

Yorkshire Photographic Union

2026 Annual Competition and Exhibition - HCC Edit

Rules and Conditions of entry for Prints and Projected Digital Images

Exhibition Calendar

- **HCC closing date for entries, both Prints and PDIs** **9th Feb 2026**
- Exhibition Opens 9th May 2026 12:30 – Dewsbury Council Chambers
- Exhibition Closes 21st July 2026 20:30

Overview

- There are 9 Print Categories and 8 Projected Digital Images Categories
- **Up to 10 Prints and 10 PDIs may be entered per author.**
- All entries must be submitted via the HCC
- The image size for uploading is 1600 pixels wide by 1200 pixels high including Portrait formatted images. **Do not** 'pad out' smaller images to 1600 by 1200
- File format should be "Baseline (standard) and sRGB colour space
- **Maximum file size 1.9Mb**
- Images that are computer/AI generated are not permitted. (See below)
- Print and PDI image titles must not exceed 32 characters
- Misspelt image titles and authors' names will be carried through to the printed catalogue and the Exhibition Presentations.
- **The entry Fee – unchanged at £1.50 per image – for Prints and PDIs. To be paid to HCC Finance Secretary prior to submission.**

General Rules

1. Author should not enter images that are substantially the same in both Print and PDI categories.
2. Entries Accepted in any previous YPU Annual Exhibition should not be re-entered in any other form, e.g., Colour & mono, print or projected digital image. Like or similar images from the same original capture may not be used.
3. The use of copyright-free images is not allowed. The entrant must own the copyright and be entirely the work of the author.
4. Composite images are permitted. Copyright of component images must be owned by the entrant.
5. The YPU Executive reserve the right, at its discretion, not to accept any images judged inappropriate.

Print Rules

1. Prints may be home or trade processed, mounted (any form or colour) but not framed.
2. Mounts must be **400 x 500mm ± 2mm** and not exceeding **4mm** in thickness. Oversize and undersize prints will be disqualified
3. Prints **not** accepted into the Exhibition should be collected at the Annual Assembly.

Exhibition Entry Categories:

Prints

Open Colour
Open Monochrome
People, Portrait & Figure Studies
Sport Action
Nature
Creative
Travel
'Scapes
Architecture & General Record

Projected Digital Images

Open Colour
Open Monochrome
People, Portrait & Figure Studies
Sport Action
Nature
Creative
Travel
'Scapes

Please note: there are two Open categories – Colour and Mono in both Print and PDIs sections. In all other categories the Colour and Monochrome images are entered together.

Photojournalism images are to be entered in an Open category and not in the Sport Action category.

Mobile 'Phone images can be entered into any appropriate category.

Notes for Entrants

Please stick to the categories as listed on the entry download; it is not possible to swap Prints between categories after the closing day. A silent marker system will be used by the three judges to screen for the top images in each category. The judges will then look through those images to determine the Individual Awards and Certificates. The Society Awards are calculated from the judges' screening scores.

The Exhibition (both Print and PDIs) will be selected by the judges on the judging day. The images to go to the PAGB Inter-Federation competition will be selected by a different panel of judges on another day to avoid cross-referencing of results.

Architecture and General Record

Entries should be buildings, inanimate objects such as vehicles, machinery, statues or other objets d'art. The emphasis is on a high technical quality image which makes an accurate record of the subject. Artistic interpretation is not acceptable in this class, although direct monochrome conversions are. Digital manipulation should be limited to cropping, sharpening, contrast, colour corrections and correction of converging verticals. Only minor distractions or blemishes may be removed from the image. Any adjustments should not alter the main content of the original photograph. Titles should be factual, simply naming the building, feature or object.

Creative

Images for this category are often highly manipulated and may contain elements from several images which produce a final image that stimulates the imagination of the viewer. The image may be of any subject matter and must display a change in natural colour, form, shape or any combination of these three. All images must be original and may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else. Artwork or computer graphics generated by the entrant may be incorporated but the original photographic content must predominate. Images may not be constructed entirely within a computer. (See AI note below)

Sport/Action

Sport images should capture the intensity, emotions and action of the chosen sport subject. It could be professional or amateur, the focus could be on the sportsperson, the sport environment, the effort extended, the struggle or conflict or the rewards, but a strong narrative

must be present. Action images should be of a moving subject or object, which depicts the essence of action, other than sport.

Processing of the captured image, by cropping, exposure adjustment, colour correction, noise minimisation, dodging/burning, HDR and sharpening, is permitted, as is cloning of image defects and minor distractions including overlapping elements.

‘Scapes

A ‘scape image shows a vista. Included, but are not restricted to, landscapes, cityscapes, seascapes, waterscapes and skyscapes. An image may include elements such as a single tree, building or people – they must not dominate but be part of an overall image providing a mood or atmosphere of the environment captured.

Travel

A Photo Travel image expresses the characteristic features or culture of a land as they are found naturally. There are no geographic limitations. Images from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography are not appropriate. Close up pictures of people or objects must include features that provide information about the environment. Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. The only allowable adjustments are removal of dust or digital noise, restoration of the appearance of the original scene, and complete conversion to greyscale monochrome. Other derivations, including infrared, are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural.

Nature (Eligible for PAGB Competition)

Nature means Images where living organisms are the primary subject matter. The story telling value of an Image will normally be weighed more than the pictorial quality.

Nature includes:

- Images taken with subjects in controlled conditions such as zoos, game parks, botanic gardens, aquariums and enclosures where the subjects are dependent on man for food. Scientific bands, tags or collars are permissible.

Nature excludes:

- Images where the subjects are obviously domestic animals or plants.
- Images where an obviously artistic treatment has been applied.

Processing of the captured image, by cropping, exposure adjustment, colour correction, noise minimisation, dodging/burning, HDR, focus stacking and sharpening, is permitted, as is cloning of image defects and minor distractions including overlapping elements.

An Image appearing to meet these criteria will be accepted as Nature.

The Judges will normally assume that any Image presented to them is eligible.

Access to some biological subjects may be restricted. Where that is relevant, then Photographers warrant that they have followed relevant codes of practices and hold any necessary licences.

Portrait, People and Figure Studies

Shall include figure studies, groups of a portrait nature and animal portraits.

Mono or Colour? (Eligible for PAGB Competition)

Monochrome Images include:

- An Image in tones of neutral grey ranging from transparent/white to opaque/black.
- An Image in a single colour:
 - o A Print using a chemical process such as sepia, cyanotype, etc.
 - o A digitally produced Image 'colorized' in a single hue.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated images

Images generated *solely* via AI are not permitted. All images or parts of images must be based on Photographic Images taken by the author. The YPU will trust in the integrity of its community but in certain circumstances may request further evidence in the form of RAW files or EXIF data, accepting that such evidence may itself not be definitive.

Computer Manipulated Images

Shall be permitted in all categories (with the exception of Nature, Record and Travel Categories) providing the work is based on photographic images taken by the author. All manipulation of the image shall be carried out by the author, or under his or her direct control. This can include cropping, masking, filtration etc., removing unwanted details and blemishes and, in the General Categories, the addition of details taken from other photographic images taken by the author. Computer Clip-Art, internet copyright free images or graphics from any other sources is not permitted.

Copyright

Copyright of all entries is retained by the entrant but entry into YPU Competitions will be taken to signify their willingness to have accepted images shown at the YPU Annual Exhibition, for inclusion in the YPU circulating folios and to represent the YPU in PAGB competitions. Copies will be retained by the Union for such purposes.