

ROMANCE WRITERS OF AUSTRALIA INC.

ANTHOLOGIES TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Last revised: February 2025

Definitions

1. In these terms and conditions, the following definitions apply.
 - a. **aspiring/aspiring member** means a member of RWAUS who is:
 - i. **Beginner** – no published works commercially available, new to the romance genre, and just beginning the contest circuit.
 - ii. **Intermediate** – has some published works available under 10,000 words (nothing over this word count) and is beginning to make the second rounds of contests.
 - iii. Contests available for these members include Sweet Treats, Spicy Bites, Diversions, First Kiss, Ripping Start, the Opal (in the aspiring tier) and the Emerald.
 - b. **emerging/emerging member** means a member of RWAUS who:
 - i. **Advancing** – has published works available that are under 10,000 words (such as contributions to anthologies), and is placing in contests.
 - ii. Contests available for these members include Sweet Treats, Spicy Bites, Diversions, First Kiss, Ripping Start, the Opal (in the aspiring tier) and the Emerald.
 - iii. **Experienced** – has published work commercially available for up to three years.
 - iv. Contests available for these members include Sweet Treats, Spicy Bites, Diversions, First Kiss, Ripping Start and the Opal (in the emerging tier) and the Ruby.
 - c. **established/established member** means a member of RWAUS who:
 - i. **Accomplished** – has an established writing career with books published and commercially available for over three years.
 - ii. Contests available for these members include Sweet Treats, Spicy Bites, Diversions, First Kiss, Ripping Start and the Ruby. Established members can be mentors for the Opal.
 - d. **commercially available** means any work of fiction (or part thereof) that is, or has been at any time, available for purchase or download in any format for any price including free:
 - i. in any marketplace where books are available (including but not limited to physical or digital bookstores, a publisher's website or store, and any other retailer or distribution outlet for books in any format); or
 - ii. at any other venue where the work includes (or is followed by) links to non-free content, or otherwise appears with the intent of selling or encouraging purchase of any of the author's works (which includes but is not limited to story-sharing or file-sharing sites, blogs, social media sites and other author websites.)
 - e. Calling a manuscript a **romance** means that the development of a romantic relationship between the protagonists is the major focus of the work and includes all romance novel and novella markets, heat levels, genres and sub-genres. It is assumed that the manuscript will have a Happy Ever After (**HEA**) or Happy For Now (**HFN**) ending.
 - f. Calling a manuscript **romantic elements** means that the development of a romantic relationship between the protagonists is a significant part of the story, but is not the central plot, and the work may not end with HEA or HFN.

Entrants

2. All writers of romance are welcome to enter the SWEET TREATS, SPICY BITES and DIVERSIONS contests.
3. All entrants must be the original author of every entry they submit. Entries by joint authors are permitted.

4. Entrants must not volunteer to judge in any of the anthology contests they have entered. If an entrant is found to have been a judge in any contest they have entered, their entry will be disqualified.
5. Contest Coordinators may not enter or judge a contest they are managing but may enter or judge any other contest.
6. If, after submitting an entry but before the finalists are announced, an entrant accepts an offer of publication for the entry or otherwise makes the entry commercially available, the entry is no longer eligible to go forward in the contest. In this case the entrant must contact the Contest Coordinator immediately to arrange for the entry to be withdrawn. No entry fees will be refunded.
7. If, after the finalists have been announced, but before a final decision is made as to a winner, an entrant accepts an offer of publication for the entry or otherwise makes the entry commercially available, no withdrawal is required, finalist placings will stand, and the entry will remain eligible to win a placing.

Entry Fees

8. Entry fees are set by the Committee and may be varied from time to time.
9. Entry fees are non-refundable, except in exceptional circumstances as determined by the Contest Manager.
10. Payment of entry fees is by SHOPIFY or STRIPE only.

Entries

11. Entries will only be accepted via the RWAUS online portal.
12. SWEET TREATS entries may be no more than 3,000 words.
13. SPICY BITES entries must be no more than 5,000 words.
14. DIVERSIONS must be no more than 4,000 words.
15. The theme for each anthology entry must be integral to the story.
16. Two entries per person per contest are permitted.
17. Entries must be in English, containing text only, no images, emojis or similar.
18. Each entry file must meet the following requirements (a sample document is provided on all contest websites).
 - a. All entries must be 1.5 or double line spaced and in Arial, Times or Times New Roman fonts.
 - b. Chapters must begin on new pages. There is no need to add additional returns/enters. Chapters can start at the top of the page.
 - c. Each entry must contain a header that includes the following information: Entry Name / Entry Genre/Subgenre / Total Word Count of the Entered Manuscript / Page Number. The Header should be on all pages of the entry. Title pages are no longer required (the entry word count will still be visible to judges in the bottom left corner of the document).
 - d. All entries must be anonymous.
19. Each subsection is worth 0.5 point (ie. 18 a. = 0.5pt). Meeting the requirements within each subsection will result in the score for that section being added to the entry's title. Up to two points can be added.
20. Contest Coordinators are not responsible for correcting formatting and will not be allowing entrants to revise their work.
21. Copyright in the manuscript remains, at all times, with the entrant.
22. Fan fiction (stories using characters, settings, worlds or other elements that belong to someone else) are not eligible.
23. RWAUS reserves the right, from the time the contest opens to a date three months after the announcement of any winner(s) or placegetters, to disqualify or exclude any entry that in RWA's reasonable opinion contains any of the following presented in a positive light: rape or sexual assault, domestic violence, pedophilia, incest, genocide, racism, bigotry, vilification, or any other conduct that is degrading, promotes hate or uses hate language.
24. A decision to disqualify or exclude an entry will not be made lightly. Before any decision is made, a panel of at least four current RWAUS committee members will be constituted. The panel (who will remain anonymous), along with the Contest Manager, will be asked to review the material and provide an opinion as to whether the entry contains unacceptable material (as defined in the clause above). The decision of a majority of the members of the panel will stand.

Judging

25. For the **SPICY BITES, SWEET TREATS** and **DIVERSIONS** contests, judging is conducted in one round as follows.
- Entries will be judged by reader and/or writer judges as allocated by the Contest Coordinator;
 - Each entry will be judged by four anonymous judges;
 - The highest three scores for each entry will be added together and the entries ranked;
 - The entries with the highest three scores will be the first, second and third placegetters;
 - The authors of the twelve highest ranked entries for Spicy Bites and Diversions, and the fifteen highest ranked entries for Sweet Treats will be invited to participate in an anthology published by RWAUS in the relevant contest year;
 - This invitation will be accepted via the signing of a contract of publication. Should the author not wish to partake in all conditions of the contract, their place in the anthology will be passed onto the next highest ranked author.
 - In the event of multiple entries earning the same scores after the first round of judging is completed, each entry's fourth judge score will be used to break the tie. If the tie can still not be broken, an independent sub-committee (including a representative from RWAus's DEI Committee) will be formed to determine which entries are awarded first, second and third place. Entries will remain anonymous throughout this process.
26. An entrant in any contest must not contact, or make any attempt to contact, a judge (or a person who is presumed to be a judge) in a contest they have entered for the purposes of discussing any aspect of the judging of the contests.
27. Judges' decisions and scores are final and no correspondence will be entered into.
28. If an entrant submits an AI generated manuscripts, then that entry will be disqualified, and the member may be barred from entering any contests in the future.
29. Thank you notes to judges are welcome and are to be sent via the Contest Coordinator, but no gifts are allowed.

Other matters

30. RWAUS Inc. reserves the right to.
- disqualify entries that do not comply with the entry conditions. The Contest Manager's reasonable decision in this regard is final, and no correspondence will be entered into;
 - set reasonable limits for the number of entries accepted in any contest in any particular year; and
 - cancel a particular contest, or section of a contest, if insufficient entries are received. In such cases, all entrants affected by such cancellation, whose entries do not continue in a contest, will have their entry fees refunded.