



IRISH PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION DISTINCTIONS PROTOCOL

Organisation

The IPF Distinction Service is a keystone of the Federation's intent to foster and promote photography in Ireland. The Service is organised through two streams:

The Distinctions Assessment Service

The Distinctions Assessment Service is headed by the Chairman and his deputy, both appointed by the IPF National Council. These roles will normally be filled by experienced senior IPF distinction holders, who will be responsible for the selection and training of current and prospective assessors and for the assessment of applicant panels. The Service is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of the criteria required to meet the standard of any given distinction and will make the final decision on the recognition and reciprocity of external organization's distinctions and applications.

Distinctions Administrative Service

The Distinctions Administrative Service is headed by the Distinctions Secretary, who is appointed by the National Council and is responsible directly to National Council for the organization and administration of all aspects of the Distinctions service outside of the Distinctions Assessment Service. The responsibilities include the posting and organization of entry forms, regulations, collection of membership fees, vetting of distinction applicants, control of expenses, issue of certificates and pins, maintenance of a distinction holders database and online listing, facilitation of assessment sessions (in consultation with the Chairman of the Assessment Service), and advising the Chairman of application categories to allow for the best selection of assessors.

Assessors

General

A panel of suitably qualified assessors will be drawn up and maintained by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Distinctions Assessment Service. This panel will be posted on the IPF website. Selection for the panel will be based on the candidate's photographic skills, distinction held, and ability to assess panels; and will also take cognisance of the candidate's ability to communicate his/her views on application panels to co-assessors, and to communicate views to the applicant and to the audience. Suitably qualified photographers may apply to the Chairman for inclusion on the list or may be invited to join the panel. In each case the applicant must complete appropriate training with respect to assessment and to the assessment criteria required; and will be required to sit and assess at least two distinction sittings as an "Observer" prior to being included on the panel.



Assessor Selection for Assessment Sessions

Prior to each sitting, the Distinctions Secretary will advise both the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the number of applicants, and all specified categories therein (distinction level, discipline, theme), but not the names or clubs of applicants. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman will select the assessors for that session from the Panel to match the areas of photography to be assessed for that session.

The selection of assessors for a given assessment session shall have due regard to the categories of the panels to be assessed in that session, and every effort shall be made to select assessors based on their knowledge and expertise in the areas of photography that are due for consideration.

No more than two members of any member Club may be selected to attend as assessors for any given session **with the proviso that** should an exceptional circumstance arise **and** the Chair and Vice Chair **are in agreement**, that number may be increased, but for a single session only. This decision shall be announced at the beginning of the relevant assessment session. Priority will always be given to the selection of the most suitably qualified persons given the panels that have been submitted for assessment.

The Distinctions Secretary will then invite the proposed assessors to attend the sitting.

Assessment Session Expenses

Expenses will be paid to the assessors selected for any given assessment session upon attendance and participation. This is the responsibility of the Distinctions Secretary in conjunction with the treasurer.

Levels of Distinction

The Irish Photographic Federation shall award distinctions to recognise the attainment of different levels of expertise and artistic achievement in photography.

- Licentiate: This is the initial distinction level and is recognised, by Licentiate, Irish Photographic Federation (LIPF)
- Associate: This is the next distinction level and is recognised by, Associate, Irish Photographic Federation (AIPF)
- Fellow: This is the supreme distinction level and is recognised by Fellow, Irish Photographic Federation (FIPF)

The distinctions LIPF, AIPF and FIPF are mutually exclusive. Only the most senior distinction earned should be used.

Additional Fellowship Applications

The Federation may also recognise that a person who has already been awarded the Fellowship has again achieved the Fellowship standard in a different category of photography (see the IPF website) from that in which the Fellowship has been achieved.

In that event the achievement will be acknowledged but the applicant's Fellowship appellation will remain as before. Such applications will be subject to the "original" and "new" categories being clearly in different categories as defined by the IPF from time to time. That apart, the "new" application will be assessed in the same manner as for any other Fellowship application. Please note that any further Fellowship distinctions achieved will be acknowledged by the award of further certificates but that no extra pins will be awarded, nor will there be any change to the appellations listed above



Assessment Sessions

Distinction applications may take the form of print-panel presentations or of Audio-Visual presentations. In either case, assessment sessions will cater for all three levels of Distinction, and the Chairman or Deputy Chairman must attend each Distinction session.

Print panel assessment sessions will be conducted three times per annum, in September and November, and in April/May, to coincide if possible with the National Club Finals. Assessment dates will be published on the IPF website.

Audio Visual assessments will be conducted at the National AV finals. The assessors selected for a given session should meet thirty minutes prior to the commencement of assessment in order to review specific criteria related to the applicant panels.

Voting

1. A red / green paddle system will be used in voting for all distinctions. These paddles will not be shown to the general audience. Where an assessor has advised a candidate, or is familiar with the candidate's body of work as presented, this assessor will abstain from voting by placing of hands over the voting card.
2. For Licentiate applications, a simple majority decision based on the number of red/greens will be used. The Chairman will confirm the count to the Distinction Secretary. Where an applicant is successful the Distinctions Secretary will read out the name and club of the person. In the event of a failure only the fact the panel has been unsuccessful will be announced. At that point each assessor will complete a feedback slip for the unsuccessful applicant. This will be included with the returned prints.
3. For Associates and Fellows the above paddle system will also be used. In this case the Chairman will ask for a preliminary show of cards. He will then request those showing green to make a case for saying yes, followed by the reds stating their case. After this a second and final show of cards will be requested and the majority decision recorded. In the case of Fellowships, where any assessor feels the applicant panel warrants a referral, that assessor should show both a Red card and the reverse of a Green card.
4. Where the assessors agree that a Fellowship panel is well up to the required standard but is let down by a small number of images (up to 3 images) then that Fellowship panel may be "referred". The assessors should agree on the referral and on which images need to be replaced. When the referred panel comes before the assessors again, the panel will, only, be assessed on the basis of whether the new images are of Fellowship standard and appropriate to the other images on that panel. If such proves to be the case, the panel will succeed. In the meantime, the identity of the applicant shall remain anonymous.
5. As with the Licentiates, where an applicant is successful the Distinctions Secretary will read out the name and club of the person. In the event of a failure only the fact the panel has been unsuccessful will be announced. At that point each assessor will complete a feedback slip for the unsuccessful applicant. This will be included with the returned prints.
6. Immediately following the assessments an award ceremony will be held for those present to receive their certificates and pins. It should be noted that certificates and pins remain the property of the Irish Photographic Federation



Conferral of Distinctions

Successful applicants will have their Distinctions ratified by the IPF National Council at the next Council meeting following the Assessment Session, whereupon their names will be added to the Roll of Distinction holders. This roll will be published on the IPF website.

The appellations LIPF, AIPF and FIPF are mutually exclusive. Only one set, that being the most senior distinction earned, should be used. When used within the IPF or when being used on behalf of the IPF, the appellation should always be the first letters closest to the person's name. For example: Joe Bloggs has an AIPF and a distinction from XXX. The correct method is: Joe Bloggs, AIPF, FXXX.

If the award is not ratified by Council the certificate and pin must be returned to the IPF. (Reasons for refusal could be, for example, failure to pay the appropriate fee, plagiarism, not being in good standing with the IPF, false declaration etc.)

Progression of Distinctions/External Organisations

Members of Irish Photographic Federation Clubs or Groups can only progress through the Distinction route as follows: LIPF to AIPF to FIPF.

The Irish Photographic Federation currently recognises, or may recognise, certain distinctions offered by other organizations. Applications will be accepted from persons who are not members of IPF clubs on the following basis:-

AIPF: Applicants with an LIPF, LRPS, EFIAP, CPAGB, LIPPA, or PPSA

FIPF: Applicants with AIPF, ARPS or FRPS, EFIAP/b or MFIAP, DPAGB/MPAGB, AIPPA/FIPPA, or PPSA+2Stars

LIPF: Applicants do not need a distinction to be eligible to apply

Applications from persons belonging to other organizations should include proof of Distinction acceptance and current good standing with that external organization.

Annual Fees

Distinctions are awarded subject to payment of an annual fee, which is set by National Council from time to time. Members must at all times ensure that they are in good standing with the IPF prior to progressing to their next distinction. They should also be aware that if their Club is not in good standing with the IPF, then the full external application fee will be payable.

Note that members not in good-standing will be delisted and will be required to return the property of the IPF (pins and certificates). Council will not ratify a Distinction if these conditions are not met.

Other Information

Details regarding the Criteria for Assessment may be found in the application form and related handbook that is specific to each distinction, both of which may be downloaded from the IPF website. Specific entry requirements are detailed on the downloadable entry forms, or available from the Distinctions Secretary. Fees structure will be published on the IPF Website on a regular basis under a separate document.