

Competition Rules and Guidance

Introduction

Full members of the Society are eligible to enter images for all Society-associated competitions and exhibitions.

Our competitions are far from being about winning and losing; they are primarily about developing our photography. They provide an opportunity to gain advice on how to improve our work and to monitor our individual progress. In competitions with other Clubs and Societies we compare our work in a wider context.

For all competitions it is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that his/her images meet the specifications set out below and that they are handed in by the dates indicated in the Society's programme. We rely on Member's honesty in complying with the spirit of these rules.

It is a condition of the entry of images into competition that, without compromising the copyright of its members, the Society reserves the right to use in external competitions, and on its website, any images submitted by our members for our internal competitions. Members may opt out of this arrangement by informing the External Competition Secretary by email or in writing either that they do not wish to have one or none of their internal competition entries considered for external competitions or that they have elected to enter external competitions with another Club.

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

This also means that the following are not permitted:

- Computer generated elements such as snow or rain.
- The use of special brushes such as leaves, textures, trees, grasses etc. that you have **not** created yourself from images that you have taken.
- The use of textures that you have **not** created yourself from your own images.

The use of Artificial Intelligence which only utilises pixels from within those images is permitted. Thus, AI noise reduction, AI content-aware fill etc are allowed. Pictorial elements not created from pixels contained within the photographer's own images are not permitted.

KPS Open Competitions

1. There will be four Open Competitions for the League during the season with each competition being divided into two sections: prints and projected images. There will be one League.

2. For each competition a member is permitted to enter up to **four** images but no more than **two** in each section.

3. The same image (or one that the Competition Secretary considers is so substantially similar that it could be taken as such) may **not** be entered more than once in the **same format**, i.e. the images presented will be new in the sense that they will **not** have been entered in a KPS Open Competition before. An image may be entered as **both** a colour image and a black and white image but not in the same competition. If both versions are entered into competitions it is **essential** that the **same name** is

used for both images (in order to avoid breaking the rules for external competitions). Images previously entered in external photographic competitions or in the KPS Short Sets Competition, Set Subject competitions or Print Panel Exhibition are eligible for entry in the KPS Open Competitions. Images entered in the Portfolio Competition, **or ones that are considered by the Internal Competition Secretary to be very similar**, are not eligible unless in a different format.

4. Judges will award every image entered a mark out of twenty. This means that it will be possible for more than one image to receive a top score of twenty. Judges will also choose one image as the overall winner of each section although this will not result in any extra points towards the league score. Judges may also choose a "Best Of" for each genre (e.g. Best Landscape, Best People, Best Creative, Best Mono, Best Nature, etc.) at their discretion.

5. The points gained by each member in the four Open Competitions will be added together and those members with the highest number of points in the Print Section, the Projected Image Section and the **combined** Print and Projected Image Sections will be awarded trophies at the end of the season.

6. Members who do not wish to have their images scored may enter up to four images, but no more than two in each section, for critique only. These must be entered **instead of** images for scoring, i.e. only four images in total may be entered. These images will be critiqued at the end of the evening. Images entered for critique only may not be entered in subsequent KPS Open Competitions but may be entered in the Portfolio of the Year competitions.

Print Section

6. Prints must be no larger than 50 x 40 cm including the mount. They do not have to be mounted but it is strongly advised that they are since this helps to protect the images during transport to the judges. It is recommended that even though the print itself might be less than A3, its presentation is markedly improved if it is mounted up to 50 x 40 cm.

7. Prints should have **only the title** clearly printed on the back. The competitor's name and any other labels (from previous competitions etc) should either be removed or obscured.

8. Prints submitted for open club competitions, **whether to be scored or critiqued only**, should be accompanied by a digital image file. This will enable simultaneous projection with the print on competition nights to ensure that all members have a good view of the image. The format of the accompanying electronic image should be the same as for Projected Images (see 9 and 10 below) except that it should be labelled with the **prefix 'P'** followed by the author's surname, initial and the image title, and then .jpg e.g. P AdamsF Trees in the Mist.jpg. Please ensure that the same image title is used for the digital image as for the print. The judging of the prints will be conducted solely on the basis of the print submitted and the judge will not be sent the electronic versions.

9. If you are submitting prints for critique only please add the prefix "C" to the digital file label e.g. CP AdamsF Trees in the Mist.

Projected Digital Image (PDI) Section

9. For KPS competitions the image is required to be saved in colour space sRGB in JPEG format with **maximum** dimensions of **1600 x 1200** pixels in the horizontal and vertical planes respectively. It is better for image quality if your image has the maximum number of pixels in at least one of the dimensions. Authors are advised **not to exceed these maximum pixel dimensions**. Note that in the

portrait mode the resulting dimension in the horizontal plane will be **less than 1600 pixels** and with square images **both** the maximum horizontal and vertical dimensions will be 1200 pixels. For image quality, when saving as a JPEG select maximum quality.

With the above dimensions for a JPEG image the resulting file size will be suitable for attachment to an email for submission to the Internal Competition Secretary. However, it is also acceptable to enter images as JPEG files on a memory stick or CD-disk.

10. Image files should be labelled with the competitor's surname, initial, the image title and then .jpg e.g. AdamsF Trees in the Mist.jpg. Please use upper and lower case as in the example but **not all** upper case. The Competition Secretary will remove the author's name, to preserve anonymity for the competition judge, and place a "running order" number in front of the title.

11. **If you are submitting PDIs for critique only please add the prefix "C" to the digital file label e.g. C AdamsF Trees in the Mist.**

Portfolio of the Year Competition

11. The Portfolio of the Year Competition is open to all Society members and is independent of the league. There will be two separate competitions: a 'Print Portfolio of the Year' and a digital 'Projected Image Portfolio of the Year'.

Images previously entered in KPS Open Competitions, **or ones that are considered by the Internal Competition Secretary to be very similar**, may not be entered unless they are in a different format. Images previously entered in external photographic competitions or in the KPS Short Sets Competition, Set Subject competitions or Print Panel Exhibition are eligible. **Images entered in KPS Club Competitions for critique only may be entered.**

The purpose of these competitions is to challenge the photographer's ability across a range of different genres. An entry of **up to three** images may be made in each competition. Each of the images must be from a different category as listed below. **Members are expected to enter into the spirit of the competition** and in the event of an author entering very similar images across a range of genres, **or ones that are very similar to images that have previously been entered in KPS Open Competitions**, the entry may be disqualified at the discretion of the Internal Competition Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

Entries in each category may be mono or colour images. Composites comprising two or more images, and other images employing creative techniques, may only be entered in the categories where this is specifically stated as being allowed.

The categories are listed below. Some examples of the type of images that may be entered in each category are given for guidance but these are not to be interpreted as definitive rules. The main criterion for the competition is that very different images should be submitted.

1. Nature - fauna (including domestic and captive animals). This category may include for example images of single animals, portraits, interaction between animals of the same and different species, animals in their environment and macro images. Focus stacking is permitted.

2. Nature - flora (including cultivated plants). This category may include for example images of a single flower, fungi, tree etc. or small groups of such but not a whole woodland scene. This category also includes macro images. Focus stacking is permitted.
3. Landscapes (including seascapes and night skies). This category may include for example images of forests, woodland, fields, distant buildings, storms, lightning, geysers, glaciers, icebergs, waterfalls etc. HDR , exposure bracketing and focus stacking techniques are permitted. Composite images comprising time lapse images of the same scene are also permitted.
4. The Hand of Man. This category may include for example urban and industrial landscapes, buildings, sculptures, statues, interiors, etc. The manmade element should be the dominant element in the image. HDR, exposure bracketing and focus stacking techniques are permitted.
5. Transport. This category may include for example images of trains, planes, cars, bikes, boats, trams, hot air balloons etc. The mode of transport should be the dominant element in the image.
6. Sport . This category may include for example images of field sports and athletics, racket sports, water sports, motor sports, gymnastics, winter sports etc. It also includes events such as marathons, fun runs, muddy races etc.
7. Creative. This category includes any image created from multiple images or in camera creative techniques such as multiple exposure or intentional camera movement which are not permitted elsewhere.
8. People. This category may include for example portraits, travel images, candid photography, photojournalism (non-sport only), dance, nudes, fashion, street photography, performing artists etc.
9. Still Life. This category may include arrangements of objects such as fruit, vegetables, food, vases of flowers, pottery, jewellery, kitchen utensils, bottles, pots, vases, jars, garden tools etc. either taken in a studio or in another environment.

Thus, for example you could **not** have two nature fauna images (Category 1) or two landscape images (Category 3) in either the Print Portfolio or the Projected Image Portfolio. Identical images cannot be entered in both portfolio competitions at the same time. The image size and their labelling are the same as for the league competitions **except** members must indicate the number and name of the category and place these at the front of the image label. For example an image entered into the print Landscape category would be titled "3 Landscape Morning Mist" with the corresponding digital image labelled "3 Landscape P SmithN Morning Mist". An image entered into the projected image Sport category, for example, would be labelled "6 Sport SmithN Long Jumper".

The judge will be given a list of the categories and will be advised in which category each image has been entered. The images will be marked out of twenty and the winner of each portfolio will be the member with the highest aggregate score for their images. While this is an open competition, therefore the special rules for nature, PJ and travel images do not apply, the judge will be asked to take into account the chosen category for each image when awarding a score.

Set Subject Competitions

12. These are **informal competitions** judged internally within the Society. They have been introduced to help members gain experience in producing images for competitions and the Set Subject Competitions do not form part of the League. The images are not given marks. Members may submit **up to three images**. The images can be all in the same form (digital files, mounted prints, unmounted prints) or in any combination of forms but for certain Set Subject competitions the judge may stipulate **a certain type of entry**. All images should comply with the rules for Open Competitions regarding size and titles and should be submitted to the Internal Competitions Secretary by the specified hand in date.

Short Sets Competition

13. This competition comprises a presentation of images focused on one theme or topic as the subject matter. The presentation can take the form of (i) still images – prints or digital projections – or (ii) an AV show, and should be limited to a maximum of ten minutes in length. The competition is judged in-house and separate awards will be made to the winners of the still images section and the AV section at the annual prize giving. Two weeks' notice of a member's intention to give a presentation, including title and format, must be given to the organiser of the competition. The image presentations should be submitted at least one week in advance of the competition.

Print Panel Exhibition

14. The Panel Exhibition is an opportunity for members to present prints focused around a distinct theme or event. The choice of themes (up to two) will be based on KPS outings or another theme chosen by the exhibitor. For each theme the exhibitor should display **three** prints, mounted or unmounted and of any size, grouped as a panel. This is not a formal competition but an experienced photographer will judge the panels and the winners will be applauded on the night.

***Note** – Any image(s) used in the Short Sets Competition and the Print Panel Exhibition may also be entered in any of the Open Competitions.*

External Competitions and Events

15. There are also a number of external competitions and other "events" for which prints and projected images will be requested. The rules for, and timing of, these events are established by the organising bodies and may change from year to year. It is now routine practice for prints submitted in external competitions to be accompanied by an electronic image file to allow simultaneous projection during print viewing and these should also be provided. Prints and/or projected images should be submitted to the Society's External Competition Secretary.

16. For the purposes of any requirement for inter-club External Competitions the definition of a "**novice**" will be set by the organising body.

Western Area Battle

17. This is an annual competition between camera clubs forming the Western Area of the Northern Counties Photographic Federation (NCPF). Six prints and six digital images are required from a minimum of six Society members and with no more than two entries overall from any given member.

The dimensions of digital images will be set by the organising club. Prints should be mounted up to **50 x 40 cm**, with a minimum of 200mm on the longest side of the image itself.

Keswick/Penrith/Carlisle Three-Way Fun Battle

18. This annual Battle is hosted by each of the participating Clubs/Society in turn. According to current rules, each club submits 15 digital images with each image being the work of a different club member. The images should not have been taken more than two years previously.

NCPF and Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) Annual Competitions

19. Details of these competitions will be announced and posted on the Society website as they become available. The dimensions of PDI entries will be set by the organising body. The competitions include: -

NCPF Club Championship

This competition is entered by the club as a whole and the top two clubs become eligible for the PAGB Club Competition, one for Digital and one for prints.

NCPF Annuals Competition

This is a competition where individual members choose images to enter themselves but we also select a small number of these entries to represent KPS collectively. There are beginner's sections as well as Monochrome and Colour Prints and PDIs with prizes allocated for specific categories such as nature.

PAGB GB Trophies (Prints)

This is a print competition normally held every January and is subdivided into Open and Nature sections. Monochrome prints can be entered. Prints are **not** mounted.

PAGB Cups (Projected)

An annual competition for PDIs normally held every January. There are Open and Nature categories.

Photographic Society of America. (PSA)

20. We enter digital images in a sequence of competitions through the season including the Open, Nature, Travel, Photojournalism and Mono categories. The images should be in JPEG format and preferably sRGB colour space. The dimensions will be set by the PSA.

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