

MSCC Competition Rules 2026 - 27

General Rules

1. Entry is open to paid-up members of the club.
2. Entries must be entirely the member's own work that is to say all elements of the image must be created by the member and any image processing must be performed by the member.
3. Entries must be produced by, or under the direction of the member. Images from a workshop or joint activity must be created under the control of the member, not a workshop leader or other contributors.
4. Entries may be influenced by the work of others, but must not intentionally copy them (see para 46).
5. Entries must not include elements created by others such as published, downloaded or public domain images or clip art and must not include computer-generated images of objects (e.g. skies, lightning, scenery).

In a time of developing technology, it is hard to create rules covering every new development but members are asked to minimise the use of aids such as automated software and AI so that images fully represent members own skills and creativity rather than those of software tools or the skills of others captured in them. Software tools that replace or remove an image element or extend an image such as content-aware fill, healing, patching or object removal are only permitted where the reference for the inserted image data is wholly contained within the base image(s). It is the photographer's responsibility to ensure that the tools they use do not draw image content from outside the photographer's own work. **Generative AI uses various algorithms, data and sometimes user prompts to generate new content that is not photographic. Therefore, images or image elements created using Generative AI are not permitted.** Entries must abide by the general WCPF Competition Rules (Extract –General WCPF Competition Rules August 2025) in respect to the use of AI (see Appendix One)

6. By entering images into a competition, the member confirms that they comply with rules 2-8.
7. Entries must originate as photographs i.e., image capture of objects via light sensitivity.
8. Entries may be colour or monochrome (as competition subject requires).
9. Entries must be submitted by the published competition closure date.
10. Members are encouraged to submit entries no more than 2 years old.
11. The same entry may be submitted to not more than two club competitions. A monochrome conversion of a previously submitted entry (unless editing has rendered it as substantially different), will be considered to be the same entry.
12. Any image that has been placed (1-5) in one club competition may not be re-entered into another club competition
13. Print entries:
 - Must be on a 50cm x 40cm mount with a robust backing board
 - Must have the Image Title, entrants Membership Number and the Presentation Sequence Number clearly printed on the back (please note, authors initials will not be accepted as image titles)

- Must be accompanied by a digital copy uploaded to the club's PhotoEntry system
- May be mounted for landscape or portrait viewing but can be presented as a square or panoramic image

Digital entries:

- Must be in the JPEG (.jpg) file format
- Must be sized to a maximum width of 1600 pixels and a maximum height of 1200 pixels
- Must be sized for landscape viewing (i.e., not more than 1200 pixels high)
- Must be uploaded to the club's PhotoEntry system.

14. Should a competition receive too many entries for practical judging in one evening, the number of entries may be reduced using the priorities recorded in PhotoEntry.
15. Competition entries and results may be displayed in club meetings, published on the club website and Facebook page, and displayed to members in recordings of club events and via PhotoEntry. They may continue to be displayed after the entrant's club membership has expired.
16. Competition entries judged likely to cause offence to members will be rejected.

Competitions 1-4

17. The club runs four internal club competitions per year (Competitions 1-4)
18. Each competition night is made up of two competitions; one genre-based competition and one open competition. The open competition will be *either* Print *or* Dpi depending upon the schedule.
19. For these competitions:
 - Up to four images may be submitted per competition in total across digital and print categories **however, members can only enter 2 images into each competition**
 - Entries are externally judged

The judge will award placings from 1st to 5th place and up to 4 Highly Commended. However, in a situation where the number of entries into a competition (print or DPI) fall below 24, at the Judge's discretion, fewer than 3 HC awards may be made. Where the number of entries falls below 14, and at the Judge's discretion, the number of placed and HC awards may be reduced. As a rule of thumb, the aim is to award a place or HC to around a third of the total entry

- Winning images (for clarity, those placed 1-5) will qualify for the overall picture of the year (POTY) competition.

The Titchener Competition

20. For this competition:
 - Up to two images may be submitted per competition; up to four in total across digital and print categories
 - Entries are externally judged
 - The judge will award placings from 1st to 5th place and up to 4 Highly Commended

- Winning images (for clarity, those placed 1- 5) will qualify for the overall picture of the year (POTY) competition.

The Challengers Competition

21. Entry to this DPI competition is restricted to members who have not had an image placed (1st – 5th) in any MSCC competition this club year.
22. For this competition:
 - Up to three digital entries may be submitted
 - Entries are judged by Club Mentors and/or members who are judges
 - Judges will award placings from 1st to 5th place and offer a discretionary number of Highly Commended
 - Winning images (for clarity, those placed 1-5) will qualify for the overall picture of the year (POTY) competition.

The Dawn Pallant Trophy

23. This is a fun battle of the sexes competition to win the Dawn Pallant Trophy.
24. For this competition, there will be a Team Captain for each team who will co-ordinate their respective team entries.
25. There is no restriction on subject matter.
26. The competition is externally judged
27. Judges scores each entry out of 20 and teams are ranked based on their total score
28. Judges will award 1st to 5th places and up to 4 Highly Commended
29. Specific rules apply for the number of entries per member (please see Competition Briefing Sheet)
30. Winning images (for clarity, those placed 1-5) will qualify for the overall picture of the year (POTY) competition.

Picture of the Year Competition

31. This competition is for entries that have been placed in each of the following:
 - Competition 1-4, digital - 1st to 5th place
 - Competition 1-4 print – 1st to 5th place
 - Challengers' competition - 1st to 5th place
 - The Titchener competition (print) 1st to 5th places
 - The Titchener competition (dpi) 1st to 5th places
 - The Dawn Pallant Memorial Trophy 1st to 5th place images.
32. For this competition:
 - Placed entries will automatically be included in this competition (unless the photographer asks for their image to be withdrawn)
 - Entries are externally judged.
33. Awards are made for Best Monochrome Print, Best Colour Print, Best Monochrome Digital, Best Colour Digital and overall Best Picture of the Year.

Photographer of the Year Competition

34. This is based on accumulated points for Competitions 1-4, all members are automatically entered.
35. Points are accumulated from previous competition thus: 1st place – 6 points, 2nd place – 5 points etc. down to Highly Commended gaining 1 point.
36. Awards are made for:

- Most points gained for print entries
- Most points gained for digital entries
- Most points gained overall - Photographer of the Year Trophy.

The 'U B the Judge' Trophy

37. This is an informal competition at the start of the club year for unmounted prints with a paper size of no more than 18cm x 13cm (7" x 5") (6" by 6" Square format). Entries are limited to 5 per member. It is judged by the membership.

The Facebook Competition/s/Challenges

38. Informal competitions and challenges may be organised on the club Facebook page.

External Competitions

Battles

39. These are competitions between camera clubs. Detailed entry requirements will be advised by the Competition Secretaries.

40. There are four battles in the year:

- A one-way battle with Taunton Photography Group
 - 10 print entries and 10 digital entries per club
 - No more than 8 overall of Natural History
 - At least 2 black and white
 - No more than 3 per author overall
 - Scored out of 20
- A three-way battle with Yeovil and Bridgwater Camera Clubs (Sedgemoor)
 - 10 print entries and 10 digital entries per club
 - Scored out of 20
- A two-way battle with Frome Wessex Photographic
 - 15 print entries and 15 digital entries per club
 - No more than 8 overall of Natural History
 - No more than 3 per author overall
 - ≥ 4 authors who are not regular high score in competitions
 - Max 5 nude
 - Scored of 15
- A two-way battle with Chard Camera Club
 - 10 print entries and 15 digital entries per club
 - No more than 9 Natural History (4 Print and no more than 5 DPI)
 - Not more than 5 per author overall
 - Not more than 5 years old
 - Scored of 20

41. For these competitions:

- The Competition Secretaries and member representatives select entries from current and previous competition winners and other candidate entries and submit the club's competition entries
- Entries are judged externally
- Judges scores each entry out of 20 (or 15) and clubs are ranked based on their total score.

Western Counties Photographic Federation (WCPF) and Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) Competitions

42. These are larger inter-club competitions with 50 or more clubs competing. Detailed entry requirements will be advised by the External Competitions Secretary.

43. For these competitions:

- Members are invited to provide candidate entries
- The External Competition Secretary and member representatives select and submit the club's competition entries
- Entries are judged externally
- Judging scores each entry out of 15 and clubs are ranked based on their total score
- WCPF Guide (for guidance as rules are checked prior to each years' submission)
 - DPI
 - Total images per club: 18 digital images
 - Maximum images from one photographer: 4
 - Maximum Nature images: 5
 - Previously entered WCPF DPIC images: Not permitted
 - Photographer can represent more than one club: No
 - Print
 - Total prints per club: 15 prints
 - Minimum number of photographers represented: 5 photographers
 - Minimum colour prints: 5
 - Minimum monochrome prints: 5
 - Maximum Nature prints :4
 - Maximum prints from one photographer: 4
 - Previously entered Inter-Club Print Competition images: Not permitted
- PAGB
 - <https://thepagb.org.uk/events/>
 - Refer to the GB Trophy – prints, and GB Cup – digital events

44. These competitions have their own detailed rules set by the organisers on competition classes, permissible image manipulation, image re-use, environmental protection etc.

More Information

45. The club website includes:

- The latest programme with competition submission and judging dates
- Links to WCPF and PAGB websites
- Guides to performing common competition tasks and using the PhotoEntry system.

46. Club Competition Secretaries are happy to provide advice/guidance on entering competitions.

External Definitions of Competition Subjects

47. Members should note that WCPF and PAGB competitions apply strict rules on the definition of certain competition subjects, specifically Nature and Wildlife (see Appendix 2) Monochrome and Travel. These definitions may be found at www.wcpf.org.uk and www.thepagb.org.uk or via the club website. WCPF general rules <https://www.thewcpf.com/general-competition-rules>

Using Image Ideas from Other People

48. A useful article on the intentional or accidental use of image ideas and elements from other people can be found here <https://christinewiddall.co.uk/musings/plagiarism-photography>

Appendix 1

General WCPF Competition Rules (August 2025)

Any photographer entering a WCPF competition must be a member of a club affiliated to the WCPF.

Images as presented for WCPF competitions and exhibitions must be identifiable (by a well-informed viewer) from unprocessed image(s) taken using a photographic process by the person submitting the image. The organisers of WCPF competitions and exhibitions would expect a photographer submitting an image to have assured themselves that this is the case and to be prepared to demonstrate compliance if requested.

In all cases, the original image(s) must be the sole work of the entrant. All photographic processes and techniques are eligible (subject to any competition-specific rules that may apply) providing that all elements of the picture are the photographer's own work. Any modification of the original image(s) must be made by the photographer or under their personal direction.

The use of clip-art, computer generated elements, downloaded textures, third-party decorative borders, or elements from any other photographer's images are not permitted. Images or image elements generated by any software tool are not permitted. This includes but is not restricted to backgrounds, textures, skies, props and other embellishments. Any creative, shaped or textured brushes must be created by the photographer.

Software tools that replace or remove an image element or extend an image such as fill, healing, patching or object removal are only permitted where the resultant changes can be justified by reference to the base image(s). Due to the wide range of editing software available and the rate of change of their algorithms, there is no list of approved or not approved tools. It is the photographer's responsibility to ensure that the tools they use do not add content that can not be justified using the photographer's own image(s).

Guidance on the use of image creation and processing tools (sometimes labelled as "AI")

Generative AI uses various algorithms, data and sometimes user prompts to generate new content that is not photographic. Therefore, images or specific image elements created using Generative AI are not permitted.

Increasingly image processing software includes tools which use AI / machine-learning for content fill, scene expansion, patching or object removal. Their use needs to be consistent with the General WCPF Competition Rules above.

Image enhancement tools (e.g., AI De-noise, AI Scaling, AI Sharpening) are acceptable, so long as they do not introduce image elements that are not present in the original. In general, the images immediately before and after enhancement should look nearly identical when viewed at full-screen.

The PAGB Compliance Statement on AI (Oct 2023) states that "It is appreciated that the individual photographer may not be fully aware of exactly how individual processing functions act, whether in-camera or in post-processing, however, the PAGB would expect photographers to be aware of when any significant addition has been made to an image which is not part of an original work by the photographer."

Appendix 2

General WCPF Competition Rules (August 2025) Nature Eligibility (PAGB May 2020)

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.

Wildlife Definition

Images entered in Wildlife sections are further defined as one or more extant zoological or botanical organisms free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Landscapes, geologic formations, photographs of zoo or game farm animals, or of any extant zoological or botanical species taken under controlled conditions are not eligible in Wildlife sections. Wildlife is not limited to animals, birds and insects. Marine subjects and botanical subjects (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild are suitable wildlife subjects, as are carcasses of extant species. Wildlife images may be entered in Nature sections.