



IPF Nature Group Membership Protocols

1. Eligibility Criteria.

To be considered for membership, applicants must:

- 1.1. Be a member of an IPF Affiliated Club.
- 1.2. Submit a completed membership application form.
- 1.3. Pay the current fee via PayPal or bank transfer.

2. Approval Process

- 2.1. **Application Submission:** Applicant completes an official membership form.
- 2.2. **Initial Review:** Treasurer verifies completeness of the application form and that payment has been received.
- 2.3. **Process;** Treasurer forwards a list of applicants for general approval to the committee via email.
- 2.4. **Decision:** A majority of the committee votes to approve or deny membership. Any member of the committee with any reservation will email the Chairperson notifying their concern using the protocols listed in Section 3 below.
- 2.5. **Application Review** - Where necessary a committee meeting may be called to discuss any issues.
- 2.6. **Notification:** Applicant receives written notice of approval or denial.

3. Grounds for Denial or revoking of membership.

Membership will be denied or cancelled if:

- 3.1. An application is incomplete or contains false information.
- 3.2. The membership fee has not been paid in full.
- 3.3. There has been a failure to comply with the IPF Nature Group Photographers Code of Practice, or any known unethical behaviour towards nature or wildlife.
- 3.4. There has been a failure to comply with Rules and Regulations of the IPF or the IPF Nature Group as set out in the Constitution of either of those bodies, or the Rules and Code of Fairness for competitions and events organised by or under the auspices of the IPF or IPF Nature Group.
- 3.5. The applicant's-- past or present conduct, -- whether in person or online, brings the group or its members into disrepute, for example bullying, harassment, verbal abuse, slander, or the use of derogatory, discriminatory, demeaning, or inflammatory language toward individuals or the Group, including conduct based on gender, race, religion, ethnicity, ability, or sexual orientation.

3.6. The applicant/member's behaviour-- creates tension, hostility, or discomfort for the Group, undermines a safe and respectful environment, or disrupts the Group's ability to function constructively.

3.6. The applicant/member publicly spreads false, misleading, harmful, or defamatory information about the Group or its members.

Note: The committee maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards bullying and will treat any such matter with the utmost seriousness, and any such behaviour may result in cancellation or denial of membership.

4. Appeals Process

Applicants whose membership has been denied, and members whose membership has been cancelled, have the right to:

4.1 Appeal the decision in writing within 7 days.

4.2. The appeals committee shall comprise three members of the Group committee who will evaluate the appeal and issue a final decision within 2 weeks of the date of the appeal being received.

4.3. Any appeal should be marked for the attention of the Special Interest Group, and sent to specialinterestgroup@irishphoto.ie.

4.4. No canvassing or solicitation of other committee members will be tolerated. Any attempt to influence the committee's decision through such actions will result in the appeal being denied.

5. Membership Obligations

Members must:

5.1 Abide by the rules and regulations of the IPF & Nature Group as set out in the Constitution of both bodies and shall abide by the Rules and Code of Fairness for competitions and events organised by or under the auspices of the IPF & IPF Nature Group.

5.2. Agree to abide by the IPF Nature Group Photographers Code of Practice

5.3. Represent the IPF Nature Group positively in all photographic activities, exhibitions and competitions related to the Group.

5.4. Treat all members and guests with respect, courtesy, and fairness.

5.5. Not engage in bullying, harassment, abuse, or intimidation, in person or online

5.6. Refrain from slander, derogatory, or inflammatory language or behaviour that may bring a member or the Group into disrepute.

5.7. Conduct themselves responsibly and respectfully during group activities and on public or online platforms.