



THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

www.ABPS.org.uk



General Rules for Exhibitions run by Stamp World Exhibitions

INTRODUCTION

Please read this entire document before making an entry.

These rules take effect from 1 May 2021 until further notice. Whilst generally adhering to international rules and guidelines, these UK rules take precedence for UK national exhibitions.

These rules apply to exhibitions organized by Stamp World Exhibitions (SWE), a company limited by guarantee, on behalf of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS). They cover national exhibitions open to all exhibitors resident in the United Kingdom and to exhibitors from other countries in accordance with Section C7 below. No facilities are available for National Commissioners.

This document provides information and sets out the rules for those wishing to enter an exhibit.

Competitive exhibits will only be accepted in classes listed in Section B1 below. Other philatelic exhibits will only be considered for non-competitive "Display Only" class (First Day Cover, for example).

These rules and guidelines apply to both physical and virtual ABPS National Exhibitions.

Exhibits may be entered either in a competitive class or non-competitively in the Display Only class.

Any enquiries or clarifications sought about the contents of this document should be addressed to: exhibiting@abps.org.uk. or telephone (+44) 01205 460968.

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A TIMETABLE

See specific Rules relevant to individual Exhibitions -

Each exhibition will have its own specific requirements, and these are set out in the Specific Rules for that Exhibition. These will be available from the *Exhibitions* menu of the ABPS website -

[Forthcoming Exhibitions - ABPS](#)

B CLASSES AND FRAMES IN ABPS NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

1. Classes

The exhibition is open to applications in the following classes.

FIP Classes	Non-FIP Classes
Traditional Philately	Cinderella Class
Postal History	Picture Postcard Class
Aerophilately	Ephemera Class
Postal Stationery	Non-Competitive Display Class
Revenue Philately	
Thematic Philately	
Open Philately	
Astrophilately	
Maximaphily	

2. Frame Allocation

A competitive entry may be 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 8 frames each made-up of 16 standard display sheets or equivalent. No pre-qualification is needed for 1-5 frames.

Exhibits awarded (at least) 80 points and large vermeil at a previous national exhibition may increase to 8 frames at the exhibitor's discretion. Please note that a multi-frame first time entry in an International Exhibition is likely to be limited to 5 frames.

An exhibit which has previously been exhibited in eight frames may not be shown again in five frames.

C GENERAL REGULATIONS

3. Eligibility

SWE follows the guidance of Article 12 of the FIP General Regulations for Exhibiting (GREX) in determining the eligibility of applications. These can be found under the Regulations tab at [Fédération Internationale de Philatélie – FIP \(f-i-p.ch\)](http://www.f-i-p.ch).

4. Organizer's Discretion

As the Organizer, SWE reserve the right to determine whether an entry should be accepted, judged, or displayed in ABPS exhibitions, without having to give a reason for any decisions.

All virtual exhibition exhibits will be displayed on the ABPS website.

5. First Time Competitive Entries

A first-time competitive entry is an **exhibit** (not an exhibitor) that has not been accepted at a UK National exhibition or at any other National or continental Federation or FIP-recognized International Exhibition during the ten years preceding the date of this exhibition.

6. Ownership

All non-literature exhibits must be the *bona fide* property of, and entered by, just one person, a married couple or civil partnership.

7. Overseas Entrants

Exhibits may be accepted from exhibitors in countries affiliated to the FIP or other continental Federation (for example FEPA).

8. Language

It is recommended that exhibits are written in English. Exhibits are accepted in French, German, and Spanish but the introductory page must be written in English.

9. Application Procedure

Applications should be made using the online application form which is available at www.abps.org.uk under the Exhibiting tab. (Note: this may be a change from previous procedures).

Any exhibitor wishing to apply who does not have easy access to a computer is requested to contact the exhibition secretary by telephone at (+44) 01424 251169 or at exhibiting@abps.org.uk

10. Acceptance

Acceptance of applications is at the discretion of the Chairman of the Jury, on behalf of SWE. All entrants whose applications are accepted will receive notification with instructions and specific dates and times for handing in and receiving back their exhibits.

11. Entry Fees

The entry fees for competitive and non-competitive entries are stated in the appropriate exhibition details on the ABPS website.

12. Exhibits: Introductory Page and Synopsis

Every competitive exhibit must have an *Introductory Page* as the first sheet. The object of this page is to state the aim of the exhibit and set out a plan showing how it is structured. It should not simply be a contents list.

Exhibitors will be asked to provide a PDF or jpg of their draft introductory page with their application by uploading the file online when prompted to do so during the online application procedure. The file should be named in the following format:
Surname First Name First few words of the title.pdf e.g.: martinnicksussexhillseaviews.pdf.

Any updates of the front page must be notified to admin exhibiting@abps.org.uk and the title given a suffix 2 etc. e.g.: goochnigelbexhillseaviews2.pdf. We cannot guarantee to forward the new page if the change is less than one month before the exhibition.

Thematic philately applications must also be accompanied by a copy of the plan sheet, which may be a provisional plan. This should be page 2 of your pdf file. Failure to provide a plan as part of the application is likely to be penalized by the judges.

A synopsis is not mandatory but is very helpful to the judges as it enables the exhibitor to provide information not suitable for the introductory page. This should not be more than two A4 pages long. This file should be sent fully identified to exhibiting@abps.org.uk as a PDF or word-processed document and clearly identified with the exhibit name and word synopsis.

13. Feedback from the Jury During a Live Event

Feedback will be available at live exhibitions. Details will be available as part of the Special Rules for

the specific exhibition. For virtual exhibits, written feedback is provided, but verbal feedback may be available as well. No feedback will be given for Display-Only exhibits.

14. Liability

All exhibits are entered in exhibitions at the owner's risk. When entering, confirmation of acceptance of liability will be required on the on-line application form, and acceptance that exhibit insurance whilst in transit or at an exhibition are at the exhibitor's own risk. Ticking this box gives your assent to all of the rules and guidelines set out for the documentation to the exhibition, and to the data provided, and subsequent associated data, being stored in an electronic database, including security copies. Analysis of that data will be used for this exhibition and may be used to contact you in the future. Data will not be made available to third parties, except in connection with this exhibition, will not be used for commercial purposes, and will be retained only by SWE and its agents.

The organizers, whilst not taking responsibility for any errors or misplaced items in the display, will make every effort to avoid such occurrences.

During the online application process applicants are required to tick a box to confirm that they accept the terms and conditions.

15. Delivery

All arrangements for the delivery and return of exhibits are the sole responsibility of the exhibitor. The exhibitor is responsible for shipping both to and from the exhibition and for making arrangements for customs clearance and any attendant customs duties and costs.

The specific details will be set out in the special rules for the specific exhibition available from the *Exhibitions* menu of the ABPS website. - [Forthcoming Exhibitions - ABPS](#)

16. Certificates and Awards

Certificates and awards will be communicated after the judging of exhibits.

D RULES FOR EVALUATION OF COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

17. The Jury

The Jury, whose decisions are final, will consist of nationally accredited judges and, on occasions, apprentice judges. Should they decide that an exhibit has been wrongly classified, they have the discretion to transfer it to another more appropriate Class. The Jury's comments will be passed to entrants. No correspondence will be entered into on the judging. Awards will be made subject to the minimum marks being achieved.

Any attempt by an exhibitor or other persons to influence Jury decisions will result in removal of the exhibit(s) concerned from the exhibition.

18. Evaluation System

The criteria and points available will be as follows:

Traditional, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Revenue, Astrophilately, Maximaphily and Cinderella Classes

Treatment and Importance	Treatment	20	
	Importance	10	30
Knowledge and Research	Knowledge	20	
	Research and Personal Study	15	35
Condition and Rarity	Condition	10	
	Rarity	20	30
Presentation		5	5
Total			100

Thematic Philately

Treatment	Title and Plan	15	
	Development	15	
	Innovation	5	35
Knowledge, study, and research	Thematic	15	
	Philatelic	15	30
Condition and Rarity	Condition	10	
	Rarity	20	30
Presentation		5	5
Total			100

Open Philately

Treatment	Title and Plan	10	
	Treatment	20	30
Knowledge and Research	Philatelic Knowledge and Research	20	
	Non-philatelic Knowledge and Research	15	35
Material	Condition	10	
	Rarity	20	30
Presentation		5	5
Total			100

Picture Postcard and Ephemera Classes

Idea, plan, and treatment of the topic	Idea and Plan	10	
	Treatment	20	30
Knowledge and Research			35
Condition and Rarity	Condition	10	
	Rarity	20	30
Presentation		5	5
Total			100

19. Awards

Minimum points required:

Large Gold Medal	90
Gold Medal	85
Large Vermeil Medal	80
Vermeil Medal	75
Large Silver Medal	70

Silver Medal	L
Silver Bronze Medal	60
Bronze Medal	55
Certificate of Participation	Below 55

Competitive One-Frame exhibits will be marked on the same basis as multi-frame exhibits in their class. Only multi-frame “live” entries will be eligible for a medal.

E FURTHER INFORMATION ON EXHIBITING

20. Qualification for FIP and FEPA Exhibitions

To be eligible to apply to show an exhibit of five frames at an FIP or FEPA exhibition an exhibit must have been awarded at least 75 points and a Vermeil medal at a National Exhibition in a recognized FIP Class within the five years prior to the application.

To qualify for eight frames at an FIP or FEPA exhibition, an exhibit must have received at least 85 points for five frames at a previous FIP or continental Federation exhibition (for example FEPA). Time limits apply.

ABPS juries follow the guidance of the FIP in evaluating exhibits. The brief notes below on individual classes should be read in conjunction with the Special Regulations for the Evaluation of Exhibits in each class (SREVS) which can be found on the FIP website and on FIP Commission websites.

21. FIP Classes:

Traditional

Traditional philately can embrace all aspects of philately. It is based on the collecting of postage stamps and related items, including materials related to the production of postage stamps. It also includes Telegraph, Railway and Local stamps.

Postal History

This class includes studies of the development of postal services, including the evolution of rates and routes, postal markings and marcophily. It is not normally advisable to include unused adhesives or unused postal stationery.

Exhibits in the sub-class 2C, being Historical, Social and Special Studies exhibits which include material developed by commerce and society for use in the postal system, may include non-philatelic material where relevant to the subject of the exhibit. The non-philatelic material should be incorporated into the exhibit in a balanced and appropriate manner that does not overwhelm the philatelic material. Non-philatelic items must relate directly to the Postal History material.

Aerophilately

This class is based on studies of the development and operation of airmail services and the material prepared for these services, both official and unofficial. It can also include exhibits of airmail stamps and their usage.

Postal Stationery

This class is for exhibits of postal stationery, that is postal material which bears an officially authorised pre-printed stamp or device paying for a postal service (for example postal cards and registration envelopes). Exhibits may include proofs, essays, and formula items where appropriate.

Revenue Philately

A Revenue exhibit comprises embossed, imprinted, or adhesive tax, fee or credit stamps issued by or under the aegis of a Government Authority or other official body.

Thematic Philately

This class is for entries based on a theme or a subject which is developed to a logical plan by the use of the widest range of appropriate stamps and other philatelic material. Revenue stamps may be included where no other philatelic material will convey the intended message. However, such material should be used sparingly.

Open Philately

This class gives an exhibitor complete freedom to present an exhibit on any subject using up to 50% of non-philatelic items. The non-philatelic material must not be thicker than 5 mm so as to be able to fit into standard exhibition frames.

22. Non FIP Classes Accepted at ABPS National Exhibitions

Cinderella

Cinderellas include local stamps, telegraph stamps, railway stamps, forgeries, bogus and phantom issues. Christmas, Red Cross, TB and other charity seals, registration labels, advertisement, and exhibition labels etc. However, things such as trade, cigarette, and telephone cards (unless the image of a stamp is incorporated in the design), matchbox or cheese labels, aerial propaganda leaflets, and other forms of ephemera are not considered as Cinderella items for this purpose.

Picture Postcard

The class is now offered at exhibitions in many parts of the world including the USA and there are FEPA regulations for the exhibiting of Picture Postcards which cover all of its affiliated federations in Europe, including Turkey, Israel, and Egypt. The FEPA regulations are at <http://fepanews.com/news/picture%20postcard%20regulations>.

Ephemera

Ephemera has been defined as 'the minor transient, printed or handwritten documents of everyday life that were generally expected to be discarded'. It can cover almost any printed or handwritten material that is of suitable size and thin enough to be exhibited in the frames. An essential requirement is that it is presented in two dimensions so, for instance, cigarette and food packets would have to be opened out or collapsed flat. Photographs can be included.

Competitive exhibits of Ephemera should be arranged in a way that tells a coherent story with a logical progression based on, for example, typology, chronology, social content, printing methods or commonality - a range of materials with a common theme or picture. No more than 15% of the content should be philatelic material eligible for other exhibition classes such as Traditional, Postal History, Postal Stationery, or stamped revenue documents.

One Frame Exhibits

One frame exhibits can be entered in any class. They need to have an introductory page and the treatment should be as complete as possible in relation to the subject chosen. It is crucial to choose a subject that can be covered adequately in one frame. Simply extracting one frame from a multiple frame exhibit is unlikely to produce an optimal result.

Further information on various aspects of competitive philately is available on the ABPS, FIP and FEPA websites:

ABPS: <http://abps.org.uk/Exhibiting/Seminars/index.xalter>

FIP: <http://www.f-i-p.ch>

FEPA: <http://fepanews.com>

NOTE: While Stamp World Exhibitions, the organizers of ABPS National Exhibitions, endeavour to ensure accuracy of the information they publish, accuracy cannot be guaranteed, and the organizers will accept no liability for any use of or reliance on information contained within this document or application pack. Decisions of the Jury or its Chairman are final and conclusive, and there is no requirement to give reasons for any decision made. All references in this document to Stamp World Exhibitions, the organizers of ABPS National Exhibitions, include its directors, employees, sub-contractors, and volunteers.