INDIVIDUAL REGULATIONS (IREX)

MARE BALTICUM 2028

The 7th Multinational Philatelic Exhibition of the Baltic Sea Countries in Hämeenlinna, Finland, 8–10 September 2028

1. ORGANIZERS, PURPOSE, VENUE AND TIME

The Philatelic Federation of Finland (*Suomen Filatelistiliitto*) will organize the Multinational Philatelic Exhibition MARE BALTICUM 2028 in cooperation with three local societies – Hämeenlinna, Riihimäki and Hyvinkää – and *the Foundation for Promoting Finnish Philately* (*Suomalaisen filatelian edistämissäätiö*).

The Exhibition will be held under the Recognition of *the Federation of European Philatelic Associations* (FEPA).

MARE BALTICUM 2028 will be held from 8 to 10 September 2028 at the Scandic Aulanko hotel, Aulangontie 93, Hämeenlinna, Finland. The exhibition will be open to the public, and admission will be free.

The purposes of MARE BALTICUM 2028 are:

- To continue the tradition of MARE BALTICUM exhibitions by organizing the seventh exhibition of its kind
- To promote philatelic contacts and cooperation among the Baltic Sea countries and beyond
- To participate in the centenary celebrations of the first Finnish philatelic exhibition, held in 1928
- To celebrate the 80th anniversary of *Riihimäen Postimerkkeilijät*, one of the three organizing local societies

2. REGULATIONS

The exhibition is governed by:

- The General Regulations of FIP for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits (GREV)
- The Special Regulations and Guidelines of FIP for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits (SREV)
- The 2023 FEPA Guidelines for Narrow Theme Exhibits (one- to three-frame exhibits)
- The National Finnish Regulations for the First Day Class
- These Individual Regulations (IREX) of MARE BALTICUM 2028

All the regulations and guidelines mentioned above will be available in English on the exhibition website at www.marebalticum2028.fi.

3. EXHIBITION CLASSES

MARE BALTICUM 2028 will comprise approximately 600–700 frames. The exhibition classes are:

1. Non-Competitive Classes

1.1. Court of Honour
1.2. Other invited exhibits
1.3. Jury Class

2. Competitive Classes

2.1. Traditional Philately
2.2. Postal History
2.3. Postal Stationery
2.4. Aerophilately
2.5. Astrophilately
2.6. Revenue Philately
2.7. Thematic Philately
2.8. Open Philately
2.9. Maximaphily
2.10. Modern Philately
2.11. Picture Postcards
2.12. First Day Class
2.13. Youth Philately
2.14. Philatelic Literature

The Philatelic Literature Class (2.14.) is also open to philatelic publications produced for electronic media.

The class for Youth Philately (2.13.) is subdivided according to age as follows:

• Age Group A: exhibitors aged 10 to 15
• Age Group B: exhibitors aged 16 to 18
• Age Group C: exhibitors aged 19 to 21

The age group in the Youth Philately Class is determined by the exhibitor's age on 1 January 2028.

The Organizing Committee has the sole right to limit the number of accepted exhibits or the number of frames allocated to a particular exhibit.

4. PARTICIPATION AND QUALIFICATION

Members of the national philatelic federations and youth philatelic federations of Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, the Benelux countries, Ukraine and the United States are entitled to participate in MARE BALTICUM 2028.

In addition, all exhibits relating to Finland and all Philatelic Literature exhibits from any country are eligible to participate.

The qualification requirement for participation in Competitive Classes 2.1.–2.12. is at least a Large Silver medal (70 points) at a national exhibition.

For the Youth Philately Class (2.13.), the qualification requirement at the national level is at least a Silver Bronze medal (60 points) for Age Group A and at least a Silver medal (65 points) for Age Groups B and C.

For the Philatelic Literature Class (2.14.), no previous award is required.

At the request of a National Commissioner, the Organizing Committee may approve exhibits that do not qualify according to the rules above.

Exhibits that have been awarded a Grand Prix of the Championship Class at a FIP, FEPA, FIAF or FIAP exhibition or a Grand Prix at a MARE BALTICUM exhibition are not eligible to participate in the Competitive Classes.

By signing the application form, exhibitors confirm that they will display only items that they own. The majority of an exhibit must have been the property of the exhibitor for at least two years before the exhibition.

An exhibitor may apply to participate with more than one exhibit. If the number of available frames is insufficient, the Organizing Committee may reject one or more of an exhibitor's exhibits.

Participants may exhibit under a pseudonym. However, the identity of the exhibitor must be known to the National Commissioner, the Organizing Committee and the Jury.

Jury members, Juror Apprentices and their family members, employees or employers may not participate in any Competitive Class.

Handbooks and special studies entered in the Philatelic Literature Class (2.14.) must have been published in 2023 or later. All other entries must have been published in 2026 or later. For periodicals, such as philatelic magazines, the most recent complete volume or year shall be exhibited. These date limits do not apply to digital-media entries, but websites must be active and software must run on current operating systems.

All exhibits in the Philatelic Literature Class (2.14.) shall be sent to the Organizing Committee in one copy and will remain the property of the exhibition after the event.

5. LANGUAGES

Finnish exhibitors may present their exhibits in Finnish, although English is preferred. At least the introductory page and the synopsis (if submitted) should be in English.

All other exhibits shall be presented in one of the official languages of the FIP: English, Spanish, German or French.

6. APPLICATIONS

A separate online application form, duly completed and submitted through the online system, is required for each exhibit. Applications from exhibitors representing a country with an appointed National Commissioner will be automatically forwarded to the respective Commissioner for review. Other applications will be automatically forwarded to the Commissioner General of the exhibition.

A link to the electronic application form, together with essential instructions, will be available on the MARE BALTICUM 2028 website. Applications shall be submitted by 15 April 2028.

Applications must be accompanied by an introductory page for the exhibit. The introductory page is mandatory, but it may be preliminary and may be revised after the exhibit has been entered, although the title of the exhibit should remain unchanged. No introductory page is required for exhibits in the Philatelic Literature Class (2.14.).

Exhibitors are also encouraged to submit a synopsis of up to two A4 pages with their application.

The Organizing Committee will inform applicants of the acceptance of their exhibits and the number of frames allocated no later than 31 May 2028.

The exhibition catalogue will show the title given in the application form. In addition, a brief description can be provided for the catalogue.

The Organizing Committee may approve or reject applications without providing an explanation. The Committee's decisions will be communicated through the National Commissioners (or directly by the Commissioner General).

7. ENTRY FEES

The entry fee for Competitive Classes 2.1.–2.12. is EUR 50 per frame. However, the fee for one-frame exhibits in these classes is EUR 70.

The entry fee for the Philatelic Literature Class (2.14.) is EUR 50 per exhibit. There is no entry fee for the Youth Philately Class (2.13.).

The applicable entry fee shall be paid to the National Commissioner in accordance with the invoice no later than 14 June 2028. The National Commissioner shall transfer the collected entry fees to the Organizing Committee when instructed, but no later than 21 June 2028. The Organizing Committee will issue separate payment instructions to exhibitors living in countries without a National Commissioner.

Every exhibitor will receive one exhibition catalogue and a list of results (Palmarès).

8. EXHIBITION FRAMES, SHEET SIZE AND FRAME ALLOCATION

Exhibits (except those in the Philatelic Literature Class, 2.14.) will be mounted in standard Nordic frames with display dimensions of 89 × 119 cm. Each frame can hold 16 A4 sheets (210 × 297 mm) arranged in four rows of four (4 × 4). Sheets of different widths are accepted but their use must be indicated on the application form. The maximum height of a transparent protective cover is 305 mm.

In Competitive Classes 2.1.–2.12., each exhibit may comprise one to eight frames.

In the Youth Philately Class (2.13.), the number of frames is as follows:

- Age group A: from 1 to 3 frames
- Age group B: from 1 to 4 frames
- Age group C: from 1 to 5 frames

9. MEDALS, PRIZES AND DIPLOMAS

Exhibits in the Non-Competitive Classes will be awarded exhibition medals (or works of art).

In the Competitive Classes, three Grand Prix awards will be presented by the Jury:

- **Grand Prix MARE BALTICUM 2028** to the highest scoring exhibit

- **Grand Prix National** to the highest scoring exhibit in the National Group (exhibits treating Finland). In case the highest scoring exhibit wins the Grand Prix MARE BALTICUM 2028, the Grand Prix National will be awarded to the second best exhibit in the National Group.

- **Grand Prix International** to the highest scoring exhibit in the International Group (all other countries and areas). In case the highest scoring exhibit wins the Grand Prix MARE BALTICUM 2028, the Grand Prix International will be awarded to the second best exhibit in the International Group.

If two or more exhibits share the same highest score, the Grand Prix award in question shall be carried out by secret ballot of the full Jury.

All Grand Prix awards are works of art selected in advance and illustrated in the exhibition catalogue. A Grand Prix may be awarded only if the exhibit concerned has scored enough points for a Gold medal (90 points or more).

All exhibits in the Competitive Classes (2.1.–2.14.), except one-frame exhibits, will be awarded medals (or works of art) and diplomas stating the points awarded and the medal achieved.

For multi-frame exhibits (two to eight frames) in Classes 2.1.–2.12. and for Philatelic Literature exhibits in Class 2.14., the following medals are available: Large Gold (95 points or more), Gold (90–94), Large Vermeil (85–89), Vermeil (80–84), Large Silver (75–79), Silver (70–74), Silver Bronze (65–69) and Bronze (60–64 points). The medals do not necessarily contain the metals referred to in their names.

One-frame exhibits will receive a diploma with the points awarded.

For the Youth Philately Class (2.13.), the following medals are available: Gold (only in Age Group C), Large Vermeil, Vermeil, Large Silver, Silver, Silver Bronze and Bronze.

Exhibits scoring below Bronze will receive a certificate of participation.

Exhibits in Classes 2.1.–2.14. may also be awarded special prizes or felicitations by the Jury.

10. JURY

Exhibits in the Competitive Classes will be judged by a Jury appointed by the Philatelic Federation of Finland.

The Jury Chair and the majority of Jury members shall be accredited FIP/FEPA jurors invited from the participating countries. In addition, one or more FIP/FEPA jurors may be invited from other countries.

The Jury may, without consulting the exhibitor, transfer an exhibit from one Competitive Class to another. The exhibit will be judged in the Class in which it receives the highest score. In its evaluation, the Jury is independent of earlier results obtained by the exhibit. The decisions of the Jury are final and cannot be appealed.

The work of the Jury will be carried out in accordance with the FIP regulations and guidelines listed in Chapter 2 of this IREX.

If the Jury discovers manipulated, forged or improved items in an exhibit without this fact being properly disclosed in the exhibit, a report on the item will be sent to the Commissioner, the exhibitor and the exhibitor’s respective national philatelic federation.

11. OBLIGATIONS FOR EXHIBITORS

All communication between an exhibitor and the Organizing Committee or the Jury shall be conducted through the respective Commissioner. This does not apply to exhibitors in the Non-Competitive Classes.

Every sheet of an exhibit shall be inserted in a transparent protective cover. The sheets must be numbered consecutively in the lower left- or right-hand corner on the front so that the numbers are visible to volunteers and jurors. The sheets belonging to a particular frame shall be inserted in a frame envelope.

The letter ‘e’ should be marked next to expertized items. Each original expertizing certificate shall be placed behind the relevant exhibit sheet in the protective cover. Alternatively, the exhibitor may hand the certificates to their National Commissioner.

No other material than exhibit sheets shown in frames will be accepted by the Organizing Committee. No item mounted on sheets can be thicker than 5 mm.

12. DELIVERY AND MOUNTING OF EXHIBITS

Exhibits in the Philatelic Literature Class (2.14.) should be sent to the Organizing Committee and must arrive no later than 31 July 2028. The mailing address will be provided when exhibitors are notified that their exhibits have been accepted.

For countries with an appointed National Commissioner, all exhibits must be transported by the respective National Commissioner.

Finnish exhibitors may bring their exhibits to the exhibition venue on Thursday, 7 September, at a time to be announced later.

The Organizing Committee, together with the National Commissioners, will arrange for the exhibits to be mounted. Exhibitors, or their representatives holding written authorization from the exhibitor, may also agree with the Organizing Committee to mount their own exhibits. Mounting by exhibitors or their representatives must be supervised by a member of the exhibition staff.

If an exhibit is not received or mounted within the time limits stated above, the exhibitor is not entitled to participate in the exhibition. The entry fee is non-refundable.

13. DISMOUNTING OF EXHIBITS

Dismounting of exhibits will begin immediately after the exhibition closes on Sunday, 10 September. The Organizing Committee, together with the National Commissioners, will arrange for the exhibits to be dismounted.

Exhibitors, or their representatives holding written authorization from the exhibitor, may agree with the Organizing Committee to dismount and check out their own exhibits. Dismounting must be supervised by a member of the exhibition staff.

Exhibitors who dismount their own exhibits will sign a receipt confirming that they have received the exhibits in their entirety and in their original condition. Any complaint concerning the condition of an exhibit must be made to the Organizing Committee on site. Complaints made later cannot be accepted.

The National Commissioners will take care of the return transportation of foreign exhibits.

14. CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

Information about required customs declarations and other documents will be given by the Organizing Committee through the National Commissioners.

15. SAFETY AND SECURITY MATTERS, INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Organizing Committee will take all necessary measures to protect exhibits during the exhibition but will not accept responsibility for the loss of or damage to any item or exhibit. The exhibition venue will be guarded at all times during the exhibition.

It is the exhibitor's sole responsibility to ensure that the exhibit is covered by a valid, comprehensive insurance policy during transportation to and from the exhibition and throughout the exhibition.

16. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information of importance to all exhibition participants will be published on the exhibition website. Participants should therefore monitor www.marebalticum2028.fi for updates.

17. CHANGES AND INCONSISTENCIES

The Organizing Committee is entitled to modify these Individual Regulations. Any possible changes will be communicated to the exhibitors through the website as soon as possible.

The Organizing Committee is also entitled to make final decisions on matters that cannot be resolved under these Individual Regulations or the regulations referred to in Chapter 2.

By submitting the application form, the exhibitor accepts these Individual Regulations and agrees to comply with them.

Any legal claims shall be submitted to the Organizing Committee no later than 30 September 2028.
Any legal disputes shall be resolved by the *Kanta-Häme District Court* in accordance with Finnish law.

The Philatelic Federation of Finland accepted these Individual Regulations on 13 September 2026.

18. CONTACT INFORMATION

Chairman of the Organizing Committee

Esa Kärkäs
esa.karkas@ovalpoint.com
+358 40 048 4737

Commissioner General

Heikki Virtanen
pikkuhessu82@gmail.com
+358 44 536 2097

Consultant for Philatelic Matters

Jukka Mäkinen
jukka.matias.makinen@gmail.com
+358 40 753 4650