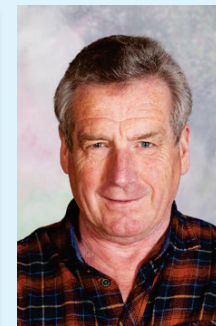


NEW FIAP DISTINCTIONS REGULATIONS Applicable from 2026



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The following text is information produced by a collaboration of two Service Directors, Romain Nero EFIAP/d2 HonEFIAP, Director of the FIAP Patronage Service, and Jef Lemmens EFIAP/d3 HonEFIAP, Director of the Distinctions Service. These two services have significant interaction and interdependence in the operation of their services.

As is now known, new regulations for the FIAP distinctions will come into effect on 1st January 2026.

The new regulations have been sent to the liaison officers and posted on the FIAP website: <https://www.fiap.net/en/services/distinctions-service/more>



RATIONALE FOR UPDATING FIAP DISTINCTION REGULATIONS IN 2026

The current regulations for photographic distinctions, last revised in 2016, were overdue for an update to better reflect the contemporary landscape of international photography. Over the past decade, several notable developments have taken place:

- The number of salons organized worldwide has increased from 500 to 700, which has led to a corresponding rise in the number of awards distributed, affecting the perceived exclusivity of certain distinctions.
- The global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic prompted FIAP to permit online judging as a standard practice, a shift that has since become widespread and integral to the evaluation process.
- The maximum permitted acceptance rate for salons has increased from 25% to 30%, indicating a broader acceptance but also raising questions about maintaining the value and prestige of these recognitions.

These were the main factors that highlighted the necessity for a comprehensive review and revision of the distinctions rules to apply from the start of 2026. Updating the regulations will help ensure that they remain relevant, uphold high standards, and continue to promote excellence in photography amidst evolving global practices and opportunities. At the same time, an attempt was made to simplify the regulations.

The following pages indicate some of the main changes and key structure and requirements that will apply to Distinctions from the 1st Jan 2026.

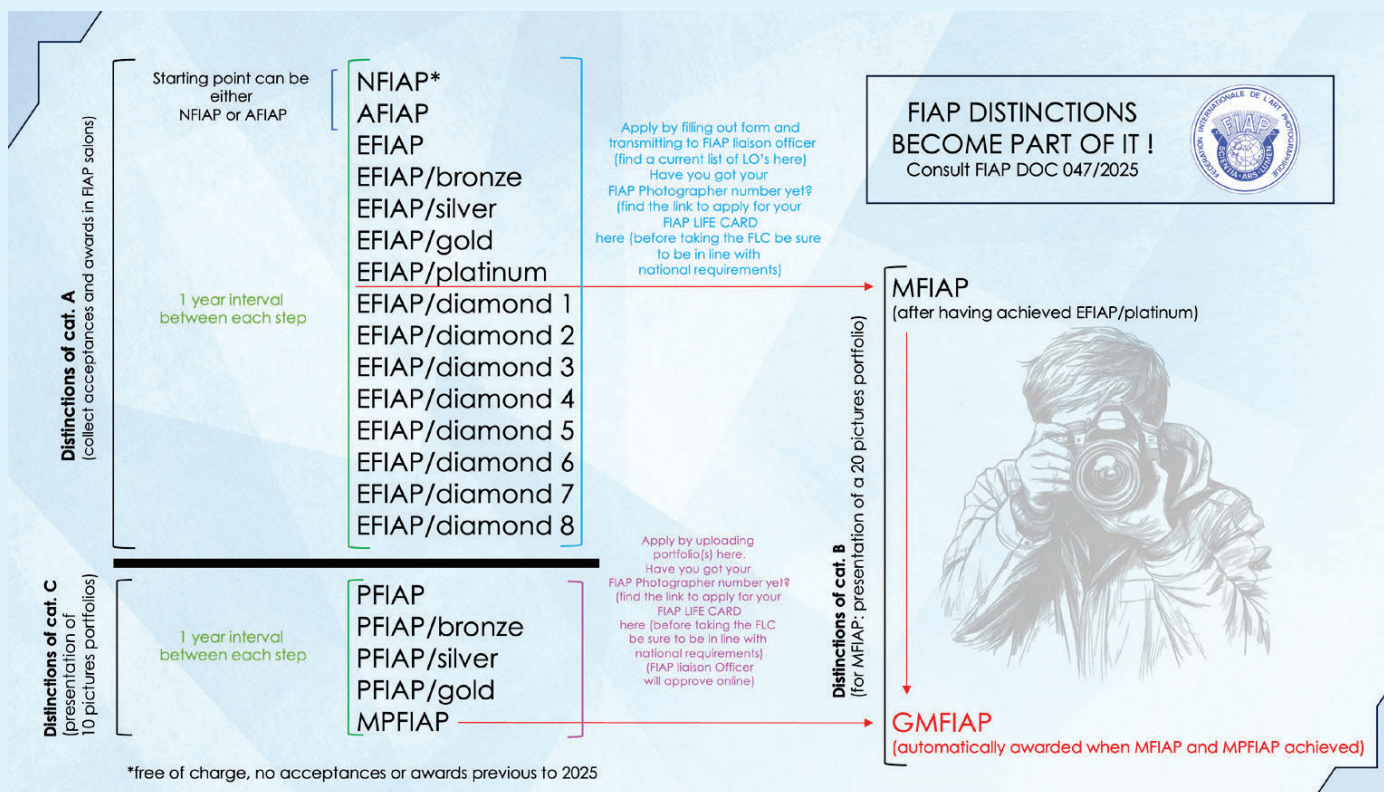
- The requirement to participate in a **minimum number of salons** has been abolished.
- The requirement for print acceptances has also been **abolished**. (Decision made by a referendum held at the beginning of 2025).
- From NFIAP to EFIAP/p, acceptances are cumulative; there is no more "break" after EFIAP.
- Starting with EFIAP/d1, applicants can only use results from new photographs. In this instance "new" means photos which have not had results listed on any previous distinctions application; all previously received awards will be reset except for those awards obtained during the year before having received the EFIAP/p (date of certificate). Those results can be used unless they have already been utilized for the EFIAP/p.

Therefore, applicants collecting acceptances and awards for their EFIAP/p distinction should only use the awards relevant to their EFIAP/p distinction. Any awards obtained at least one year prior to the EFIAP/p and not yet used should be preserved for meeting the requirements of the EFIAP/diamond 1 distinction.

- Starting from 2026 a photo/work cannot have more than 10 acceptances/awards listed on the application form. Acceptances/awards for salons with patronage numbers earlier than 2026 can have more than 10 acceptances listed.

To further explain this: As of 1st Jan 2026, if you already have acceptances/awards for a photo from salons that had a patronage number before 2026, then you can count all those results, even if they exceed 10, but if you do have 10 or more, you can't add more received in salons in 2026 and beyond. If you had less than 10 acceptances/awards for a photo, from salons with a patronage number before 2026, then you can continue to include more from 2026 and beyond but only to the maximum total of 10.

- Starting in 2026, the minimum prerequisite for MFIAP will be EFIAP/platinum. There will be no more restriction in the number of times people can apply for MFIAP and no minimum time period for which a person must have held EFIAP/p. In the event that an applicant is unsuccessful, they can apply again in consecutive years without a requirement to wait longer. Pictures from a series successfully used for one of the Portfolio distinctions, **cannot** be used for MFIAP applications and vice versa. Pictures used in applications for Distinctions based on exhibition results (NFIAP – EFIAP/d8) **can** be used in an MFIAP application. The application process will go through a platform where pictures will be uploaded by the participant (with the online approval of the FIAP LO). There will be a last MFIAP application period offered under the old rules in December 2025.
- Judges that have judged 30 international events than have been organised under FIAP Patronage, will be awarded the ESFIAP distinction.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED TO FIAP WITH CATEGORY A DISTINCTIONS

There have been some changes made to the requirements for the photos submitted to FIAP with Category A Distinctions, those being the distinctions based on results in salons with FIAP Patronage. These are listed in the regulations document, but we are providing some tables here to enhance understanding of what these photos are required to have achieved and must include on the application.

*Candidates must provide **five** photographic works ... :*

*for **NFIAP**: at least 2 acceptances in 3 different countries, (the five provided pictures must have achieved 2 acceptances in 3 different countries and must be mentioned on page A of the application form)*

Example:

Image 1 : 2 acceptances with 1 in Country A

Image 2 : 2 acceptances with 1 in Country B

Image 3 : 2 acceptances with 1 in Country C

Image 4 : 2 acceptances with 1 in Country A

Image 5 : 2 acceptances with 1 in Country B

*for **AFIAP** and **EFIAP**: at least 3 acceptances in 5 different countries, (the five provided pictures must have achieved 3 acceptances in 5 different countries and must be mentioned on page A of the application form)*

Example:

Image 1 : 3 acceptances with 1 in Country A

Image 2 : 3 acceptances with 1 in Country B

Image 3 : 3 acceptances with 1 in Country C

Image 4 : 3 acceptances with 1 in Country D

Image 5 : 3 acceptances with 1 in Country E

*Candidates must provide **five** photographic works ... :*

*for **EFIAP/b** to **EFIAP/p**: at least an award in 5 different countries, (the five provided pictures must have achieved 1 award in 5 different countries) and must be mentioned on page A of the application form)*

Example:

Image 1 : 1 with award in Country A

Image 2 : 1 with award in Country B

Image 3 : 1 with award in Country C

Image 4 : 1 with award in Country D

Image 5 : 1 with award in Country E

*for **EFIAP/d1** to **EFIAP/d5**: at least 2 awards in 5 different countries, (the five provided pictures must have achieved 2 awards in 5 different countries) and must be mentioned on page A of the application form)*

Example:

Image 1 : 2 awards with 1 in Country A

Image 2 : 2 awards with 1 in Country B

Image 3 : 2 awards with 1 in Country C

Image 4 : 2 awards with 1 in Country D

Image 5 : 2 awards with 1 in Country E

*Candidates must provide **five** photographic works ... :*

*for **EFIAP/d6** to **EFIAP/d8** : at least 3 awards in 5 different countries, (the five provided pictures must have achieved 3 awards in 5 different countries) and must be mentioned on page A of the application form)*

Example:

Image 1 : 3 awards with 1 in Country A

Image 2 : 3 awards with 1 in Country B

Image 3 : 3 awards with 1 in Country C

Image 4 : 3 awards with 1 in Country D

Image 5 : 3 awards with 1 in Country E

NEW DISTINCTIONS

New FIAP Category A Distinctions:

- The **Novice FIAP** or **NFIAP** distinction, is a new distinction, easier to achieve, for newcomers or photographers eager to enter the group of FIAP members bearing a FIAP distinction. The application is done via a form that has to be checked by the FIAP LO (same procedure as in the old rules). There will be no charge for this new distinction and FIAP appeals to national federations to support FIAP in promoting this new distinction for newcomers and young photographers by not requesting a national fee.

Distinction	Acceptances * cumulative	Countries **	Works ***
NFIAP	25	5	10
AFIAP	75 + 50	15 + 10	20 + 10
EFIAP	200 + 125	20 + 5	40 + 20
EFIAP/b	400 + 200	25 + 5	80 + 40
EFIAP/s	600 + 200	30 + 5	130 + 50
EFIAP/g	900 + 300	35 + 5	200 + 70
EFIAP/p	1200 + 300	40 + 5	300 + 100

At this stage (after EFIAP/p), all previously received awards will be reset except for those awards obtained one year before having received the EFIAP/p (date of certificate). Those can be used unless they have already been utilized for the EFIAP/p distinction. Starting from EFIAP/d1 authors are obliged to use new photographs.

	Awards * cumulative	Countries **	Works ***
EFIAP/d1	50	10	15
EFIAP/d2	100 + 50	15 + 5	30 + 15
EFIAP/d3	200 + 100	20 + 5	60 + 30
EFIAP/d4	350 + 150	25 + 5	100 + 40
EFIAP/d5	500 + 150	30 + 5	150 + 50
EFIAP/d6	650 + 150	35 + 5	200 + 50
EFIAP/d7	800 + 150	40 + 5	250 + 50
EFIAP/d8	950 + 150	45 + 5	300 + 50

The applicants will have the choice to apply for NFIAP or directly for AFIAP if they have achieved what is required. NFIAP can only be sought with results from salons from 2025 onwards.

- The **EFIAP diamond distinctions** have been expanded by adding EFIAP /d4 to d8.

New Portfolio Distinctions

Making a shift from the well-known global "acceptance and award hunts" in FIAP salons to a particular approach towards each individual photographer, FIAP is introducing the new **FIAP Portfolio distinctions**.

The application process will go through a FIAP platform where pictures will be uploaded by the participant (with the online approval of the FIAP LO). There will be 3 reviewing sessions per year limited to 15 applicants per country per session.

Applicants must present different themes for each application level and reviewers will have an insight into previously sent themes.

Each year there will be a team of 5 international portfolio reviewers who either hold the MFIAP distinction or a minimum of EFIAP/p. They must also have an international judging experience of at least 30 events under FIAP Patronage.

Portfolio FIAP - PFIAP

Distinction	Portfolios noncumulative
PFIAP	1 portfolio of 10 images
PFIAP/b	2 portfolios of 10 images each
PFIAP/s	3 portfolios of 10 images each
PFIAP/g	4 portfolios of 10 images each
MPFIAP	5 portfolios of 10 images each

- Upload by the**
15th January, by the
15th May and by the
15th October of each year.
- Approval is given online by the FIAP liaison officer.
- 15 participants maximum per country per distinction will be accepted on each of these 3 dates (applications of previous participants that were refused and that reapply are not included).
- The Portfolios must have a **theme**. The title should briefly describe the theme and must be in English or French language. See examples of themes in FIAP DOC 047/2025.
- Images and themes submitted for the various Portfolios distinctions must be distinct from one another and not similar. They must have different titles. **Same or similar images cannot be used in different portfolios.**
- Pictures used for successful MFIAP portfolios cannot be used. Other pictures awarded in FIAP salons and used for distinctions (other than Portfolio distinctions) can be used.
- If a portfolio distinction is not accepted, the candidate may reapply for the specific theme that was not approved, during the next submission periods. A minor supplementary fee will apply. After one year of refusal, the initial complete fee must be paid again.
- The **date on the certificate** will reflect the most recent closing date used to finalize the selection.

New FIAP Grand Master Distinction

The new **FIAP Grand Master distinction** is automatically awarded after having achieved the MFIAP and MPFIAP distinction.

New Category D & E Distinctions for Services Rendered

In addition to the two existing Distinctions for Services Rendered, the ESFIAP and HonEFIAP, two new distinctions have been added for Service. Category D comprises of the existing distinctions of ESFIAP and HonEFIAP and as of 2026 will also have the Lifetime Achievement award. Category E is specifically for the new Honorable Member Distinction.

- The new **Lifetime Achievement Award** aims to honour all individuals who have distinguished themselves in an exceptional way through their constant dedication and persistent efforts, and who have devoted a significant part of their lives to FIAP and the overall development of artistic photography.
- The **Honourable Membership** is reserved for individuals who are not members of FIAP but who have rendered outstanding services or significant support to the Federation. Recipients may include government representatives, cultural promoters, renowned photographers, or other personalities who have contributed exceptionally to the development or visibility of FIAP's mission and values.

