



# SOUTH AFRICAN METAL MUSIC AWARDS

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## CATEGORIES & ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE 2021 SOUTH AFRICAN METAL MUSIC AWARDS

This is a SUMMARY document outlining categories and eligibility criteria for the **2021 South African Metal Music Awards**. Both documents are subject to change during future awards.

Please refer to the more comprehensive **Operations Manual** if you have any questions or concerns about the contents of this document.

### CATEGORIES FOR 2021

Owing to the impact of **Covid-19** on bands/artists ability to perform physical shows, the **2021 SAMMA Panel** has altered the categories for consideration for this year, as well as the eligibility criteria for a band/artist to be nominated for an award.

#### The 2020 SAMMAs will have the following categories:

<b>Best Music Video</b>	Remains the same as 2020.
<b>Best Single</b>	Remains the same as 2020.
<b>Best EP</b>	Remains the same as 2020.
<b>Best Album</b>	Remains the same as 2020.
<b>Best Newcomer</b>	Now includes the release of an album or EP as “newcomer” status.
<b>Best Live Act</b>	Adjustments to point system for eligibility, to account for lockdown.
<b>Best Concert featuring Metal (club event)</b>	Will be subject to five high-quality nominations.
<b>Best Festival featuring Metal</b>	Will be subject to five high-quality nominations.
<b>Best Design Work</b>	Remains the same as 2020.
<b>Best Press Photograph</b>	Adjustment to eligibility: what constitutes a “press photograph”.
<b>Best Live Photograph</b>	New category for 2021
<b>Best Extreme Metal</b>	Adjustments to point system for eligibility.
<b>Best Old School Metal</b>	Adjustments to point system for eligibility.
<b>Best Progressive Metal</b>	Adjustments to point system for eligibility.
<b>Best Alternative Metal</b>	Adjustments to point system for eligibility.

# ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

## Best Releases (Music Video/Single/Album/EP)

1. Must have been released\* to the public any time between 01 January and 31 December 2020.

\*Acceptable proof of release includes:

- Any mention on a band's social media pages
- The publishing of the video/single/album/EP on any streaming or music platform
- The publication of a press release
- A news article mentioning the same on the band's website or a legitimate news site

In the instance of multiple dates for any release, the earliest date of the release will be the one considered.

The following definitions apply for the different release categories:

- **Best Music Video:** Should preferably include components of videographic / cinemagraphic creatively. In the case of live stock footage being used, the live audio will not be admissible as a "music video", only a studio recording to which live footage is synched will be admissible as a high quality "music video".
- **Best Single:** The panellists will take into consideration the following: production quality, accompanying artworks (if any), music videos (if any), press recognition, etc.
- **Best Album:** The release must fit the definition of an "album": An album is a collection of songs formally released as such, numbering no fewer than seven songs, or, offering a 'needle time' of no less than thirty (30) minutes of music.
- **Best EP:** The release must fit the definition of an "EP": An EP comprises a collection of songs formally released as such, numbering no fewer than two songs.

## Best Newcomer

1. Must have first presented music to the public between 01 January 2019 and 31 December 2020 (note the **two-year date range**)

The definition of "presented music to the public" used to relate only to live performances but in light of **Covid-19** has been expanded to include:

- A live performance **OR**
- The release of an album or EP\*

\*Acceptable proof of performance or release includes:

- Any mention on a band's social media pages
- The publishing of the album or EP on any streaming or music platform
- The publication of a press release
- A news article mentioning the same on the band's website or a legitimate news site.

## Best Live Act

1. Must have, between 01 January and 31 December 2020, accumulated at least four (4) performance points\*

For the 2020 SAMMAs **only**, performance points are accumulated by means of:

- Performing live in your home province (1 point, no restriction on points)
- Performing live in another province (2 points, no restriction on points)
- Performing live in another country outside of South Africa (3 points, no restriction on points)
- A live online performance\* (2 points, no restriction on points)

Acceptable proof of performance includes:

- Any mention on a band's social media pages
- Official Facebook event
- The publication of a press release
- A news article mentioning the same on the band's website or a legitimate news site

\*A live online performance is **all** of the following:

- An online show, structured as an event in real time, streamed via a streaming platform or social media channel to an online audience.
- A once-off performance - although, if recorded for re-watching at a **later date**, is also admissible.
- Distinct from a live-styled music video. I.e: must comprise an unedited (sliced) performance using the audio of the actual performance.
- Pre-recorded is admissible, provided that the above criteria are met, as well as that no post-production besides audio mixing and mastering or video camera view changes/colour grading have taken place. Remember that the category is to assess and award a band's live performance ability.

## Best Concert featuring Metal & Best Festival featuring Metal

**Note:** for both of these categories, the SAMMA Organiser reserves the right to withdraw the category if less than 5 viable nominations appear for the relevant date range.

**Note:** in the case of festivals, the SAMMA Panel wishes to accept nominations of online, streamed festivals. However, it is considered that a "concert" would be indistinguishable from a "live streamed performance" as already contemplated in "Best Live Act".

1. Must fall into the applicable date range\* of 01 January and 31 December 2020.

\*Acceptable proof is the existence of a Facebook event page, or other social media post, press release or article published on a legitimate site.

- These must maintain as much information/detail of the past event as possible, including the participating bands or artists, audience numbers and other relevant data which can be used to aid an assessment.
- A 'new years' event will be regarded as taking place inside the year in which the greater part of the live entertainment took place.

## Best Design Work

**Note:** *the objective of this category is to award bands/promoters for their discerning judgement in choosing design work or commissioning of designers. The award goes to the band/promoter, although the title will be shared with the designer.*

1. Design Work refers to album/EP/single cover artworks, tour/concert/festival posters, or an item of merchandise (T-shirt design or other).

The concept of design is inclusive of all elements, including illustration, photography and typography components.

2. Must fall into the applicable date range of 01 January and 31 December 2020.

The design work will be admissible based not on the date it first appeared, but rather based on the date of the relevant context around which it was created.

3. Must be relevant to a South African Metal context

ie: designed for a South African Metal or acceptable peripheral sub-genre client.

4. Nationality of the designer and/or the client in relation to "South African".

Since the title is awarded primarily to the band/promoter, the nationality of the designer is irrelevant.

## Best Press Photograph

**Note:** *the objective of Best Press Photograph is similar to Design in the sense that such a photograph is typically commissioned by a band/artist. Therefore, the title is also shared between the artist and the photographer.*

1. Must fall into the definition of a "press photograph".

The definition of "press photography" **excludes** live photography. It is a non-live/stage photograph which demonstrates technical, creative, aesthetic and/or compositional beauty and exhibits all the band members. Consider the type of photograph that would be used on a magazine cover or in a festival brochure.

2. Must fall into the applicable date range of 01 January and 31 December 2020.

In terms of applicable date range, the date on which the photograph was taken will not be taken into account, but rather the date on which the photograph first appeared publicly.

3. The photograph must be of a metal band or acceptable peripheral sub-genre.
4. A maximum of only three photographs submitted by a photographer will be admissible.
5. Only the photographer or the featured bands can submit the photographs for nominations.

## Best Live Photograph

**Note:** *the objective of Best Live Photograph differs from design and press photography. It seeks to recognize South African-based photographers who capture the magic of local Metal culture in action. The title goes to the photographer alone, irrespective of whether or not the artist has bought rights to the photograph.*

1. Must fall into the definition of a “live photograph”.

The definition of “live photography” includes photos of live/on stage performances of a band or an individual member of a band.

2. Must fall into the applicable date range of 01 January and 31 December 2020.

In terms of applicable date range, the date on which the photograph first appears will not be taken into account. Rather the date of the performance must have fallen within the date range.

3. The photograph does not have to be of a South African band.

There have been excellent photo opportunities of international bands performing in South Africa at times. These will also be admissible, provided the band fits the definition of metal or an associated sub-genre..

4. The photo must be taken at a South African event.
5. The photographer, in this case, must be South African-based.
6. A maximum of only three photographs submitted by a photographer will be admissible.
7. Only the photographer or the featured bands can submit the photographs for nominations.

## Best of Genres

1. Must have, between 01 January and 31 December 2020:
  - Accumulated at least four (4) eligibility points\* OR
  - Released\*\* an album or EP

\*For the 2020 SAMMAs **only**, eligibility points are accumulated through:

- Performing live in your home province (1 point)
- Performing live in another province (2 points)
- Performing live in another country outside of South Africa (3 points)

- A live online performance (2 points) (*Please see “best live act” for more information on what constitutes a live online performance.*)
- Release of a single (1 point per single, up to 2 points)
- Release of a music video - not the same song or related to a single (2 points each)

\*\*Acceptable proof of release includes:

- Any mention on a band’s social media pages
- The publishing of the album or EP on any streaming or music platform
- The publication of a press release
- A news article mentioning the same on the band’s website or a legitimate news site

2. Must fit the criteria for the genre in consideration

- **Best Extreme Metal** is dominated by speed and/or themes of anger and aggression and/or guttural/screamed vocals and/or brutal lyrical/visual/aural content and/or highly distorted instruments. The definition of Extreme is not limited or restricted to these fundamentals and it includes all derivatives of Death Metal, Black Metal, Slam, Brutal, Deathcore, Metalcore, Hardcore, etc.
- **Best Old School Metal** is dominated by groove and traditional song-writing values, and/or by retro tones and techniques and/or non-guttural/screamed vocal styles. The definition of Oldschool is not limited or restricted to these fundamentals; and it includes all derivatives of the broader Metal family, including Heavy Metal, Glam, Doom Metal, Psychedelic, some derivatives of Thrash metal, etc.
- **Best Progressive Metal** is dominated by technicality and/or an unpredictable song-writing ethos. The definition of Progressive is not limited or restricted to these fundamentals; and it includes all derivatives of the broader Metal family, including Extreme, Oldschool, etc, provided that the fundamentals described are present.
- **Best Alternative Metal** constitutes any hybrids, industrial, nu-metal, hard rock, or any other ‘fringe’ styles derived from the parent genre of metal.