

BOSTON 2026 GWSE INDIVIDUAL REGULATIONS (IREX)

Article 1 – PURPOSE OF EXHIBITION

- 1.1 BOSTON 2026 GENERAL WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION (BOSTON 2026 GWSE) is a World Philatelic Exhibition that will be held to celebrate the 250th anniversary of American Independence.
- 1.2 BOSTON 2026 GWSE shall be held for the following purposes:
 - a. To promote friendly relations and maintain close cooperation among philatelists and stamp collectors throughout the world;
 - b. To promote philately, stamp collecting and exhibiting at the highest international level;
 - c. To expose non-philatelists to the rich world of stamp and postal history collecting.

Article 2 – ORGANIZATION, DATE AND VENUE

- 2.1 BOSTON 2026 GWSE is organized by American Philatelic Society (APS) in accordance with Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) General Regulations for Exhibitions (GREX). BOSTON 2026 GWSE is managed and run by its Corporate Board and the Organizing Committee of Boston 2026 World Stamp Show, Inc.
- 2.2 The exhibition will open on May 23 and close on May 30, 2026. Note that Monday, May 25, 2026, is Memorial Day, a federal public holiday.
- 2.3 The exhibition will be held at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC) in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. Approximately 4,000 exhibition frames judged under FIP rules will be available.

Article 3 – PATRONAGE AND APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

- 3.1 BOSTON 2026 GWSE is a World Exhibition with the Patronage of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) granted at the 184th Board Meeting of the FIP Board of Directors on May 08, 2025.
- 3.2 The following regulations shall be applicable to BOSTON 2026 GWSE:
 - The General Regulations of the FIP for Exhibitions (GREX),
 - The General Regulations of the FIP for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions (GREV),
 - The Special Regulations for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions (SREVs),
 - The Individual Regulations of BOSTON 2026 GWSE (IREX) (Article 3.10 of GREX).

Article 4 – CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

4.1 Competitive Exhibition Classes:

Exhibitors who are members of national federations/societies/associations of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) or of the Inter American Federation of Philately (FIAF) countries that are not FIP members are eligible for participation. An exhibitor who satisfies the following may submit exhibits: Entries winning at least a vermeil award at a National Exhibition (this applies to: Traditional, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Thematic, Open Philately, Revenues, Maximaphily, Modern Philately and Picture Postcards.), Youth Class in accordance with GREX 10.4 and Literature Class in accordance with GREX 10.3.

The Regulations governing the conditions of participation of exhibitions are stated in the Articles 9-19 of GREX.

Article 5 – EXHIBITION CLASSES

5.1 Non-Competitive Classes (by invitation):

- a. Court of Honor, including FIP Grand Prix Club display
- b. Official Class
 - from postal authorities
 - from postal museums
 - from postage stamp printers
 - from postage stamp designers, engravers and printers
- c. Other Non-Competitive Classes

5.2 Competitive Classes:

Class 1:

FIP Championship Class

For exhibits that have been awarded three Large Gold medals in three different years at World Exhibitions held under FIP Patronage during a ten-year span. For BOSTON 2026 GWSE, exhibits that have received their third Large Gold Medals from 2016 onwards, are eligible to participate in this Class, provided their first and second Large Gold Medals awarded earlier in different years within the specified ten-year span.

Class 2:

Traditional Philately

- a) USA (National Class)
- b) The Americas (except USA)
- c) Europe
- d) Asia, Oceania and Africa

Class 3:

Postal History

- a) USA (National Class)

- b) The Americas (except USA)
- c) Europe
- d) Asia, Oceania and Africa

Class 4:
Postal Stationery

- a) USA (National Class)
- b) The Americas, Europe, Asia, Oceania and Africa

Class 5:
Aerophilately

- a) USA (National Class)
- b) The Americas, Europe, Asia, Oceania and Africa

Class 6:
Astrophilately

- a) USA (National Class)
- b) The Americas, Europe, Asia, Oceania and Africa

Class 7:
Thematic Philately

Exhibits will be classified under:

- a) Nature
- b) Culture
- c) Technology

Please indicate clearly in the Exhibit Application Form as to the subclass (A, B or C) the exhibit is entering.

Class 8:
Open Philately

Class 9
Maximaphily

Class 10
Revenue

- a) USA (National Class)
- b) The Americas, Europe, Asia, Oceania and Africa

Class 11
Modern Philately (2000 to date)

Class 12
Picture Postcard

Class 13
One Frame Exhibits

A One Frame exhibit is intended to be an exhibit with a very narrow subject that fits in One Frame.

An extract from a past International award winner with multiple frame exhibits (5 to 8 frames) to One Frame is not allowed.

Awards are presented by Points (60 points to 100 points) and awarded by certificates only. No medal levels will be awarded.

Certificate of Participation will be given to exhibits attaining less than 60 points

One Frame exhibits should come from:

- a) Traditional
- b) Postal History
- c) Postal Stationery
- d) Aerophilately
- e) Astrophilately
- f) Thematic
- g) Open Philately
- h) Maximaphily
- i) Revenue
- j) Modern Philately
- k) Picture Postcard

Please indicate clearly in the Exhibit Application Form as to the subclass the exhibit is entering.

The One Frame exhibits will be judged according to Guidelines for Judging One Frame Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions

Class 14

Youth Philately (All ages as of January 01, 2026)

Group A – Age 10-15 years old

Group B – Age 16-18 years old

Group C – Age 19-21 years old

Class 15:

Philatelic Literature

a) Monographs, special catalogues and special studies of primarily investigative research nature (published after January 1, 2021);

b) Periodicals (published after January 1, 2024);

c) General Catalogues (published after January 1, 2024);

d) Digital Literature, websites and software.

Literature can be submitted in either printed or digital form.

Exhibitors are required to fill in all the particulars stated in the online application.

Class 16 (Experimental Class)

First Day Covers

Awards are presented by Points (60 points to 100 points) and only awarded by certificates. No medal levels will be awarded.

Certificate of Participation will be given to exhibits attaining less than 60 points

Article 6 – JUDGING OF EXHIBITS AND AWARDS

6.1 Exhibits in the Competitive Classes will be judged by the appointed and/or accredited FIP judges in accordance with the principles in the GREV and SREVs. Any deviation in the judging system must have the prior approval of the FIP Board.

Article 7 – FRAME SIZE AND ALLOTMENT OF FRAMES

7.1 The exhibition frames at BOSTON 2026 GWSE shall be 95cm x 125cm. Each frame shall have a capacity for 16 pages 23cm x 29cm (four sheets in four rows – 4 x 4) enclosed in a transparent protective cover. Album pages slightly exceeding the said size shall be accepted if the pages can be overlapped in the frame, in which case the Organizing Committee shall not be responsible for any loss of, or damage to the pages. The FIP additional recommended sizes are:

46cm × 29cm (A3) : 8 sheets (two sheets in four rows)
31cm × 29cm : 12 sheets (three sheets in four rows)

7.2 All exhibits must be mounted on white pages.

No exhibit mounted on dark-colored or black sheets will be accepted.

7.3 The original copy of an Expertizing certificate must be placed at the disposal of the Jury by inserting it at the back of the relevant page. A small letter © or “e” is to be denoted close to the item to which it refers.

7.4 Every exhibit shall be allotted 5 or 8 exhibition frames (with the exception of the Class 13 (one frame), Class 14 (Youth) and Class 15 (Literature) according to GREX Articles 6.3 and 6.4.

Five frames shall be allotted to exhibits that obtained at least a vermeil award at the national level or a vermeil or lower at FIP exhibitions.

Eight frames shall be allotted to exhibits that obtained at least a large vermeil award at previous FIP exhibitions, with exceptions according to GREX 6.4

Article 8 – APPLICATIONS AND ACCEPTANCE

8.1 Application is through the entry form on the Boston 2026 GWSE website. Exhibitors shall fill in one Exhibit Application Form for each exhibit. On completion of the form the exhibitor will receive an email confirming that the exhibit application has been received. The organizers will submit a copy of the entry form to the National Commissioner of the respective country who must validate the data concerning the qualification of the exhibit and notify the Deputy Commissioner General. As part of the application, exhibitors will need to include an introductory title page (mandatory) in one of the FIP languages (English, French, German or Spanish). A synopsis of up to two pages may also be included (optional, but recommended). Title pages and synopses must be PDFs in a standard sized page format (8.5x11 inches or A4). These pages can be added or amended until January 15, 2026. Exhibitors living in countries without a National Commissioner should still apply and provisions will be made by the Deputy

Commissioner General. Entries in Class 15 (Philatelic Literature) must fill out the required information.

8.2 The Organizing Committee shall have the authority to accept or reject the application without specifying a reason.

8.3 Exhibit Application Forms duly completed shall be submitted by **September 30, 2025**

8.4 Exhibitors may enter exhibits under a pseudonym. However, their true identities must be submitted to the Organizing Committee (Article 16 of GREX).

8.5 Notification of acceptance or rejection, together with the number of allotted frames, shall be sent to the exhibitor through the respective Commissioner no later than November 30, 2025.

8.6 The National Commissioners shall collect the participation fees from the exhibitors and remit them to the Organizing Committee no later than February 28, 2026.

8.7 Each exhibit shall be listed in the exhibition catalogue under its given title as stated on the application form.

8.8 When the title of the exhibit differs from the original title (irrespective of minor or major changes), **the previous title of the exhibit must also be stated in the Exhibit Application Form.** Furthermore, the exhibit identity number created by FIP must be stated. This ID number can be obtained from the secretary of the respective Federation. The FIP Secretariat circulates, annually, a list of Awards and ID numbers to the National Federations together with the annual membership fees due.

Article 9 – PARTICIPATION FEE

9.1 The participation fee for Competitive Classes except Class 13 (One Frame), Class 14 (Youth) and Class 15 (Literature) is USD \$125 per frame.

9.2 The participation fee for One Frame Exhibit (Class 13) is USD \$195 per frame

9.3 There is no participation fee for Youth Class exhibits (Class 14)

9.4 The participation fee for Philatelic Literature (Class 15) is USD \$65 per exhibit.

Article 10 – HANDLING OF EXHIBITS

10.1 In the event an exhibit is delivered late or the carrier fails, or in the event the sheet size does not comply with the provisions of Article 7.1, the exhibit will not be judged and the participation fee shall not be refunded.

10.2 The Organizing Committee shall certify the receipt of the exhibits to the exhibitors through the National Commissioner.

10.3 The Organizing Committee shall distribute envelopes with instruction to indicate the information about the exhibit / frame number / mounting plan and exhibit inventory forms through the National Commissioner to the exhibitors.

10.4 Each and every exhibit shall be delivered in envelopes (one envelope per frame). The exhibit inventory form shall be put in the envelope of the first frame.

10.5 The Organizing Committee requires, without exception, that all exhibits be delivered by the National Commissioners. **Personal delivery of the exhibit by the exhibitor (or by a person authorized by the exhibitor) shall not be accepted, except as detailed in section 10.6 below.**

10.6 Personal delivery of an exhibit by an exhibitor or their representative shall be made to an authorized commissioner at the Bin Room. These exhibits will then be transferred by the commissioner to the Organizing Committee. The times when the Bin Room Commissioner will be available to accept exhibits will be announced in due time. The exhibitor will be required to sign a release form and pay a handling fee.

10.7 Exhibitors in the Philatelic Literature Class (Class 15) must send one copy of each title no later than by February 28, 2026 in order that preliminary judging may take place. This copy is not returnable. Periodicals may be exhibited as a complete volume only.

10.8 The address to which Philatelic Literature exhibits must be sent, shall be communicated by the Organizing Committee in due time.

Article 11 – MOUNTING AND DISMOUNTING OF EXHIBITS

11.1 The mounting and dismounting of the exhibits shall be undertaken as determined by the Organizing Committee with supervision and/or, assistance of, the National Commissioner

11.2 The exhibitor or the National Commissioner shall pay for all costs associated with delivery of the exhibit to the exhibition site as well as with collecting the exhibit at the close of the exhibition and its transport back to the exhibitor.

11.3 Delivery of exhibits to the Organizing Committee and their return by means of Air Cargo is not allowed.

11.4 The Organizing Committee shall not be responsible for any problems occurred after dismounting of the exhibit or its handover to the exhibitor or the National Commissioner.

11.5 Request for return or dismounting of the exhibit during the exhibition period shall not be accepted.

Article 12 – CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

12.1 The Organizing Committee shall make all reasonable effort in order to secure simplified customs procedures for entry of the exhibits to USA with U.S Customs and Border Protection. Details of the customs procedures and possible requirements shall

be communicated to all exhibitors through the respective National Commissioners at least 3 months prior to the start of the Exhibition.

Article 13 – SECURITY MEASURES

13.1 The Organizing Committee shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the security of the exhibits from arrival to return thereof. However, the Organizing Committee shall not be liable for any loss or damage to an Exhibit that might occur during the transportation to and from the exhibition - from receipt to return of the Exhibit - or during the exhibition.

13.2 After the exhibit is mounted by the Organizing Committee, the National Commissioner is required to check that all pages and philatelic items are intact. In the event of any missing items, the National Commissioner must inform the Organizing Committee immediately. A confirmation form shall be signed by the National Commissioner to be returned to the Organizing Committee to confirm that the exhibit mounted is in order. This procedure is to be executed prior to the Opening day of the exhibition, except where an Exhibit is received after the Opening day when such report shall be made at the soonest opportunity.

13.3 Every exhibitor must insure his or her exhibit at their own expense (GREX Article 50.2).

Article 14 – EXPERT GROUP (Article 45 of GREX)

An Expert Group will be appointed by the Organizing Committee in consultation with the FIP Consultant. In the event that a page is removed from the frame by the Expert Group and subsequently replaced, this will be done in the presence of the National Commissioner, or if no National Commissioner was assigned, in the presence of the Boston 2026 Deputy Commissioner General.

Article 15 – RIGHTS OF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

15.1 Every exhibitor applying to exhibit at BOSTON 2026 GWSE is deemed to have accepted the stipulations of the IREX.

15.2 The Organizing Committee shall have the right to adjudicate any matters arising that are not covered by FIP Regulations or by this IREX, and its decisions shall be final.

15.3 The Organizing Committee shall have the right to revise the IREX after consultation with the FIP Consultant. In such case, exhibitors shall be promptly notified of any such revision either directly or through the National Commissioner.

Article 16 – ACCEPTANCE OF THESE REGULATIONS

16.1 By signing the Exhibit Application Form, the exhibitor shall be deemed to accept the stipulations of the IREX, GREX, GREV and SREVs.

16.2 In the event of any discrepancies in the text arising from translation, the English text shall prevail.

16.3 Any legal cases shall be governed by the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Article 17 – CONTACT ADDRESSES

17.1 The Organizing Committee of BOSTON 2026 GWSE Exhibition Management

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17.4 Exhibition website: www.Boston2026.org