

INDIA POST

PHILATELIC AWARDS SYSTEM (IP-PAS)

Chapter 1

GENERAL RULES FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF PHILATELIC EXHIBITS (GRAPES)

Preliminary

Philately is both a leisure time activity and a wholesome vocation, and exhibitions are its public face. Needless to say, exhibitors are to be encouraged rather than discouraged. Jurors should be friendly and helpful towards the exhibitors and refrain from adopting a holier than thou attitude. The Juror should find and emphasize elements to encourage and to guide the exhibitor on to the next step. This is particularly important in cases where the exhibits show effort, merit, and possibility of development.

Awards are given to the exhibit and not to the exhibitor. Assessment is limited solely to the material in the frames and Jurors are not judging the owners, the previous owners, the circumstances of acquisition, or any rumor concerning the exhibit. Enforcing rules concerning these or any other legal and moral matter must be of no concern to the Jurors; it is up to the Exhibition management (represented by the Steering Committee) to look into such issues.

Article 1 Competitive Exhibitions

1.1 The principles defined in the following Rules are applicable to all competitive classes at exhibitions organized under the Patronage, Recognition or Support of India Post. They are intended to serve the Jury as regulations and as a guide to the collector for the development of the exhibits.

1.2 The general principles stated in these Rules are sensibly extended by the Guidelines for each competitive class contained in Chapter 2 of IP-PAs. The Guidelines intend to provide general guidance regarding the definition and nature of the appropriate material; the principles of exhibit composition, and the judging criteria of exhibits, to a particular class and should be read in conjunction with these Rules.

1.3 These Rules and the Guidelines are not expected, neither intended to provide an answer to every possible question; nevertheless these will help the jury and the exhibitor to better understand the system for philatelic awards.

1.4 These Rules and the Guidelines should suitably be modified to comply with the conditions for National, Zonal, Regional, and District level philatelic exhibitions. The level of the exhibition affects how stringently the exhibit is evaluated. A high degree of flexibility and liberality is advisable in the case of District / Regional exhibitions.

Article 2 Competitive Exhibits

2.1 The limit of the frame space allocated at exhibitions may not normally allow a collector to display an entire collection. Therefore, the collector must select suitable material, which will ensure continuity and understanding of the subject and explain relevant aspects of knowledge and condition.

2.2 An exhibit should have a clear beginning, a central theme, and a logical ending.

2.3 The scope of an exhibit in the respective classes is defined in the Guidelines.

2.4 If an exhibit is transferred, moved out-of-competition, penalized, or not judged, the

exhibition management should notify the reason/s to concerned exhibitor as considered by the jury.

Article 3 Principles of Exhibit Composition

3.1 The exhibit shall consist solely of relevant items, supporting documentation and text. Relevant items are defined for each class in the Guidelines for that class.

3.2 The exhibit shall clearly show its leading idea, developed logically and in a balanced manner according to the characteristics of the respective competitive class, as defined by the Guidelines for that class.

3.3 The title must describe the contents of the exhibit. The concept, that may take any form, shall be laid out in an introductory statement. The title and the concept form a whole in perfect concordance with the material shown. The material displayed should be fully consistent with the subject chosen. The selection should show the appreciation of the exhibitor as to what is available in the context of chosen subject. It should help the public and judges to appreciate the significance of the key items on display. Exhibits of material that may be regarded as less well known or obscure should make full use of the introductory statement. It should also include the fullest range of relevant philatelic material of the highest available quality.

3.4 The display must begin with an introductory page in which the exhibitor defines in full what the subject is, explains how it will be developed, and specifies what the self-imposed limits are. The concept or plan should also be used to provide relevant general information on the subject. It may also include a short list of the important documentary sources used. It must be subdivided in chapters. A mere list of contents is not enough for a plan. A well thought out plan may avoid otherwise lengthy descriptions later in the exhibit. The judges will use this information to evaluate the material shown in relation to the aims set forth by the exhibitor. Another introductory page may be desirable in certain subjects or classes and for exhibits of eight frames.

3.5 The presentation and the accompanying text of the exhibit should be simple, tasteful and well balanced. It should add information to that provided by the material and show the level of understanding of the subject and the personal research of the exhibitor.

3.6 Repaired items are to be mentioned in the description. However any attempt to improve the appearance of a postal marking, subsequent to its being applied by the postal authorities, shall be treated as being faked material.

3.7 If the status or genuineness of any item is in doubt, but the item is considered significant enough to be included in the exhibit, it may be included, but its status should be indicated by explanatory remarks. The presence of faked, forged or repaired material that is not clearly described as such will cause the downgrading of an exhibit by at least a medal level. The exhibitors are advised to have their items verified in doubtful cases.

3.8 Illustrations of relevant postal markings are necessary only when the originals are not clear enough to the observer. When it is desirable to illustrate significant markings on the reverse side of a cover, they may either be drawn or illustrated with a reproduction (photograph or photocopy), but a reproduction should be apparent as such to the observer. Colour photocopies or photographs should be at least 25% different in size from the original.

3.9 Classified or restricted items, the display or exhibition of which are prohibited under the rules and regulations of India Post, should not form part of the exhibit-. The Jury will report the presence of such material to the Exhibition Management for suitable action, which could even involve legal procedures.

Article 4 Criteria for Evaluation

4.1 The approved specialists in their respective field who are duly appointed as member of the Jury in accordance with 'Philatelic Jurors Program' shall carry out the evaluation of the exhibits.

4.2 Each exhibit will have to be evaluated on its own merits. The evaluation of exhibits will only take into consideration the material and information displayed.

4.3 Criteria for the evaluation of competitive exhibits are (1) Treatment, (2) philatelic and related Knowledge, (3) Personal Study and Research, (4) Condition and Rarity of material exhibited, and (5) Presentation. These criteria are valid for all types of exhibits.

4.4 The Exhibits will be evaluated by allocating marks for each of the criteria~. These will 'be entered on evaluation sheets of an approved format. A sample Mark sheet is given JIS Annex to IP-PAs.

4.5 To get a consistent evaluation, the Jury will enter for each exhibitor a short critical evaluation, their observations and some advice to improve the exhibit to the exhibitor.

4.6 The basic elements underlying each individual criterion suitably modified to comply with the particular requirements for each class are defined in the Guidelines for that class.

4.7 The Jury and the exhibitors must have a clear understanding of the need to consider carefully the various aspects that combine together to maximize the award an exhibit can attract.

4.8 The criterion of "Treatment" requires an evaluation of the degree of advancement, "originality, completeness and correctness of the selected material. Does the exhibit show the greatest degree of advancement in terms of the material exhibited? Is the approach orthodox, or has an unusual or original interpretation been used? How complete is the treatment of the subject chosen? Has the SUbject been chosen to enable a properly balanced exhibit to be shown in the space available? Does the material exhibited properly correspond with the title and plan of the exhibit? Exhibitors should ensure that the exhibit is cohesive and avoid combining largely unrelated subjects; such exhibits are likely to lose marks under this criterion. The judges should also assess whether the material exhibited is relevant to the scope of the exhibit.

4.9 The exhibitor may omit material that is of lesser significance. In general, a token showing may represent the common material required to complete the story, while the better material should be shown in depth. The key material of accepted difficulty and desirability should be present in the selected subject. The judges will appreciate that this treatment shows the exhibitor's knowledge of the material.

4.10 The proper evaluation of philatelic and related knowledge, personal study, and research will be based on the relevant description of each philatelic object shown. The items chosen for display and their related description demonstrate philatelic and related knowledge. The information given should not overwhelm the philatelic material shown. The 'Knowledge' criterion applies differently to each type of exhibit. For example, philatelic knowledge for Traditional exhibits, postal history knowledge for Postal History exhibits, and philatelic and thematic knowledge for thematic exhibit.

4.11 Personal study is demonstrated by the proper analysis of the items chosen for display. For exhibits where original research (presentation of new facts related to the chosen subject) is evident, a large proportion of the total points may be given for it. For subjects that have been extensively researched previously, judges will look how far these researches have

been successfully used in the exhibit to gauge knowledge and not penalize for lack of opportunity for personal research. The exhibit should be given additional consideration if the exhibitor has managed to come up with new findings in heavily studied area. New discoveries should be given full coverage in accordance with their importance. Major discoveries deserve important coverage and recognition and should be identified by the exhibitor, while minor discoveries should not overpower the main exhibit.

4.12 The criteria of "Condition and Rarity" require an evaluation of the quality of the displayed material considering the standard of the material that exists for the chosen subject, the rarity and the relative difficulty of acquisition of the selected material. The jury should take account of any really exceptionally fine or rare items present. Exhibitors are encouraged to show unique or nearly unique material that does not occur in fine condition, but are cautioned from including other items of a condition that may disfigure the exhibit. An exhibitor may direct attention to special items within the exhibit with a statement of the reasons for its scarcity. However no statement of the value are permitted.

4.13 The criterion of "Presentation" requires an evaluation of the overall aesthetic appearance of the exhibit. The presentation of an exhibit should be well finished and give a good general impression. The exhibitors should conform to display the selected material harmoniously, avoid too empty or overcharged sheets where the items overlap, and write the accompanying texts precisely and in a legible, faultless writing. The method of presentation should show the material to the best effect and in a balanced way. It should complement the treatment of the exhibit by its general layout and clarity. Judges should evaluate how the presentation enhances the understanding and attractiveness of the exhibit to judges and viewers alike. Actual arrangement of the exhibit is a matter of personal taste and the choice of one of the many accepted forms of presenting the material is left to the exhibitor. Inventiveness is encouraged as long as good taste is observed, since a sameness of appearance, regardless of how nicely executed, would be boring to the viewer.

4.14 No advantage or disadvantage shall apply as to whether the text is handwritten, typewritten or printed. Brightly colored inks and colored album pages should be avoided.

4.15 The use of a marks system, together with appropriate evaluation sheets, can be helpful in reaching balanced and rational evaluations. However, such a system cannot be applied mechanically; the final marks totals also must be looked at in terms of the overall quality of the exhibits. The detailed in this 'Criteria for Evaluation' are meant to suggest the mental process used in reaching a "numerical" evaluation. Jurors should look first for the positive aspects of the exhibits, rather than merely looking to see "how many marks can I take off".

Article 5 Judging of Exhibits

5.1 Each jury group makes the final decision on the award of medals up to and including the Silver Medal, provided other members of the jury offer no objection.

5.2 Proposals of the jury groups for all Gold Medals, as well as objections according to other medals shall be submitted to the full jury for deliberation.

5.3 Decisions of the full jury are carried by highest number of votes. In the event of a tie, the vote of the Jury President is decisive.

5.4 In all Classes except the Championship Class, there shall be three medal levels namely Gold, Silver, and Bronze, to be awarded on the basis of the total of the assessments a minimum of 90, 75, and 60 marks achieved. However, this (or any other) stipulation or IP-PAS should not come in the way of the organizers adopting a simplified system of awards pursuant to clause 7.16 of IP-PER, if such a need is felt.

5.6 The jury groups shall propose exhibits that exceed the requirements for a Gold Medal for

the award of Grand Prizes common to all classes. The entry that shall be adjudged the overall best exhibit of the exhibition, excluding the Championship Class shall be awarded (District/Regional/Zonal/National) Grand Prize.

5.7 The entry that shall be adjudged the overall best exhibit in the youth class of the exhibition shall be awarded (District/Regional/Zonal/National) Youth Cup.

5.8 The entry that shall be adjudged the overall best exhibit in the School Collections Class of the exhibition shall be awarded (District/Regional/Zonal/National) Trophy.

5.9 The Jury may express Felicitations for exhibits distinguishing themselves by philatelic research or originality.

5.10 The full Jury may award Special prizes proposed by the jury groups.

5.11 For the exhibits in all classes except Philatelic Publications and the Youth, the following relative terms are presented to lead the Jury to balanced evaluation.

Treatment	35
Knowledge, Personal Study and Research	30
Condition and Rarity	30
Presentation	5
Total	100

5.12 The relative terms for Philatelic Publications and the Youth classes are given in their respective guidelines.

5.13 The jury is not obliged to make an award of the same level that an exhibit received in an earlier exhibition.

Article 6 Amendments

6.1 India Post reserves the right to amend these Regulations at any time.

Article 7 Authority

7.1 The decision of the Jury Chairperson shall be final on all matters related to the working and decisions of the Jury.

7.2 For those cases where there is no ruling provided by these Rules the Jury Chairperson will take a decision.

7.3 The Jury Chairperson is responsible for ruling on interpretation of these regulations, at the exhibition.

7.4 The Chief of Philately Division of India Post [(DDG(Philately))] shall have the final decision in cases of dispute.

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

Article 8 Application

8.1 These Rules will replace any other rules that have been previously promulgated.

8.2 These rules came into force on 1st August 2003.