

Competition Rules

GENERAL RULES

1) Only work from paid up members shall be accepted.

Images must be entirely the work of the Photographer. In composite images, all component images must meet this requirement. For the avoidance of doubt, the use of images from any other source including, but not limited to, royalty free image banks and clipart is not permitted.

AI is used within post-processing software and is acceptable. Generative AI that within post-processing software or sourced by other means uses pixels which do not originate from the photographer's image may not be used in any way, including replacing elements or introducing content in an extended canvas.

3) Each entry shall have a title (or be identified as 'No Title 1,2.....'), which shall be announced during the judging. The text of the title on the rear of prints shall be clearly legible otherwise it shall be announced "No Title"

4) The Competitions Secretary will determine the number of entries permitted in each group in consultation with the committee.

5) The Competition Secretary will send notification for entries to the competition to all members detailing the type of competitions.

6) The closing date and time for all competitions will be the Friday prior to the competition, all digital entries must be submitted before 1300 on that day. For the print competitions the digital upload and title will be subject to the same deadlines.

GROUP ASSIGNMENT

1) There shall be three competition groups Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3. Group 1 will comprise photographers deemed to be advanced workers and would include any photographer with a photography degree, or an ARPS, FRPS or equivalent distinction from a recognised photography organisation.

2) New members will be assigned to the appropriate group after submitting 5 images for review. The group assignment will be made by the Review Group.

MOVEMENT BETWEEN GROUPS

1) Any member may request to be moved between groups at any time, stating in writing by email to the Chairman and providing evidence as to why this should be considered. This move will only take effect at the beginning of the next society year.

2) Groups may be amalgamated when the number of club members reduces to a level that it is impractical to have 3 groups. This decision will be taken by the committee without reference to the general membership.

3) At the end of each competition year the review group will consider if any member's standard has improved to warrant a move to a higher group. They will also consider any requests from members to

either move up or down. Any decision of the review group is final, and no further request can be made by any member in the current year.

4) Any member gaining an ARPS, or equivalent will automatically move to Group 1 at the beginning of the next competition year.

Composition and responsibilities of the Review Group.

The Review Group will comprise the Chair, Competition Secretary and at least one member of each group. It will be the responsibility of the Competition Secretary to ensure that this group meets when necessary and is fully represented. This group will also meet annually to consider if any member warrants a move from the group, they are in, to a higher group. It will also meet biannually to ensure that the balance of the groups is maintained.

MEDIA SPECIFIC RULES

PRINTED MEDIA

- 1) Images entered for print competitions must also be uploaded to the PhotoEntry system by the notified closing date
- 2) All prints shall be mounted and clearly labelled on the back with the title, photographer's name and group. The preferable size of mounted prints shall be 40 x 50 cm either portrait or landscape. This however is the maximum size. Given the presentation environment the mounted size must not be less than A4.
- 3) The rear of image mounts must be free of any residual adhesive, undried ink or any abrasive material that may damage other entries.
- 4) Labels or text should be positioned on the rear to indicate the correct print display orientation.
- 5) Prints may be commercially processed. Prints framed with glass or other hazardous material shall not be accepted.
- 6) Print entries must be submitted to the Competition Secretary or deputy by 19:45 on the evening of judging. Late entries will not be accepted.

DIGITAL MEDIA

1) Images for digital competitions shall be submitted via the PhotoEntry system and conform to the maximum size of 1920 pixels wide by 1080 high. These must be Jpeg images and the colour space set to sRGB IE61966-2.12

Images that the author intends to have "No title" as the title must be named as such in the PhotoEntry system so that the Competition Secretary is clear of the author's intent.

COMPETITION SPECIFIC RULES

NATURAL WORLD

This is a print competition.

What IS allowed

1. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots or digital noise.
2. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without altering the content of the original scene, including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning.
3. Minimal post-processing restricted to actions such as cropping, adjustment of levels, exposure adjustment, colour correction, changes to contrast, sharpening and the removal of minor distractions.
4. Monochrome images.
5. Natural History subjects including wild animals, birds and insects, as well as marine and botanical wildlife (including fungi and algae)
6. Images of Natural History subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, aquariums and wildlife centres.
7. Images of wild animals or birds in or among cultivated crops.
8. Images made on workshops, courses, tours and professional set-ups.
9. Landscapes, seascapes and skyscapes which exclude man-made structures.
10. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals (and if present must not be removed)
11. Factual titles that describe the subject.

What is NOT allowed

- (a) Any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.
- (b) Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove pictorial elements except by cropping.
- (c) Stitched images (focus stacking is accepted).
- (d) Infrared or ultraviolet images.
- (e) Human elements except if an integral part of the story where subjects make use of man-made structures as their natural environment such as derelict buildings eg: barn owls in a barn
- (f) Domesticated (including farm) animals are not permitted. Plants should be wild rather than cultivated. It is accepted that some cultivated plants migrate to the wild but species which are only ever cultivated are not permitted.
- (g) Any Natural History subject must be captured in situ. Studio captures that are defined as still life are not allowed.
- (h) Images in which the main subject is dead or a mounted specimen are not permitted. Therefore, a live raptor with its dead prey would be permitted.
- (i) Anthropology, archaeology or palaeontology.
- (j) Tweak, informal or sentimental titles are not permitted.

QUARTERLY COMPETITIONS

- 1) There are two print and two PDI Quarterly competitions
- 2) Each entry may be submitted into one Quarterly only. Images used in a Quarterly may be used in other competitions and vice versa. Any image may only be used a maximum of two times in competition in any one year except for the Annual Open Print or Annual Open PDI Competition.

SET SUBJECT COMPETITION

- 1) This is a PDI competition
- 2) The subject is defined in the annual programme
- 3) The interpretation of the subject material is at the judge's discretion

PANEL COMPETITIONS

There are two Panel competitions.

(1) 3 -5 Prints

The printed images may be mounted individually, as a group one mount, or printed together on one sheet. If mounted individually the photographer must number each print and define the required arrangement as a diagram on the rear of the first image in the set

(2) 4 PDI images

The four digital files can be presented in one of two ways:

Either as 4 separate images designed to be viewed in one row

Or as a single entry comprising four images in any layout. It is strongly recommended that in this case a 2 x 2 matrix is used.

ANNUAL OPEN PRINT AND ANNUAL OPEN PDI COMPETITIONS

Images previously entered into these competitions from any previous year are not allowed. Entries may be new images or entries previously entered from club competitions in the current year.

COMPETITION MARKING & SCORING

The following scoring system will be used for all competitions.

The judge will award 1st, 2nd, 3rd places and three Highly Commended images. Images that are held back but not given a score will be considered as Commended. For the purpose of determining year end winners, points will be allocated as follows.

1st 20 points

2nd 19 points

3rd 18 points

Highly Commended 17 points

Commended 16 points

All other entries will be awarded 15 points.

SPECIFIC COMPETITION AWARDS (Groups 2 and 3 only)

The winners of all competition groups will be decided by the Chairman and the Competitions Secretary taking into account the overall performance of the photographer both in terms of overall average score and placings in the yearly competitions.

The MIKE VARLEY CUP: Awarded for the first place in the Panel of Four PDI images competition

The ROGER BAKER CUP: Awarded for the first place in the Panel of Three to Five printed images.

The LINTOTT CUP: Awarded for the first place in the Annual Open Print Competition.

The PDI TROPHY : Awarded for the first place in the Annual Open PDI Competition.

The QUARTERLY TROPHY Awarded to the member with the highest marks in the Quarterly Competitions.

NATURAL WORLD TROPHY

SET SUBJECT TROPHY

The CAROL BAILEY TROPHY: MOST IMPROVED PHOTOGRAPHER (Group 3): This will be decided by the Competition Secretary in consultation with the Chairman. This will take into account the overall performance of the photographer both in terms of overall average score and placings in the yearly competitions. This may not be awarded to any member 2 years in a row.

Trophies are not awarded to group 1 winners of the competitions of the competitions listed above and winners will be awarded a certificate only.

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR: A trophy will be awarded to the highest scoring photographer in each of the three groups

TROPHIES

- 1) Trophies shall be returned to the Committee by 30th October each year, or when a member leaves the club.
- 2) The Committee shall review the quantity and relevance of the trophies awarded.
- 3) The Committee shall decide reassignment or disposal of redundant trophies.

PRESENTATION ENVIRONMENT (This section is for guidance only)

DIGITAL PROJECTION

The digital projector used is an EPSON TW2000. This projector native resolution is 1920 pixels wide by 1080 pixels high. The image management system used will accept an image of almost any size and will automatically convert it to fit the projector. Please note that image conversion could be at the expense of image characteristics which may be of importance to the competitor. It is advisable, but not necessary, that the competitor sizes their own images accordingly.

Note that the Photoentry system will not upsize an image to the 1920x1080 display size.

The expected colour profile is "sRGB IE61966-2.1". It is assumed that an image file that is not tagged with a colour profile is to be treated as "sRGB IE61966-2.1". It is good practice to ensure that the images are presented in correct colour profile and tagged as such. Other profiles such as Adobe RGB will probably be converted to "sRGB IE61966-2.1" using relative colorimetric rendering intent.

EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS

- 1) The society shall take part in external competitions as the committee agrees. Images for these competitions will be selected by a sub-committee, the makeup of which will be decided by the Chair and the Competitions Secretary.
- 2) Images for external competitions will be taken from the pool of images available on the PhotoEntry system. Images will only be used with the consent of the Author, who will be required to fill in a proforma on a yearly basis.

3) From time to time, members will also be asked to upload images to an external competitions link in order to extend the pool of images available as not all images submitted for club competitions meet the criteria for external competitions even if they came highly placed in the club competitions.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

23 March 2011

Major layout and content changes. There are a number of trophies yet to be selected.

29 March 2011

Grammatical changes, removal of "image priority" from the digital file name syntax, clarification of para 1 in Print of The Year. There are a number of trophies yet to be selected.

01 April 2011

Chapter "Subject Specific Rules" added.

09 April 2011

In "Digital Media" make reference to "PRESENTATION ENVIRONMENT"

28 November 2016

Inclusion of rules governing print size and limit of 2 uses of any image.

Inclusion of Priority in digital image format.

Rationalization of trophies

29 November 2017

Changes to scoring system for competitions.

Additional photographer of the year added.

Clarification of promotion rule from main competition to Photographer of the Year.

Addition of a yearly PDI competition.

Clarification of the rules for Natural History.

September 2020

Rules updated to reflect the current competition environment and software

Further clarification to Natural History Rules.

Change of natural History from a PDI competition to Print

Addition of minimum mount sizes

Clarification of movement between groups

January 2024

Rules updated to reflect the new balance of Print and PDI competitions

The PAGB & SPA position on the use of generative AI added

Further clarification to Natural World rules

March 2025

Natural World rules revised to bring it more into line with SPA Natural History rules.