

BOSTON 2026 WORLD EXPO INDIVIDUAL REGULATIONS (IREX)

Article 1 – PURPOSE OF EXHIBITION

- 1.1 BOSTON 2026 WORLD EXPO (BOSTON 2026) is a World Exhibition that will be held to celebrate the 250th anniversary of American Independence.
- 1.2 BOSTON 2026 shall be held for the following purposes:
 - a. To promote friendly relations and maintain close cooperation amongst the 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 is sanctioned by American Philatelic Society (APS) in accordance to Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) General Regulations for Exhibitions (GREX). BOSTON 2026 is managed and run by the Corporate Board and 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 and Exhibition Center (BCEC) in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. Approximately 4,000 exhibition frames will be available.

Article 3 – RECOGNITION AND APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

- 3.1 BOSTON 2026 is a World Exhibition with the Provisional Recognition of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) granted at the 173rd Board Conference Meeting of the FIP Board of Directors on June 3, 2024.
- 3.2 The following regulations shall be applicable to BOSTON 2026:
 - 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 (IREX) (Article 3.10 of GREX).
- 3.3 BOSTON 2026 will also be held under the patronage of the Inter American Federation of Philately (FIAF) and the auspices of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA).

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 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 (for Postal History, Traditional, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Thematic classes, Open Philately, Revenues, Postal Picture Postcards, Youth, First Day Covers and Literature).

4.2 Non-Competitive Exhibition Classes

Entries in non-competitive classes shall be by special invitation at the discretion of the Organizing Committee.

Article 5 – EXHIBITION CLASSES

5.1 Non-Competitive Classes:

- a. Court of Honor
- 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:

Non-FIP Classes:

Class 1:

Championship Class

For exhibits that have been awarded three Large Gold medals, in three different years, at World Exhibitions held under FIP judging criteria between 2016 and 2025. Exhibits that have won the APS annual Champion of Champions competition are also eligible to participate.

Class 2:

First Day Covers

Exhibits in this class should be based on the APS rules and will be evaluated using these criteria.

FIP Classes:

Class 3:

Traditional Philately

- A) USA (National Class)
- B) Americas (except USA)
- C) Europe
- D) Asia, Oceania and Africa

Class 4:

Postal History

- A) USA (National Class)
- B) Americas (except USA)
- C) Europe
- D) Asia, Oceania and Africa

Class 5:

Postal Stationery

- A) USA (National Class)
- B) Americas (except USA), Europe, Asia, Oceania and Africa

Class 6:

Aerophilately and Astrophilately

- A) USA (National Class)
- B) Americas (except USA), 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:

Revenues

Class 9:

Open Philately

Class 10:

Picture Postcards

Class 11:

One Frame Exhibit

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.

One Frame exhibits should come from:

- A) Traditional
- B) Postal History
- C) Postal Stationery
- D) Aerophilately and Astrophilately
- E) Thematic
- F) Revenues
- G) Open Philately
- H) Picture Postcards
- I) Youth

Please indicate clearly in the Exhibit Application Form as to the subclass (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H or I) the exhibit is entering.

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

Class 12:

Youth (age as of January 1, 2026)

Group A: 10-15 years old

Group B: 16-18 years old

Group C: 19-21 years old

Class 13:

Philatelic Literature

A) Books, monographs, special catalogues, articles and special studies of primarily investigative research nature (published after January 1, 2024)

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 requested to fill in the particulars stated in the “Philatelic Literature Exhibit Information Form,” in addition to the “Exhibit Application Form.”

Article 6 – JUDGING OF EXHIBITS AND AWARDS

6.1 Exhibits in the Competitive Classes (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13) will be judged by the appointed judges in accordance with the FIP principles laid down in the GREV and SREVs, and the FIP rules for selection of judges for FIP Recognition exhibitions. Non-FIP Class 1 will also be judged according to the FIP standards described in the previous sentence. No-FIP Class 2 will be judged according to the American Philatelic Society’s *Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting*, 2019 edition (https://stamps.org/Portals/0/Judging-Manual_1.pdf). 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 shall be, at least, 95cm x 125cm (37in x 50in). Each frame shall have a capacity for 16 A4 sheets (four sheets in four rows – 4 x 4) enclosed in a transparent protective cover no more than 297mm high and 242 mm wide (11in x 8.5in). Larger sheet formats may be accepted but have to be in multiples of the standard size and approved in advance by the Organizing Committee.

7.2 All exhibits must be mounted on light colored sheets.

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

7.3 The original copy of Expertizing certificate must be placed at the disposal of the Jury. It can be inserted at the back of the page or put in the care of the Commissioner. A small letter “c” or “e” is to be denoted close to the item it refers to.

7.4 Every exhibit shall be allotted 5 or 8 exhibition frames, with the exception of Class 9 (One Frame), Class 12 (Youth) and Class 13 (Literature) according to GREX Articles 6.3 and 6.4.

Five frames shall be allotted to exhibits not previously shown at FIP level exhibitions that obtained at least a vermeil award at the national level or a vermeil or lower at FIP-sanctioned exhibitions.

Eight frames shall be generally allotted to exhibits that obtained at least a large vermeil award at a previous FIP exhibition or at a national show in the case of Class 2 (First Day Covers).

Article 8 – APPLICATIONS AND ACCEPTANCE

8.1 Application is through the entry form on the website. Exhibitors shall fill in one Exhibit Application Form for each exhibit. On completion of the form the exhibitor will receive an email with a reference code. The code will need to be included in the subject line of all email correspondence. 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 13 (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 the reason.

8.3 Exhibit Application Forms duly filled shall be submitted by September 30, 2025.

8.4 Exhibitors may enter exhibits under a pseudonym. However, their true identities must be notified 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 by 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 in 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 be also 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 all Competitive Classes except for Class 10 (One Frame) and Class 11 (Youth) is USD \$125 per frame.

9.2 The participation fee for One Frame Exhibits (Class 10) is USD \$195 per frame.

9.3 The participation fee for Philatelic Literature (Class 14) is USD \$65 per exhibit.

9.4 There is no participation fee for Youth Class exhibits.

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 Each exhibit sheet shall be placed in a transparent protective cover and numbered in the lower right-hand corner.

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

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

10.5 Each and every exhibit shall be delivered in an envelope (one envelope per frame). The exhibit inventory form shall be put in the envelope for the first frame.

10.6 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 10.7 below.

10.7 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.

10.8 Exhibitors in the Philatelic Literature Class (Class 13) 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 only as a complete volume.

10.9 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 commercial carriers 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.

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; and 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 immediately inform the Organizing Committee. 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 owner 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 Liaison. 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 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 in consultation with the FIP Liaison. 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
President: Yamil H. Kouri yamil.kouri@boston2026.org
Executive Director: Mark A. Butterline mark.butterline@boston2026.org
Chief Financial Officer: Michael E. Lawson michael.lawson@boston2026.org

17.2 Deputy Commissioner General: Dzintars Grinfelds dzintars.grinfelds@boston2026.org

17.3 FIP Liaison Officer: FIP Vice-President Reinaldo E. Macedo,
email: reinaldomacedo@f-i-p.ch

17.4 Exhibition website: Boston2026.org