



The Photography Network

Practical Guide for Members

Revised: 10 August 2015

This is a companion to the Rules of Redeye. The Rules provide a summary of the law as it affects us, and defines how we act lawfully. See redeye.org.uk/rules.

This Guide is a more practical document that sets out to fill in some of the gaps; it outlines how Redeye members, directors (ie board members) and staff work together, and how people can get involved. It includes what are known as our “standing orders” explaining how meetings and votes are conducted.

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INTRODUCTION

Redeye's objects

Our rules define what kind of things Redeye can do in section 4, our “objects”. These are as follows:

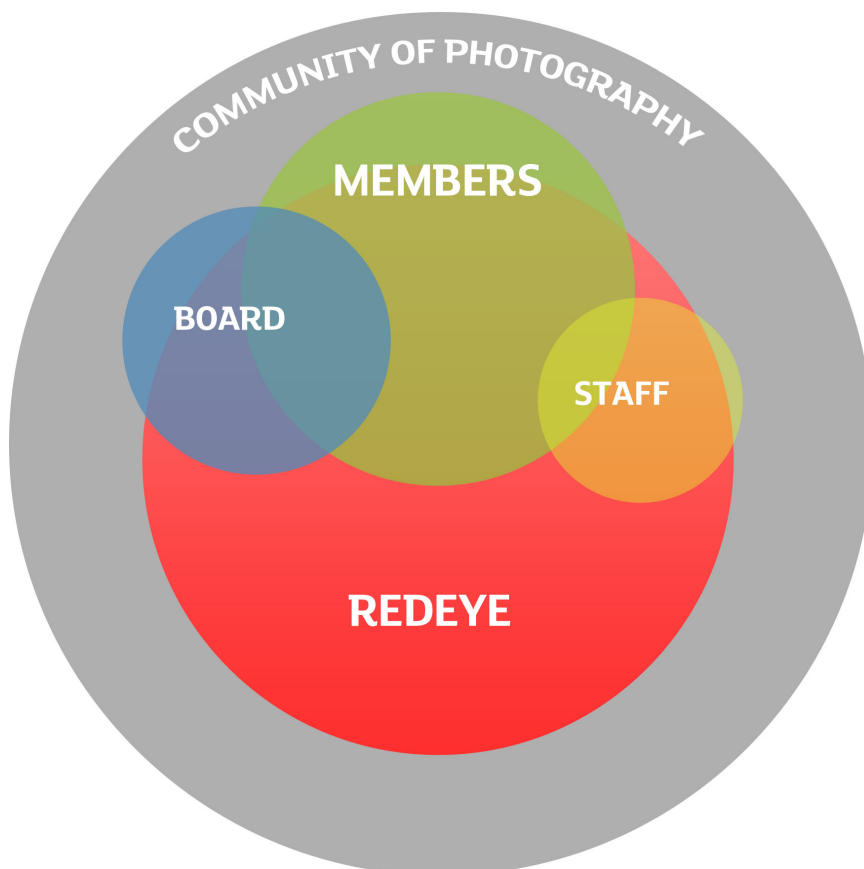
“The objects of the Society shall be to carry on any business for the benefit of the community by advancing the practice and understanding of photography and other audio-visual media by providing information, training, professional development opportunities and facilities through partnership working and advocacy.”

Who’s who? Relationship between members, board and staff

Redeye is a Community Benefit Society, often called a “Becom”. The members own Redeye and are ultimately responsible for Redeye acting to benefit the community of photography. The board is mostly made up of members, and governs Redeye on behalf of them. The staff, led by Redeye’s Executive Director, support the organisation by planning and delivering a selective programme of activities.

Redeye works a lot in partnership to increase the value of our programme. Our partners often have a degree of control over our events. We also have a range of supporters and funders. We only work with partners and funders where that doesn’t conflict with our objects.

The diagram below represents the overlaps between board, staff and members – all sitting within the photographic community.



MEMBERSHIP

Why join?

Redeye aims to nurture a broad range of photography. It favours every type and genre of photography including cross discipline work. It welcomes participation and membership of photographers at any experience and career level, from developing amateur to full-time professional, and from traditional to avant-garde. Membership is open to anyone who:

- Is 16 years old or over
- Likes or supports what Redeye's doing
- Could benefit from its activities
- Might want to put something back into the photographic community.

Membership roles and responsibilities

Members should support Redeye's objects when they join.

- Members are Redeye's ambassadors.
- They should aim to participate in Redeye members' meetings where possible, take an interest in its activities, and support its work.
- Read more about the role of members in sections 13 to 19.

Becoming a member

Joining as a member is intended to be simple and cost-effective.

- In 2015 it costs £50 a year to become a member, £30 for students and long-term unwaged, or £4 (£2.50) a month paid by direct debit.
- Members sign up by clicking "Join" on the website www.redeye.org.uk, or get in touch by phone or email.
- Membership is normally approved immediately, and has the oversight of the board of directors (see section 14 of the Rules).

Getting involved

Although many members join just for the member services Redeye offers, everyone benefits if members get more involved. There's a path of involvement.

Making use of the service. Members help Redeye to grow by making full use of the services offered such as:

- Uploading and updating their images and info on their page on the Redeye website.
- Taking advantage of discounts, opportunities and member information.
- Attending members' events; similar to our public programme of talks, networking and workshops, but exclusively for members.
- Renewing their membership before it runs out.

Feedback. Members can build Redeye's programme, and support the wider photography sector, by feeding back to Redeye staff and others:

- Take part in surveys, interviews, or by email, and contribute to general evidence gathering on the role and value of photography.
- Join group feedback sessions and attend members' meetings.
- Spread the word about Redeye to colleagues and social media circles.

Participation. Members can take an active role in improving Redeye's services:

- Help out at events or volunteer in many other ways.
- Contribute to decision making at members meetings including the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Leadership. The most committed or experienced members can take a leading role:

- Get involved in planning and helping deliver events and activities.
- Sit on a subgroup to build Redeye in a particular area.
- Support the delivery of advocacy around the value and remit of photography.
- Consider joining the board of directors.

Formal decisions that members can take

- Members can nominate and elect the board (unless directors are co-opted), normally at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) each autumn.
- Members can make formal proposals for resolutions, at the AGM or other general meetings. See below, under “meetings,” for how to do that.
- Suggested normal timings and deadlines for proposals and nominations are given below; these are subject to change depending on circumstances.

MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting and other general meetings

General meetings are open to all current members of Redeye.

- There’s one annual general meeting, usually taking place in autumn each year.
- There are occasionally other general meetings as required.
- These are usually announced with 14 clear days’ notice. Notice will be circulated to all members.
- Quorum (ie the number of members needed to be present to allow official business to take place) is currently 5% of the total membership, or 100 members, whichever is the lower.
- Decisions are normally made by a show of hands and usually a simple majority is required. Abstentions are recorded but do not count in a vote. A ballot can be requested. See sections 53 to 57 of the rules for more about voting and ballots.

It’s expected that most resolutions will be dealt with at the AGM. Urgent decisions can be dealt with at general meetings between AGMs. Some decisions involving rule changes or other special circumstances, known as Extraordinary Resolutions, have different requirements – see sections 58 to 59, and 97 to 100 of the Rules.

There’s a steering committee with the following jobs at the AGM and other meetings:

- Organising the order of business
- Making sure the rules are being followed
- Ensuring members are listened to.

The steering committee includes one director as its chair and at least two others, who may be Redeye members or independent.

Proposing a resolution to the AGM

Proposed resolutions should be in the interests of Redeye and the photography community.

- Any proposals from members should be submitted normally 6 weeks before the AGM.
- Each proposal will need to be proposed and seconded by Redeye members.
- The steering committee will consider all proposals and make recommendations for how best to conduct business at the start of the AGM.

See also sections 33 to 60 of the Rules for further information about general meetings.

Minutes of meetings

- Accurate minutes will be taken of decisions made at general and board meetings.
- Reflective minutes will be taken of discussions.
- Minutes will be made available to all attendees, and presented at the next such meeting for approval.

Subgroups

Guided by the board, subgroups, which may contain members, directors, staff or other specialists, are convened from time to time to provide advice and bring in expertise on specific aspects of Redeye's work. Members with a special skill that might be relevant are encouraged to let Redeye staff know.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

What the board does in Redeye

The board manages Redeye on behalf of the members and the photographic community. Board members, known as directors, attend quarterly board meetings, some subgroups, and other meetings as required. More detail on the duties and powers of directors, and proceedings of board meetings is in sections 68 to 90 of the Rules.

Directors' responsibilities and role description

Directors need to:

- Be current Redeye members (unless co-opted)
- Have skills, experience or knowledge relevant to Redeye
- Support Redeye's aims and objects, and act in the best interests of the organisation
- Understand their responsibilities and ethical requirements as directors
- Commit to attend all board meetings, other meetings and training as needed
- Advocate for Redeye in public and at other events and organisations
- Respect the confidentiality of Redeye's business
- Understand their duties and powers as summarised in the rules of Redeye
- Agree to adhere to the principles of public life - see below.

Redeye's directors are expected to adhere to the principles of public life – selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. More details can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life>

Board officers

The board currently has two officers – the chairperson and the secretary. These are elected by the board. See section 91 of the Rules.

Elections and appointments to the board; and term of office

- The board has up to eight elected directors (who must be Redeye members) and up to four co-opted ones.
- Elections are in rotation – one third of directors stand down and are eligible for re-election at each AGM.
- See sections 61 to 64 of the Rules for more about directors' elections.

Standing for election to the board

If there are expected to be places available on the board, Redeye will issue a call for nominations for new directors normally eight weeks before an AGM, together with details of any particular skills or experience required.

New nominees need to submit the following:

- A written statement of up to 300 words detailing the relevant skills, knowledge, experience and commitment they will bring to Redeye;
- Confirmation that they are willing to stand for the board;
- The name and signature of another Redeye member nominating them.

This should be sent to the administrator (info@redeye.org.uk) to arrive normally a minimum of 6 weeks before the AGM. All nominations will be sent out to members 14 days before the meeting.

Existing directors wanting to stand again don't need to submit a statement in advance, but they do need to let the administrator know if they intend to stand again.

In the event that there are more nominees than spaces available:

- All nominees will be introduced at the meeting by the chairperson
- Each nominee can make a three minute spoken presentation
- Results will be decided by a ballot.

MORE INFORMATION

Rules and policies

The current versions of Redeye's Rules and our policies are on our website www.redeye.org.uk.

Contacting Redeye

Members are welcome to contact Redeye for any queries about subjects raised in this guide. Talk to a staff member or director at an event, or contact us by email (see the website), or through our website contact form. The email address for general queries is info@redeye.org.uk.

Whilst the input from members is valued and appreciated, and we seek to be responsive to members' needs and ideas, the mission of Redeye is best served by maintaining a small, agile organisation, resourced by a small band of part-time workers with good sector knowledge and a part-time board. Their capacity to answer queries at length is limited!

Submitting proposals, nominations and other formal documents

It's usually best to submit these by email. Where a signature is required on a nomination we will accept a scanned signature alongside contact details so we can confirm legitimacy if needed.

More about Bencoms

A Bencom or Community Benefit Society is one type of "Registered Society" (what used to be known as an Industrial and Provident Society. The other type is a Co-operative). The main difference between a Co-operative and a Bencom is that a Bencom acts primarily for the benefit of a broader community, rather than its staff or members.

You can find more info about why Redeye became a Bencom here:
<https://www.redeye.org.uk/news/redeye-votes-become-bencom>.