

# Rules for Shows in the World Series of Philately

Revision approved February 19, 2009

## **A. Certification**

To become a certified World Series of Philately (WSP) show, a major National exhibition must fulfill the following requirements:

### **1. Application for Trial National (WSP) Exhibition Status**

An organizing committee seeking certification of its exhibition as a WSP national philatelic exhibition must apply to APS National Headquarters, Director of Shows and Exhibitions, and the Chairman of the Committee for the Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges (CANEJ). The application must include:

- Name of the exhibition
- Date and location of the event
- Name and address of the general chairman
- Copies of the most recent exhibition prospectus, program, and list of award winners.

These two application recipients will jointly decide if trial status is to be granted. Factors considered include location, date(s), show history, facility and demonstrated capability and performance. Only one show from the same city and immediate surrounding suburbs will be certified as a WSP event, excluding STAMPSHOW and APS AmeriStamp Expo which may be held in a WSP city without prejudice to either show.

If approved, the show must comply with all general requirements of a World Series of Philately exhibition for four (4) years to qualify for certification. During these years, the show is a Trial Exhibition and its Grand Award winners are not eligible to compete in the WSP or in the one frame Champion of Champion competition.

### **2. Application for Certification as National (WSP) Exhibition**

After successful completion of the fourth year's event, the show's organizing committee may apply through the Chairman of CANEJ to the APS Board of Directors for certification as a WSP show. The Board will consider the application and the recommendation of the Chairman of CANEJ and may approve that application if there is a vacancy in the Board-authorized limit of thirty-five WSP events.

### **3. Waiting List**

When there is no vacancy in the thirty-five show limit, shows that have successfully met the requirements for certification and have the approval of the APS Board will be placed on a waiting list in order of the date of application for certification. Shows on the waiting list will be given WSP certification as slots become available, provided: Shows in waiting must continue to meet all general requirements of WSP exhibitions.

### **4. One-time WSP and National Shows**

There may, rarely, be special occasions on which requests are made to APS for accreditation of a one-time show. While CANEJ and the APS Board will consider all such requests it should be understood that the primary related concern will always be the long-time viability and health of current regular WSP shows. APS is committed to the well-being of these WSP shows and will normally only grant one-time accreditation to shows planned for very special occasions.

Two types of one-time shows will be considered:

- a. **WSP Show** with Grand Award winners (both multi-frame and single-frame) invited to exhibit in the next Champion of Champions competitions. This type of accreditation will be reserved for those one-time shows that are either held at APS Headquarters or run by APS staff at another location. APS must be involved in the development of this type of show from inception. Care must be taken in choosing dates and no dates may be selected prior to vetting by the APS Director of Shows and Exhibitions, who will consider, among other things, whether there are other WSP shows scheduled on the same weekend and, if so, the effect that the proposed show will have on the other show(s). All Rules for WSP Shows will have to be met.
- b. **National Show with APS Recognition.** Grand Award winners will not be invited to exhibit in the Champion of Champions competitions. All other WSP benefits will accrue to exhibitors (including FIP qualification) and all Rules for WSP shows must be met. While this type of show may be held at locations away from APS Headquarters and may be run by others than APS staff it will be an important factor in granting of recognition whether or not APS, through its staff or CANEJ, has been involved since inception. The same care in selecting dates must be shown as in part 1, above. This type of recognition will generally not be given if there are two or more WSP shows scheduled for the proposed weekend or, if there is one such show, its location is less than 800 miles from the location of the proposed one-time show. APS must be contacted at the time of initial development of said show.

## **B. General Requirements of Exhibitions**

### **1. Annual Exhibition**

The exhibition must be an established and recognized major show that takes place annually.

If a show is held more than once during an exhibiting year, only one of the shows shall be eligible to send its Grand Award winner to the WSP for that year.

**EXCEPTION:** A WSP show may request a one-year bye from the APS Board. The request must present in detail the circumstances, conditions and supporting reasoning, and shall be submitted to the CANEJ Chairman for first consideration and action recommendation to the APS Board.

### **2. Exhibition Dates**

WSP shows are encouraged to schedule on weekends not already taken by other WSP shows. WSP shows should provide their future show dates to the APS Director of Shows as soon as known. These dates will be added to the APS web site and shall be considered “protected” assuming they do not conflict with an earlier reservation of the same dates. If another WSP show wishes to schedule on a “protected” date it may do so without further approvals if

- Its venue is more than 800 miles from the venue of the show that had the dates “protected” and
- Only one other WSP show has those dates

In all other cases special application must be made to CANEJ. Such application will generally be approved by the APS Board only in extenuating circumstances.

### **3. Exhibition Management**

WSP events are expected to maintain a general level of excellence in all aspects of show management.

General guidelines for achieving this include:

- a. A diverse bourse from around North America (and abroad, if desired) offering a wide range of material for sale that will appeal to collectors at all levels and make the show a desirable place to visit. It is recommended that APS dealer-members in good standing be given preference for WSP show booth space.
- b. An appropriate venue, with adequate bourse and exhibit space, meeting rooms, parking, security, HVAC, lighting, convenient refreshment, dining and lodging services appropriate to a convention.
- c. Publicity for the event that is timely, informative and widely distributed.
- d. A show awards event of a type and standard that gives proper recognition to those being honored, especially exhibitors and show committee/workers. All WSP shows must have an awards dinner, breakfast or other appropriate reception. A printed awards list (palmares) is required.
- e. Medal level awards (in addition to ribbons and certificates) of a quality and style appropriate to a National level exhibition.
- f. Seminars, programs and society meetings for show attendees that has depth, breadth, quality and diversity.
- g. Participation by the APS, one or more national societies, and/or local stamps clubs (e.g. a society table with literature, meetings and seminars, social events and/or exhibits and special awards).
- h. A suitable show program (more than a bare-bones list of exhibits and dealers).

#### **4. Duration**

All WPS shows must declare whether they want to be two-day or three-day shows.

Three-day WSP Show requirements (all maximums refer to competitive exhibits)

- Minimum 5 APS judges (Up to 65 exhibits – maximum of 12 one-frame exhibits and 350 competitive frames.)
- Minimum 7 APS judges (66 to 90 exhibits – maximum of 15 one-frame exhibits and 500 competitive frames.)
- Minimum 9 APS judges (91+ exhibits – maximum of 20 one-frame exhibits and 650 competitive frames.) The Champion of Champions exhibits at APS StampShow and the one-frame C of C exhibits at APS AmeriStamp Expo do not count toward these maximums.
- Minimum 125 competitive frames.
- Minimum \$350 honorarium for judges plus two awards event tickets and at least one working breakfast or lunch.
- Grand Award winner is eligible to participate in the Champion of Champions competition at APS StampShow; Grand one-frame exhibit award winner is eligible for one-frame Champion of Champions at AmeriStamp Expo in next calendar year.
- Meet all requirements in the current section B3.

Two-day WSP Show requirements

- Minimum 3 APS judges. No fewer than 100 or more than 125 competitive frames and

- maximum of 10 one-frame exhibits.
- Minimum \$300 honorarium for judges plus two awards event tickets.
- Grand Award winner is eligible to participate in the Champion of Champions competition at APS StampShow; Grand one-frame exhibit award winner is eligible for one-frame Champion of Champions at AmeriStamp Expo in next calendar year.
- Meet all requirements in the current section B3.

Shows may change duration provided all requirements are met and application is made to CANEJ at least six months prior.

Note: The Plymouth Show is grandfathered as a 3-day show (even though it is only 2 days) and must meet all 3-day criteria. If it wishes to become a new 2-day show it must declare as such and meet all rules for a 2-day show, including the 125 frame and 10 one-frame maximums.

Note: 4-day shows are treated as 3-day shows for the above purposes.

## 5. Exhibit Classes

Five classes of exhibits may be offered at WSP shows:

- General Class
- One Frame Class
- Postcard Class
- Philatelic Literature Class
- Non-Competitive/Court of Honor Class

Within General Class are the following Divisions:

- Postal Division:** Includes exhibits of the following types: Traditional, Postal History, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Postal Stationery and Special Studies.
- Revenue Division:** Includes exhibits of the following type of material: Traditional Revenue, Revenue History and Special Studies.
- Thematic Division**
- Display Division:** Includes Display Exhibits and Social Philately Exhibits.
- Illustrated Mail Division:** Includes exhibits of Advertising Covers, Patriotic Covers, Corner Cards, Cacheted or Commemorative Covers, First Day Covers and Maximaphily (Maximum Cards).
- Cinderella Division:** Includes exhibits of Charity Stamps (e.g. Christmas seals, charity seals, wildlife conservation stamps), Promotion Stamps, Poster Stamps, and other types of Cinderella material not included in any other Division.

General Class exhibits will make up the bulk of a WSP show. *Within General Class, Postal Division must be offered at WSP shows as a minimum requirement.* Additionally, the one-frame class must be offered at all WSP exhibitions.

WSP shows are encouraged to either offer all other divisions as they provide diversity and range, encourage participation and inspire interest and viewing, or choose to limit their show to one or two Divisions in addition to Postal Division. To assure broad national appeal, shows must strive for diversity in subjects shown.

Provided these minimum requirements are maintained, show committees may accept or reject exhibits

based on the number of available frames, the requests of convening specialist societies, the wish to balance the show, or other specific needs the show wishes to fulfill.

WSP shows are encouraged to accept exhibits in Youth Class. Philatelic Literature Class is only offered at selected shows and requires use of a separate, specialized jury.

## **6. Exclusion of Exhibits Based on Division**

Any show that wishes to exclude exhibits based on Division must request permission in advance from the Chairman of CANEJ, except:

National Topical Stamp Show, restricted to thematic exhibits.

Americover, restricted to First Day Covers and Illustrated Mail.

APS AmeriStamp Expo, a non-WSP nationally accredited show, primarily features one-frame exhibits, a limited number of divisions, experimental classes as approved by CANEJ, and the one-frame Champion of Champions competition.

## **7. Creative or Innovative Exhibits**

Any show wishing to exercise more flexibility or innovation, such as invitational exhibits, experimental classes, or other original types of exhibits, must seek permission from CANEJ.

## **8. Exhibit Size and Number**

Exhibitors are limited to a maximum of two competitive multi-frame exhibits of not more than ten 16-page frames (160 8½ x 11 pages) each, and two one-frame exhibits, for a maximum total of twenty-two frames. Oversized pages may be exhibited but the maximum space allocation is ten frames per exhibit.

Shows may restrict exhibits to a fewer number per exhibitor than the maximum in the previous paragraph.

Exhibits that require special frames or configurations of frames may be entered at the discretion of the show committee.

## **9. Medal Awards**

Five levels of award (Gold, Vermeil, Silver, Silver Bronze, and Bronze) shall be available to all competitive exhibits that are judged according to national level WSP standards.

Noncompetitive exhibits may be given a token of appreciation at the sole discretion of the exhibition committee.

## **10. Court of Honor**

Court of Honor exhibits shall be awarded an honorary Gold show medal or other equivalent.

An exhibit transferred out of competition after having won a Grand Award at a WSP show within the same Champion of Champion qualifying year is considered to be a Court of Honor exhibit and shall receive a Gold show medal or equivalent.

## **11. Grand Award**

A Grand Award shall be awarded at each WSP show, selected from all multi-frame competitive exhibits entered in General Class, as determined by the jury. A Reserve Grand, determined in the same manner, shall be awarded to the second best exhibit in the show; or, if desired by the show committee, multiple Reserve Grands may be awarded by the jury. Special prizes shall be determined by the jury in accordance with established criteria.

All WSP shows must offer a one-frame Grand Award (or Best in Show). This award need not be an expensive item but, for shows whose budgets do not allow for a more substantial award, may just be a token of appreciation for a job well done.

For qualification into the APS AmeriStamp Expo Champion of Champions competition a minimum of 6 one-frame exhibits must be in competition.

## **12. Exhibition Prospectus/Frame Application**

The prospectus or entry form must indicate that by exhibiting the exhibitor agrees that the decision of the judges shall be final, and releases and agree to hold harmless the judges and the American Philatelic Society, its officers, directors, employees, and representatives from any damages, including but not limited to damages to my reputation or that of my exhibit, suffered or incurred as a result of the judging.

## **13. Judges Critique**

Organizers must provide program time and an appropriate and properly prepared space for a judges' critique of the exhibits during show hours, preferably on Saturday afternoon. The event must be listed in the show program.

## **14. APS Judging Seminar**

Time and space shall be provided for an APS Judging Seminar(s) as arranged for by the CANEJ. Presenters of judging seminars shall be approved by the CANEJ Chairman. The event(s) should be listed in the show program.

## **15. APS Recruiting Booth**

All WSP shows must provide, at no charge, an APS recruiting booth of at least normal dealer booth size, in a location easily accessible to visitors entering the show.

## **16. Pre-Approval of Judges**

A WSP show must submit (preferably on a CANEJ form) its proposed panel of judges (with, if desired, a recommendation of who is to serve as jury chair) to the Chairman of CANEJ at least six months before the show dates. At least one of the proposed jurors must be an accredited jury chair, and for three day shows at least two of the proposed panel must be accredited jury chairs. While this regulation does not preclude preliminary contact with prospective jurors, the CANEJ Chairman must approve the proposed panel before "official" invitations are issued to any of the jury.

Any changes to or additions to the jury after approval by the Chairman of CANEJ must also be approved.

The Chairman of the CANEJ reviews the proposed panel to determine:

- a. That all jurors are properly qualified.
- b. That a balanced panel with varied expertise has been selected.
- c. That the needs of specialty societies meeting at the show are met.
- d. Whether there is an individual on the proposed panel qualified to serve as jury chairman. The selection of a jury chairman will be in accord with the show committee's expressed wishes if possible, but the final determination is reserved to the Chairman of the CANEJ.

## **17. Exhibition Report**

The WSP show must submit, within thirty (30) days of the end of the show, the following items to both the Chairman of CANEJ and the APS Director of Shows and Exhibitions.

- a. Completed WSP report on the show on an CANEJ-provided form.
- b. Copy of the exhibit prospectus.
- c.. Copy of the program.

d. Copy of the palmares.

### **18. No Restraint of Trade**

No World Series of Philately show may enter into any agreement with dealers that results in a restraint of trade or granting of a monopoly. While uniform criteria may be required to select which dealers shall have space, the criteria shall not prevent a dealer from selling items similar to that of another dealer. No dealer may be given the exclusive right to buy and sell any given product, e.g. first day covers, Nepalese stamps, or philatelic literature.

### **19. Youth Philately**

The APS encourages all WSP shows to establish, publicize, and staff a booth/table/area devoted to the encouragement of youth and other beginners, with free literature, inexpensive or free stamps, and appropriate activities that teach hobby fundamentals.

## **C. Exhibitor Requirements**

### **1. Status**

Exhibitor must be a person or a private (personal) corporation.

Each exhibit entered in competition must be the property of either the individual exhibitor or members of an immediate family (spouses, parent-child, brother-sister).

Each exhibit must be based upon a single collection, not two separate collections melded for purposes of exhibit.

Joint owner exhibits must be entered as such in all cases, not to exceed the 10-frame maximum as outlined in B-8. This counts as one exhibit for each of the joint owners..

### **2. Participation of Grand Award Winners in WSP**

All Grand Award winners at WSP shows are expected to enter their winning exhibit in the next Champion of Champions competition held at APS STAMPSHOW (multi-frame) or APS AmeriStamp Expo (single-frame). Traditionally, for multi-frame exhibits, the exhibition year runs from July 1 to June 30 but this may vary slightly at the discretion of the APS Director of Shows and Exhibitions to accommodate WSP shows and the needs of STAMPSHOW. The exhibition year for one-frame exhibits is the calendar year.

Exhibits entered in the APS STAMPSHOW Champion of Champions competition may not exceed ten 16-page frames. The exhibit may be amended between the winning of the qualifying Grand Award and entry into the WSP competition.

### **3. Prior Grand Award Winner in Current Year**

A Grand Award-winning exhibit in a WSP show is not eligible to enter competitively in another WSP show in the same exhibition year. *It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to notify the show committee that a previously accepted exhibit must be withdrawn from competition due to its having won a Grand Award, but the exhibit may be placed in a Court of Honor.*

### **4. International Award Winners**

An exhibit that has won either a Grand Prix National or International Award, or three Large Gold awards in FIP-patronage International exhibitions, or has been exhibited in the FIP Championship Class is ineligible to compete in any WSP show or in the Champion of Champions competition. Such exhibits are welcome in a Court of Honor.

For determination of eligibility to compete in the multi-frame Champion of Champions competition the determining date is the date on which the WSP Grand Award was won. Subsequent FIP patronage show awards will not affect eligibility.

## **5. Purchased Exhibits**

An exhibit purchased intact may not be exhibited intact in competition at a WSP show for two years from the date of purchase. This rule does not apply to exhibits substantially altered by the addition of new material and text. CANEJ shall determine whether an exhibit is in or out of competition, should that become an issue under this rule, and its decision is final.

## **D. Judging Requirements**

### **1. APS-Accredited Judges**

Only APS-accredited judges and APS approved apprentices may serve at WSP exhibitions. In addition to APS-accredited judges, foreign nationals may judge at APS WSP shows according to existing reciprocity agreements, limited to not more than two judging assignments at WSP shows within a calendar year. The APS recognizes judges accredited by FIP who are members of the APS.

### **2. Jury**

Jury requirements are found in section A4. Any variations from those numbers must be approved in advance by the CANEJ Chairman. A ratio of at least two accredited judges for every apprentice judge must be maintained.

### **3. Apprentice Judges**

Apprentice judges' medal level votes and nominations for special prizes are solicited for purposes of evaluating their abilities, but their opinions do not count in the awarding of medal levels or special awards.

### **4. Judges Residency**

At least 60% of the jury members must live outside the metropolitan area of the exhibition.

### **5. Judges Compensation**

Compensation for accredited judges shall be:

- a. Free entry to the show.
- b. Complimentary tickets to the awards banquet (or other awards ceremony) for the judge and accompanying spouse or guest
- c. Minimum of \$350 for expenses to each judge of a 3-day show. Minimum of \$300 for expenses to each judge of a 2-day show. Two day shows have the option of paying judges who live within 50 miles and commute to the show the actual travel costs (car at IRS rate) rather than the required stipend.
- d. Compensation for apprentices shall not be less than free entry to the show and a complimentary ticket to the awards event. If more than 4,800 pages are shown, the minimum remuneration shall be at least \$300 for accredited judges.
- e. All WSP shows are urged to pay judges more than the minimum compensation if their finances allow.

## **E. Loss of WSP Certification**

### **1. Automatic Loss of Certification**

Loss of WSP Certification will occur automatically if any one of the following occur:

- a. A show fails to attain the required page count for either two consecutive years or twice within a five year period. An exception may be granted if prior approval is obtained from CANEJ.
- b. A show fails to provide its required reports before the next scheduled staging of the exhibition.
- c. A show fails to submit its jury list for approval prior to the staging of the exhibition at which they will serve.

## **2. Action on WSP Certification by APS Board**

The APS Board of Directors may, in its sole discretion, withdraw or suspend WSP certification, or place a show on probation, if any one of the following occur:

- a. A show establishes a pattern of late and/or incomplete required reporting.
- b. A show does not maintain the National status of its exhibition and exhibition-related activities.
- c. A show does not maintain the National status of its exhibition and exhibition-related activities.
- d. A show places itself on dates already announced to the APS for another WSP show within 800 miles distance or on dates already held by two other WSP shows unless prior approval has been granted by the APS board after review by CANEJ.

## **3. Re-Accreditation**

A WSP show that has lost its accreditation for any reason may apply to CANEJ for re-accreditation within three (3) years. If the re-accreditation application is approved, the show will be placed on “trial” status (see section A1 for requirements) for two (2) years.

## **F. APS Involvement**

The APS, through its staff, CANEJ and other volunteer expertise, is available to advise and consult with two day shows that are having difficulties continuing to operate. At the request of a two-day show the APS/CANEJ will assign a qualified person to provide advice to the show committee. This person shall be called the “APS Representative” and may be a staff person or a volunteer secured by CANEJ. This person will work with the show committee under the constraints, both financial and otherwise, established by the APS Executive Director and the CANEJ Chairman. Nothing herewith is meant to imply direct financial help to shows. Advice and consultation may cover such topics as advertising and publicity, exhibit recruitment, local committee training and recruitment.