

# COMPETITION RULES

## (2011/2012 Season)

### **OVERVIEW**

The society organizes three kinds of competition during the season: championship, set subject and special. The closing dates for entries and the dates of the competitions are as shown in the syllabus.

### **THE CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS**

#### **LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP**

In the Championship Competitions there will be two leagues, 'A' and 'B' for both prints and projected images. Membership of these will be decided by the Internal Competition Secretary on the basis of previous performance. The new leagues will be posted at the beginning of each season. Members can request a review by the Classification Sub-Committee. New members can join in the competitions at any time, and their placing will be assessed by the Internal Competition Secretary.

There are four-championship competition evenings each season, each league holds separate print and digital projected image (DPI) competitions on these evenings. There are no set subjects so members are free to choose any subject at will. Within each league marks awarded are totalled in order to decide the winners of the Annual Championship Awards for prints and DPI.

#### **SET SUBJECT COMPETITIONS**

There are six set subject competitions as follows:

- Monochrome
- Portrait
- Landscape
- Documentary
- Natural History
- Chosen Subject.

For these competitions there is no league structure and all members compete together. In each competition there are separate awards for prints and DPI (but see below for the maximum number of images which may be submitted). Points awarded in these competitions are totaled across the year and the member who achieves the highest total wins the "Best All-Round Photographer"

#### **SPECIAL COMPETITIONS**

There are three special competitions:

- Theme panel
- Creative
- Audio Visual

There is no league structure for these competitions and they do not count towards any annual award.

### **PREPARATION OF ENTRIES**

#### **General**

The Society welcomes camera-originated images taken on any photographic medium in all of its competitions. The photographer must personally have taken all images concerned and have the full copyright for all elements within them. Manipulated images are welcome in competitions, provided the photographer personally carried the manipulation and took the original exposure(s). Images employing so called Royalty Free and Copyright Free Images are not acceptable. An individual image may be used once in the Championship Competitions, once in the Theme Panel Competition and once in one of the Set Subject Competitions. An image that is so similar as to be almost identical to one already used is considered to be the same image even if the medium is changed. If an image is considered offensive or unsuitable the Internal Competition Secretary may require

the photographer to withdraw it. Images should be correctly and clearly titled. In the Documentary and Natural History competitions titles must be accurate and specific to the subject matter.

## Number Of Entries

The maximum number of entries which may be submitted for the competitions is as follows:

- Championship: two prints and two DPI
- Set subjects: two images (i.e. 2 prints, 2 DPI or 1 print + 1 dpi)
- Theme panel: two sets of 3 prints
- Creative dpi: two images
- Audio Visual: three sequences.

## Prints

Prints may be of any size in any photographic medium, but must be mounted on standard card, which may be of any colour. Mounts must not exceed the preferred size of 50cm X 40cm,

If a smaller mount is used it must not be less than 38cm on the longest side. Overall thickness must not exceed 4mm. To avoid damage to other prints when packed, adhesive tape, Velcro, or similar materials, must not be exposed on the back of prints and the backing mount, if used, must be the same size as the front window mount.

## Projected Images

DPI should be presented in RGB mode as JPG files; they should preferably have an sRGB colour profile attached. Images in other formats are likely to be rejected automatically by the DiCentra software used and excluded from the competitions. The maximum pixel dimensions that can be accepted are 1400 horizontal and 1050 vertical. If an image is smaller than this the photographer may fill the non-image area with a background of his or her choice to bring the dimensions up to 1400 X 1050 pixels. Failing this DiCentra will add a black background.

## ENTERING THE COMPETITIONS

### Identification

Prior to entering any of the internal print competitions members should ensure that they have been issued with two competition entry numbers by the Internal Competitions Secretary. These numbers remain valid for all future competitions unless otherwise notified. Where two prints are used in the same competition both numbers must be used; the print having the lower number will be shown first. Prints should be labelled on the back in the top left hand corner (as viewed from behind when in the correct orientation) with the entry number and print title. The photographer's name must not appear on the mount. A 1400 X 1050 pixel digital file meeting the same criteria as dpi entries (see above) should also be submitted on a USB flash drive, or by email. The file for a print called *Three men in a boat* should be named as **1234 Three men in a boat.jpg** where the member's entry number is **1234**.

Files for dpi competitions should be given a two-digit sequence number followed by the title e.g. **02 Winter sunrise.jpg** and saved in a folder under the author's name and distinctions . The member's entry number is not required.

### Submission

Prints, without any accompanying packaging, should be placed in the Print Boxes provided on submission nights and USB flash drives (identified with the photographer's name and telephone number) should be placed in the receptacle provided.

DPI entries may be submitted to the Internal Competitions Secretary, either by email or by recording them on a USB flash drive, saved in a folder under the author's name. The USB flash drive should be labelled with the photographer's name and telephone number and placed in the receptacle provided on submission night.

## **AFTER THE COMPETITION**

At the end of a competition evening members should collect their prints and/or USB Flash Drives and take them away. With the permission of the author, certain prints may be retained for use in External Competitions. Digital versions of award winning images will be posted on the Society's website.

## **DETAILED REQUIREMENTS**

### **Championship Competitions**

These are open competitions and the choice of subject is at the photographer's discretion.

### **Monochrome Competition**

This is an open competition; normally black and white images should be submitted for this competition; however black and white images modified by the addition of a single tone over the entire image are acceptable. Images obtained by toning part of the image or adding colour to part of the image are not eligible. Where DPI are used they may be in greyscale or RGB mode.

### **Portrait Competition**

May contain the whole or part of one or more persons. If only part of a figure is shown it must include a substantial part of the head. Animals by themselves are not included in this category.

### **Landscape Competition**

Landscape is defined as a picture with the earth's surface forming all or part of it. Buildings, bridges, cities, roads and other works of man are considered natural parts of landscape but should be shown in context and should not be the only elements of the picture. Thus cityscapes are not eligible. Human or animal figures and activities, if present, should be of secondary interest only and help to show the relationship between man and the landscape.

### **Documentary Competition**

The principal aim is the clear recording of the subject. The title must identify the subject accurately; "poetic" titles are not appropriate. Subjects could include man-made objects recorded as distinctly as possible, architecture, sport, photo-journalism, domesticated animals, cultivated plants, formal flower arrangements, mounted specimens, museum groups and other items and activities, provided that each is worthy of good photographic record. Technical quality is important.

### **Natural History Competition**

The principal aim is the accurate recording of living creatures and uncultivated plants shown in their natural habitat, or of geological or other natural phenomena. Any retouching or processing must not alter the truth of the photographic statement depicted in the original image. Technical quality is important and the title must identify the subject accurately. Items included under 'Documentary' are not allowed.

### **Chosen Subject Competition**

This is a set subject competition and there will be a different theme each season. The theme will be decided by Council and announced no later than the AGM of the previous season. Photographers are free to interpret the selected theme in any manner of their choosing.

### **Theme Panel Competition**

This competition is restricted to print entries only; DPI are not eligible. The aim is to explore a theme of the photographer's own choosing through three related photographs, which will be judged as a group of images. An overall title should be provided for the three photographs, which should not be individually titled. The images may be mounted individually (in which case the photographer must indicate on the backs of the mounts the order in which they should be displayed) or on a single standard size mount. Two themed sets may be entered.

### **Creative Competition**

This competition is for DPI only and prints are not accepted; the subject is open. The competition is restricted to new images which have not previously been entered in any of the Society's internal competitions, used by the Society in external competitions, or entered into any exhibition.

## **Audio Visual Competition**

A separate entry form is required for this competition. This may be obtained from the Internal Competition Secretary and must be returned to him no later than the date shown in the syllabus. Up to three sequences may be entered but, depending on the number of entries received, it may not be possible to judge more than one of these. Sequences must be listed on the form in order of priority for showing. Sequences entered must be on a CD (or memory stick) and the duration must not exceed 12 minutes. It is permissible for the author's name to appear in the sequence (but this may render it ineligible for entry to certain national and international competitions). All the photography must be the work of the entrant and any declared collaborators who must be members of the Society. Copyright of all work must be at the disposal of the entrant who is responsible for obtaining the necessary licenses or permissions to use material for which they do not hold the rights.

## ***NON-CONFORMITY***

Images submitted to a competition that appear not to conform to the above rules will not be accepted into that competition.

## ***CLASSIFICATION SUB-COMMITTEE***

- Cliff Martin, ARPS, DPAGB
- David Wareing
- Arthur Williams CPAGB (Internal Competitions Organiser)

Please contact Arthur Williams if you think you have been allocated to the wrong league.