



The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

Breach of Rules Procedures

This procedure applies to Breaches of Rules in PAGB events, including the PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit (APM), and in events with PAGB Patronage.

Event Management

The PAGB organises competitions, exhibitions and the APM, for the benefit of its member Federations, affiliated Clubs and their individual members. The conduct of each event is governed by its own published rules. Management of each event is delegated to the Chairman of the Event Organising Committee.

There is a reasonable expectation that all entrants ie, Federations, Clubs or individuals, will comply with the event rules in the interests of a fair outcome. Awarded images may be reviewed individually but, normally, the PAGB will assume that entrants have complied unless some issue becomes apparent or a query or complaint is received.

The PAGB accepts that entrants can make mistakes. Issues can arise with repetition of an image, by exceeding a quota in a section, or not complying with criteria such as monochrome or nature eligibility.

Issues can arise before, during or after the event. If the problem is detected before the event, it may be possible to resolve the problem immediately eg, by a substitution. However, if the breach is discovered during or after the event, the Event Chairman may then apply a remedy, generally by disqualifying the image and awarding a score of zero. This action may cause an order of merit to be changed, or an award to be withdrawn.

Where the Event Chairman raises an issue with an entrant, informal resolution is highly desirable. It is very important that the entrant cooperates fully by investigating thoroughly and admitting promptly to any mistake. For a Club or Federation entry, this should include discussion with the individual photographer. Provided that the issue is resolved to the satisfaction of the Event Chairman, there need be no formal referral to the PAGB.

Since the PAGB is not involved at this stage, all communications, including any appeals, should be directed to the Event Chairman.

Formal Enquiry

Where the Event Chairman has been unable to resolve an issue with an entrant, then the matter may be referred for a formal enquiry by the PAGB.

Where an entrant wishes to appeal a decision by the Event Chairman, then the entrant may ask the PAGB to intervene.

In both cases, it must first be established whether the PAGB will assist with informal resolution by the Event Chairman, or whether the PAGB will institute a formal enquiry.

A formal enquiry will be managed by the PAGB Standards & Governance Subcommittee. The Subcommittee Chairman will assemble a panel to investigate and report on the facts. Their report, which may include a recommendation for a sanction, will be made to the full PAGB Executive, who will determine any action.

The Subcommittee Chairman will also identify an appeal panel of PAGB Executive members. The appeal panel members will take no part in the investigation, or the discussion and voting on the investigation report.

Once the Executive decision has been made, the PAGB Secretary will manage all correspondence, including advising the right of appeal. An appeal may be made against the decision of fact or against any sanction and must be lodged with the PAGB Secretary within 30 days of the notice of decision. A decision of the appeal panel will be final.

Sanctions

The purpose of a sanction is to indicate that the entrant or individual photographer failed in their responsibility to other entrants to make a fair entry.

Every case is different and, fortunately, cases brought to the PAGB for formal enquiry are rare. The PAGB has no standard scale of sanctions but the Executive will take the following into consideration:

- the severity of the breach of rules.
- the experience of the photographer, in so far as that might increase the expectation that the photographer should be aware of the detail and import of the rule breached.
- any lack of cooperation or obstruction of the enquiry.
- whether the Executive considers a repeat breach to be possible.
- whether there has been a previous breach.

Where the Executive considers the breach to be sufficiently minor and unlikely to be repeated, then the Executive may conclude the case with a letter of warning.

Where the breach arose because an entrant, acting as agent, wrongly submitted an image by a photographer, and there was no fault by the photographer, then the Executive may issue a letter of warning.

Where the Executive considers the case to be more serious, it may order a sanction of between one and three years. The exact duration will be between the date of decision and a set end date.

The sanction will take the form of a prohibition on entry to PAGB events (including the APM), and to events with PAGB Patronage. During the sanction period, all PAGB event organisers and all organisers of PAGB Patronage events will be issued with the names of those on the current sanctions list and will be required to disallow entries by those sanctioned.

The Executive retains records of enquiries and of sanctions after their expiry. It will take a particularly serious view of any previous breaches and may impose a sanction of longer than three years.

Information from Other Photographic Organisations

The PAGB may receive information from another organisation, about an individual and a breach of the rules of that other organisation, possibly including a sanction.

The PAGB Executive will consider the information and reserves the right to apply a sanction in relation to PAGB events and to events with PAGB Patronage.