



Criteria for Best-of-Show & Novice Awards

1. Sports Philatelists International, in order to encourage the exhibiting of sport and Olympic material, sponsors a series of awards for Best-of-Show and Novice exhibitors.
2. Any philatelic society having a competitive exhibition using American Philatelic Society (APS) or American Topical Association (ATA) accredited judges may request SPI Award diplomas from Mark Maestroni, 9936 Kika Ct. #3623, San Diego, CA 92129 (markspi@prodigy.net). There is no charge for the diplomas. Requests for these awards must be made in advance of the show, and are subject to approval by SPI.
3. **Definition of a “Qualifying Exhibit”:** material of a sports and/or Olympics nature must predominate. Exhibit may be entered in any General Class including, but not limited to, Postal Division, Revenue Division, Illustrated Mail Division, Thematic Division, and Display Division. (Note that there are separate awards for Best-of-Show multi-frame exhibits and Best-of-Show One Frame Division exhibits.)
4. **Awards criteria:** Any single exhibit is eligible to receive only one award. It is intended that the exhibit receive the highest SPI award for which it is eligible.
 - a. **SPI Best-of-Show Award (multi-frame).** In adult level competitions, a Best-of-Show may be awarded to a silver medal (or above) winner if three or more Qualifying Exhibits are in competition.
 - b. **SPI Best-of-Show Award (One Frame Division).** In adult level competitions, a Best-of-Show may be awarded to a silver medal (or above) winner if two or more Qualifying Exhibits are in competition.
 - c. **SPI Novice Award.** In adult level competition, the Novice Award is given to the best Qualifying Exhibit by a first-time exhibitor at a WSP show winning a bronze medal or better. There is no minimum for the number of participating Qualifying Exhibits.
 - d. **SPI Best-of-Show Youth Award.** The Youth Award may be given at the discretion of the judges regardless of the medal level attained by the exhibit or number of Qualifying Exhibits entered in the show.
5. All awards are given at the discretion of the jury.
6. **Prizes:** Winners will receive the SPI diploma. At certain shows, at the discretion of SPI, special trophies or gifts may be made available. Generally this will occur when SPI is an official participating society in the show.
7. The recipient of any SPI Award need not be a member of SPI. However the organization reserves the right to solicit all winners of SPI Awards for possible membership in SPI.