

Guidance – Photographer Eligibility

The eligibility of a Photographer applies to a particular Club as part of an entry by the Club, or as part of an entry which references that Club.

A Photographer who is, or has been, a member of more than one Club may be eligible via one Club but not via another. It is a universal requirement that a Photographer's Images may only be submitted to one Event by one Entrant. The Photographer and Clubs must have clear arrangements in place to ensure this happens.

Clubs have the relevant information about their members and have primary responsibility for determining Photographer eligibility. Clubs should be prepared to explain the basis of a Photographer's eligibility on enquiry from the PAGB, the Federation or the Photographer.

Clubs will have a local catchment area covering distances which would allow members to attend physical meetings. Members from another Federation recruited from outside that area can only be considered eligible to enter PAGB competitions via the Club after specific PAGB approval, which will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

If a Club is entering a PAGB Competition and there is doubt about eligibility, the Club should apply for a ruling from the PAGB. Prepare an application to include the following, with your justification for seeking an exception:

- Name of the Club and Federation.
- Name and postcode of the person concerned.
- Duration of membership of the Club.
- How often the Club has physically met in the last 12 months and how many times this person has physically attended. Do not include online meetings or outings.
- Any specific reasons why this member cannot attend regularly or cannot attend a more local Club.
- Any known membership of other Clubs.
- Why the eligibility is being claimed.

Send the application to eligibility@thepagb.org.uk

The application will be considered and the Club should retain the reply for reference.

A revised application should be made if the original information changes significantly.

Consult with your Club if you are in any doubt about your eligibility based on the Event conditions and this guidance. Explain to your Club if you need to opt out from allowing entry of your Images to any PAGB events.

Further Guidance You may have noted in the revised General Conditions for PAGB Events including the Print Championship, Projected Digital Images Championship, GB Trophies, GB Cups and the Inter-Federation Competitions, A Federation or Club, subject to the exceptions noted below, may only enter the work of member who resides in their Federation.

It was accepted that there might be some exceptional circumstances, such as a long term member who has moved home but who has maintained continuous membership and doesn't compete with any other Club, so prior to entering any PAGB Event, a Club is permitted to submit a case via their Federation for acceptance of work by an individual for specific reason.

Note 1. The rule does not extend to the Awards for Photographic Merit (APM) or to the Masters of Print (MoP) which are individual entries, not Club entries. It is true that there are two Awards for Clubs in the MoP, but these are Sponsor Awards rather than PAGB Awards.

Note 2. Clubs and Federations are autonomous. They are free to set their own criteria and rules and this restriction does not apply to anything other than specified PAGB Competitions.

Federations usually refer to themselves as representing specific geographic areas but very few are able to precisely define their area to county boundaries or streets. Perhaps NIPA and the SPF are the only Federations who can do that. Federations are actually defined by the Clubs who are members of that Federation. I.E, if a Club is a member of a Federation then the Federation includes the local catchment area of that Club. Existing members of that Club are not therefore affected by this new restriction. Similarly, people who live within the local catchment area of a Club but theoretically live on the other side of a notional Federation boundary are not affected by the rule change.

It is worth noting that the majority of Clubs do not enter any of the specified events and will have no interest in this new restriction. The biggest uptake is the GB Cup which has attracted fewer than 100 Clubs each year. Whilst I don't have this information, it is unlikely that more than more than 20% of our Affiliated Clubs have ever entered one of the specified competitions.

The policy is designed to create a level playing field and primarily concerns people who have many nearer Clubs in their home Federation and who choose to join, but don't necessarily physically attend, a Club in another Federation. Clubs can make a case for such Members to be eligible to represent the Club in PAGB competitions.

In considering such a case, the PAGB will wish to be assured that the Member is not also a member of a Club in their own Federation, that they and do not compete with this Club in their local Federation events and make every effort to attend physically. They must be true supporters of the Club and there must an acceptable justification well beyond the wish to compete nationally with a more successful Club.