

First Run Audio Guidelines

Last Modified on 07/29/2026 2:15 pm EDT

This guide will provide the necessary information on audio in First Run Festival submissions.

Audio Information

What are the audio requirements for First Run?

- Levels must be lower than -2 dBFS in all channels
- True Peak must be lower than -4dBTP in all channels

What are True Peak and levels, and how are they different from each other?

- Levels are the measurement for "volume" for your mix, measured in decibels relative to full scale
- True Peak is the loudest part of your mix, accounting for distortion and clipping

How can I check my film's audio prior to submission?

- We recommend [downloading the YouLean Loudness Meter application](#) or using it on PPC computers
- Further instructions can be found in the [Using Youlean to Monitor Audio](#) guide

I submitted my film and received an email notifying me of audio issues. Why was my film flagged for audio issues?

- We run each film through professional QC scanning software after submission
- Any films that have *level equals or greater than -2 dBFS in all channels* and/or *True Peak equals or greater than -4 dBTP in all channels* will be flagged by the software

How does it affect my ability to screen at First Run?

- You **must** either correct your audio in accordance with the requirements, either by correcting each instance of peaking or by applying an across the board effect
- You can agree to have NYU apply a hard limiter on your entire film, however, this means you surrender control over what your film sounds like

Why are NYU's audio requirements different from festivals or platforms?

- Our NYU screening facilities have many uses, which means our equipment's fail points are more strictly enforced
-