



Isle of Wight Photographic Society

Competition Structure and Rules

Effective from September 2026

1st September 2026

Monthly Competition Structure

All members are encouraged to submit entries into the Society's competitions regardless of their level of experience. Images should be no more than three years old, however for creative images elements may be older. Competitions are a good learning experience as the appraisers provide valuable feedback on entries from which all can learn.

There is no requirement for members to enter the monthly competitions but may still wish to receive critique on their images to enable them to develop as a photographer. To this end members may submit images for critique and not scoring: this must be identified on the submission of images.

During the season there are six monthly competitions; five will be for PDIs and one for prints. At the end of the season there will be an end of year competition for each of the following categories: Landscape, Portrait, Creative, Natural World and Still Life.

Entry Conditions:

1. Members may enter up to three projected images in each monthly competition and two in each of the end of year competitions.
2. The overall maximum number of entries accepted on the night will be limited to 70, this can be varied on the night at the discretion of the Secretary;
3. The submission should clearly identify the photographer, the titles and category of the images to be entered; for prints this should be clearly printed on the reverse.
4. Where no category has been selected by the member then the print will be allocated the OPEN category;

Prints

5. Prints must be mounted. The maximum size of the mount must not exceed (50cm x 40cm) or 20" x 16".

Projected Images

6. Projected image files should be labelled in the following form: Name_Title of Image Comp Category_IWPS.jpeg e.g. Carol Walker_Northern Lights M1 L_IWPS.jpeg
7. The technical specification for images is as follows:
 - . They must be in JPEG format.
 - . The maximum size of each image must be 1600 pixels wide by 1200 pixels high e.g. landscape format images cannot exceed 1600 in width and neither landscape nor portrait format images cannot exceed 1200 pixels in height.

Scoring in Monthly Competitions

8. All entries in competitions will be marked out of 20. Appraisers may or may not award the maximum but they can award more than one 20 if they deem the quality of images deserve it;
9. Each member's highest monthly PDI score, throughout the season, will be aggregated towards the Annual League Cup - the highest scores across the categories will also be used to determine the Photographer of the Year (see paragraph 33).

Objective

10. The use of photographic categories has been designed to help the Society meet its objective

"to encourage members in developing their photography skills and techniques, sharing experiences and learning together."

Categories

11. The Committee may, review the categories and/or the definitions within them. Any changes will be notified prior to the commencement of a season;
12. Images that do not fit the category may be discussed with the photographer beforehand and possibly excluded. Judges may comment on whether the image is appropriate for the category and mark accordingly.

In all cases all elements that appear in the final picture must have been taken by the photographer.

13. The categories are:

Portrait (P)

This category includes studio portraits, self portraits and environmental portraits. It also includes fashion photography.

Street photography is permissible where the image is primarily focussed on an individual or group of people.

The portrait may include more than one person.
N.B. Animal portraiture is excluded from this category

Landscape (L)

This category is landscape in its broadest sense and includes sea, country, sky and urban landscapes. A landscape being a wide view or vista of a scene.

Natural World (N)	This is a broad category covering all flora, both natural and cultivated; fauna, which includes domestic animals e.g. farm animals and those in captive environments, unless otherwise specified in a particular competition. The image must be of living fauna or growing flora and in a natural setting i.e. floral displays in vases are not permitted. N.B. House pets are not included in this category
Creative (C)	This category includes images produced through the use of imaginative skill or originality of thought. The creativity may occur in setting up the scene, capturing the image, in post production or any combination thereof. A creative image can be constructed in camera or during post processing from the photographer's imagination. Creative images are often multi-layered or made up from elements contained within more than one image. In all cases all elements that appear in the final picture must have been taken by the photographer. Elements of a Creative image may be older than three years as long as the final image has been created in within that time.
Still Life (S)	This photography seeks to depict inanimate subject matter, typically but not exclusively a small group of objects. It is the application of photography to capture the subject matter artistically or creatively. The subject matter can be natural e.g. flowers, food, plants, rocks; or man-made e.g. books, vases, glasses, jewellery.
Documentary (D) <i>For monthly competitions only</i>	This photography provides a straight forward and accurate representation of people, places, objects and events, and is often used in reportage.
Open (O)	Any print or image not covered by the above criteria.

The secretary will endeavour to contact a member if it is considered an image does not meet a category's definition. The judge may award a lower score to an image if they deem it not appropriate/suitable to the competition.

Resubmission of Entries

19. Prints and digital images entered into monthly competition cannot be entered into another monthly competition during the current season. This includes members entering the same image in both the print and digital image competitions;
20. However, members may enter images from monthly competitions in the End of Year Competitions.

21. Any entry awarded 18 or more points cannot be entered into any further monthly Competitions in future years.

General Rules

22. Prints can be home or commercially processed;

23. All prints and PDIs submitted in competitions must be the sole copyright of the Member, and all elements must have been created by them;

24. Any modifications made to the original image must have been made by the member;

25. Where necessary persons and/or property are included in the photograph, the member accepts the responsibility to ensure that any permission has been obtained beforehand;

26. The Secretary or hosting Committee member has the right to reject an image, or not to show it, if they deem it to be offensive to a wider public audience.

Providing it meets the non-offensive criteria; nude images can be submitted.

27. The Secretary and Committee shall be final arbiters in any dispute;

28. If a club member appraises a monthly competition or is closely related to the appraiser, they will be ineligible to submit images.

29. All aspects of the image must be the work of the member e.g. in composite images all components must have been produced by the author.

Guidance

30. If a competition specifically requires an image to be in monochrome the PAGB/FIAP definition will be used.

‘Black and white or monochrome images are those that include black or white images modified by a single colour tone to the entire image (e.g. Sepia).

Where it is modified by partial toning or the addition of one colour to any part of the image it is classified as ‘colour’.

Photographers who are members of more than one Isle of Wight club

A photographer may submit images into competitions in more than one club but they should ensure that they are different i.e. they are not so similar as to be deemed the same. This is to ensure that if a photographer’s image is selected for an external competition no image used for one club is used by another.

If a photographer wishes to enter an individual competition they should do so under the auspices of one club.

Annual Competitions

End of Year Competitions will be held for each of the following Categories

30. Portrait, Landscape, Natural World, Creative and Still Life

31. Members may enter up to two images in each category; an image may only appear in one category.

32. Images can be new or have been entered in competitions during the current season.

Photographer of the Year

33. The Photographer of the Year Award will be presented to the member who has the highest overall score based upon the following framework.

The highest 10 scores from the monthly competitions from at least 3 of the seven designated categories. No more than 5 of the 10 should be identified as Open.