published prior to the award year, but the work as a whole must be new - new being defined as at least 25% of the stories had not appeared in any of the author's previous single-author collections.*
- iv. A collection by an author who is deceased by more than two (2) years prior to the*

collection's release date must meet the requirement of having 75% (by both number of titles and number of words) of the included stories never published together in any prior format. If the Award goes to a book by the deceased author, it is that author who "wins" the Award. The decision as to who will accept the Award on the deceased author's behalf should be made by their Estate as far as is possible (as winners are not known in advance the Estates of deceased nominees will be asked to indicate who should accept the Award on the deceased person's behalf).

Change in the Definition for the Poetry Award

Rule IV m allows that a work eligible for the Poetry Award may be published by up to four poets (previously the Award went to a single poet; or a poet working in collaboration with others); and clearly defines what ancillary material is allowed.

Poetry collection - 30 pages or more by a single poet, or a collaboration of 48 pages or more by no more than 4 poets. Each poet must contribute at least 10% of the poems to the whole, with all works sharing a unified genre, theme, or approach. Publication must be in book, single chapbook, or electronic book format - a series of pamphlets or an online source such as a website that simply carry poetry by a single author or authors is not eligible. Individual poems may have been published prior to the award year, but the work as a whole must be new. The package may include additional material, such as fiction, nonfiction, or illustration. To be eligible for a Bram Stoker Award in the Poetry Collection category, the majority of the titles in the collection must be comprised of poetry and the fiction content must amount to less than 40,000 words.

Change in the Definition of an Anthology

An anthology is now defined as at least four works of prose fiction (as compared to three previously) - Rule IV n:

An anthology is hereby defined as at least four works of prose fiction by two or more different authors, selected by an editor and offered for sale or distribution as a single package, whether in book form, an audio book, an electronic book, or any other means. The aggregate length of the stories must be at least 60,000 words, and at least 60% of the fiction material (based on the number of stories, not wordage) contained in the anthology must be original, that is, unpublished prior to their appearance in the anthology. The package may also include additional material such as non-fiction, verse, or illustration in addition to the fiction. The package must be presented by the publisher or distributor as a single work. A series of chapbooks or an online source that happens to carry four or more stories is not eligible. While up to 40% of the individual stories may have been published prior to the award year, the work as a whole must be new. The award in this category is presented to the editor or editors named on the cover of the anthology; if no editor's name appears, the award will be presented to the publisher. Anthologies commissioned by the HWA or for which the HWA received payment in any form are not eligible for this award, although individual stories from such anthologies remain eligible in other categories.

Removal of Ineligible Works

These may now be removed at any time up to the *public announcement of the Final Ballot* (previously it was up to the *close of voting on the Final Ballot*). A process has

been added to ensure that works disadvantaged by any such ineligible work may also be declared to have won the Award in a tie. Rule IV m:

Removal of Ineligible Works: While the Awards Committee and other parties involved will make their best efforts to ensure that all works on the Preliminary and Final ballots are eligible and in the correct categories, errors may still occur. The President and the Chairman of the Awards Committee will have the authority, jointly or separately, to remove any work determined to be ineligible, or to order votes for an ineligible work to be ignored, at any point in the process before the Final Ballot is publicly announced. After that point, even if a work is found to have been ineligible, votes cast for that work must be counted and the work may even win the Award. There is no appeal allowed by any party should that circumstance eventuate. If the removal of a work materially affects the composition of the Preliminary or Final ballot, every reasonable effort must be made to minimize the damage by whatever means the President and the Chairman of the Awards Committee deem appropriate – including adding the next most eligible work onto the impacted ballot, additional announcements or other methods, but under no circumstances may a new Preliminary or Final Ballot be issued after that Ballot has been dispatched to voting members or the Final Ballot has been announced. If a work is found to be ineligible after the Final Ballot is announced the following process will apply - after Final Ballot voting has been completed, the votes counted, and the winners determined, if the work that has been ruled ineligible receives the most votes it wins the Award but the work that received the second highest number of votes and is eligible will also be declared as a winner (in other words, both works 'tie'). This is so as not to disadvantage the eligible work and to maintain the integrity of our Awards process. No Bram Stoker Award, once announced, will ever be withdrawn, declared to be in error, or otherwise invalidated; and no future Board may make a Rule that overrides that inability to change winners announced in previous years.

Works Debuting in an Audio Version

To deal with works that are first published in audio versions the following Rule III t applies:

Works Debuting in an Audio Version: In general if any work that is otherwise eligible for a Bram Stoker Award debuts as an audio book (whether as a tape, CD or similar physical format, or as a download) then that work is only eligible for Award consideration in the year that the original audio version was released. If a printed version is released in a subsequent year the work is ineligible for further Awards consideration. However, this is the only the case where the following pre-conditions are met: the audio version was available to at least 33% of the Association's voting members; if physically produced in any format at least 751 copies must have been produced (but not necessarily sold); and, if available as a download, that download must be dedicated to selling or providing that work either stand-alone or collected with other works (works included in a one-off podcast or radio program that are not later made available in downloadable form are not covered by this rule, hence later audio or printed versions of those works are eligible for future consideration).

If you have any questions please write to hwa@horror.org . All questions and answers will be posted on our private Message Board but you may ask that your name be removed from the question when published.

Please note the Rules as published *cannot* be changed. Member debate on suggestions for Rule Changes occurred on the Message Board and was taken into account by the Board, along with feedback from the Awards Committee, in making our determinations for 2013. Suggestions for Rule Changes for future years will be entertained via a similar process in late 2013.

Signed – The Board of the Horror Writers Association