



Competition Rules 2026 version C

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Part 1 General rules for all competitions

- 1) All images entered in any competition must be based on photographic images which have been taken by the Author. Where work is of a composite nature, all elements must be images taken by the Author. For example, clipart is not permitted nor are graphics from other sources.
- 2) Many competitions permit a wide range of image processing which can include cropping, masking, filtration etc., removing unwanted details and blemishes and the addition of the details of other photographic images taken by the Author. Some categories however are more restrictive in what is permitted. Members should consult the rules for each competition and category of work to ensure their entries comply.
- 3) Whilst competition organisers make every effort to look after members' entries, all entries are submitted at the entrants' risk.
- 4) All entries will be accepted as signifying agreement with all the rules of the Club and these competition rules. Any infringement shall render the entries liable for disqualification.
- 5) Copyright of all entries is retained by the entrant but their entry to club competitions, critiques, or forums will be taken to signify the Author's willingness to have their images uploaded to our website in low resolution, submitted by the club for YPU and Interclub competitions, and other competitions and where accepted for display or projection by the YPU, PAGB, FIAP to be copied and circulated.

Part 2 Club Annual Competition and Exhibition

Annual Exhibition – Competitive Section

- 1) There is no age limit to work submitted but new work is encouraged.
- 2) Prints and projected images that have previously received a Trophy, Certificate or Commendation in the Huddersfield Photo-Imaging Club (HPIC) Annual Exhibition, are not permitted to be entered for subsequent internal Club competitions.
- 3) An image or a derivative of an image already used for one HPIC Annual Exhibition entry cannot be entered again. Also, please note that Authors should not enter in different classes and categories for an HPIC Annual Exhibition, images that are very similar to one another.
- 4) The winners of trophies shall be responsible for their safe custody and timely return in a clean and polished state. Should a Trophy be lost, the entrant will be responsible for the replacement.
- 5) All documentation/entries for the Annual Exhibition shall be submitted no later than the published closing dates. [There is an entry fee of £1.00 for each print or projected image entered.](#)
- 6) Entries will only be accepted from members whose annual subscriptions have been paid.

The Annual Exhibition is the high point of the club's year, and the best work is displayed in a public place for minimum of two weeks.

Entry Classes

In order to ensure members at similar levels of experience compete against each other, the club has three levels: Beginner; Intermediate; and Experienced. The Class you enter into will be pre-determined by the Competition Secretary. It is essential that any intention to move up a class from Beginner or Intermediate level is notified to the Competition Secretary beforehand. Experienced members will automatically be put in the Experienced class.

The classes are defined as follows:

- Beginner

The Beginner class only has an Open category, and this is in projected images only. Open means any subject matter. A Beginners level member is one of less than two years' membership, who has not won a trophy, certificate or commendation in any competition within our club, or any other club or society affiliated to any photographic body. After two years' membership, members will progress to the Intermediate class.

Should a member feel confident, then he or she may progress to Experienced class within a shorter timescale at the discretion of the Competition Secretary. Members cannot move down once they have moved up.

- Intermediate

Intermediate class is for members that have progressed out of the entry class but are not confident enough to progress into the experienced class. Members can stay in this class for up to 5 years or win two Trophies. They can move up a class anytime if they feel confident to do so but this is a once only upwards move. Members cannot move down once they have moved up. This can be changed at the discretion of the Competition Secretary. As with the Beginners class the entry category is Open but there are both print and projected categories.

- Experienced

Experienced class is for members that are confident in their photography. This is a category where members choose what subject matter suits them.

Should any member feel that they do not know what class will suit them they should speak to the Competition Secretary. The Competition Secretary and two co-opted committee members will decide on any dispute on classes of entry.

Entry Software

The club uses PhotoEntry software. This is an online application, which each member will be invited to join.

You will be emailed via the PhotoEntry software in December with login details. Only those members that have entered the previous year will get an automatic invite. The Competition Secretary will be making contact with others individually. If you do not have an invitation, or have issues logging in, please contact the Competition Secretary. hpiccompetition@gmail.com

For more information on PhotoEntry go to:
<https://photoentry.uk/information/welcome.html>

Frequently asked questions appear here: <https://photoentry.uk/faq/faq.html>

It is the members responsibility to ensure they upload their images in a timely manner, once the closing date has been passed late entries cannot be accepted

There are currently 17 categories in the Annual Competition, and these are listed in the table below. It is the responsibility of the Author to submit work in the correct categories. If there is any doubt about which is the correct category for an image, please discuss with the Competition Secretary. The Competition Secretary is empowered to co-opt any two members of the committee to assist in formulating a decision on any annual exhibition entry.

Authors should try, where possible, to keep titles to no more than 30 characters (including spaces) except for images submitted for the Architectural and General

Record and Nature categories, where extra information is sometimes a requirement of the subject.

Category references – Prints	
01	Experienced Print Open colour
02	Experienced Print Open Monochrome
03	Experienced Print Architecture and General Record
04	Experienced Print Portrait, People and Figure Study
05	Experienced Print Nature
06	Experienced Print Scapes
07	Experienced Print Travel
08	Experienced Print Creative
09	Intermediate Print Open
Category References - Digital Projected Images [DPIs]	
10	Experienced DPI Open Colour
11	Experienced DPI Open Monochrome
12	Experienced DPI Sport, Action and Photo- Journalism
13	Experienced DPI Portrait, People and Figure Study
14	Experienced DPI Nature
15	Experienced DPI Scapes
16	Intermediate DPI Open
17	Beginners Level DPI Open

Awards

There are Trophy Awards in each category, and the judge is also able to award Commendations (Highly Commended, Commended) where deemed appropriate. Should only one member enter a category then the trophy will not be awarded.

Certificates are awarded to the individual members for the best 4 projected images and best 4 prints. This is based on the member with the highest total when adding together their 4 highest scoring projected images or 4 highest scoring prints respectively. Should this produce a tie, the one with the most 'twenties' wins. Beginner and Intermediate level work is not considered for these trophies.

Where practical a further competition will be run during the exhibition. The resulting People's Awards for best projected image and best print from all exhibited work will be based on the results of voting slips submitted by members of the public collected. HPIC members or their immediate family will not be permitted to vote.

Numbers of entries and how they should be submitted

Experienced class

Each member can submit up to 6 prints, with the maximum of 3 in any category. Images can be monochrome or colour except in the monochrome print category.

Each member can submit up to 4 DPIs. with maximum of 2 in any category. Images can be monochrome or colour.

Intermediate class

Each member can submit up to 6 prints and images can be monochrome or colour.

Each member can submit up to 5 DPIs. Images can be monochrome or colour.

Beginners class

Each member can submit up to 8 DPIs. Images can be monochrome or colour.

Prints

Prints entries are to be mounted to a size of 500 x 400mm including mount.

You must use the standard print label available as a separate download. Please ensure that the title you put on your prints is the same as the one you input in the PhotoEntry system. Changes in the titles can only be made up to the closing date of the competition.

Official labels giving the Author's name, Category and Title must be used and fixed in the top left-hand corner of the mount when viewed from the reverse side. Plastic tape or similar must not be used on the reverse of the mount as this can damage the print below when stacked.

Entries in the Print category should also be accompanied with an identical digital image file names using the same format as the Digital Projected Image Class. The intention is to use these images during the judge's preview and Exhibition preview evening and in our Exhibition review AV. They may also be used by the club later for competition use.

Digital Projected Images [DPIs]

Projected images are to be to the maximum dimensions' of **1600 pixels horizontal by 1200 pixels** high, saved as a minimum compression good quality Jpeg file using **sRGB colour space**. If presented in portrait format the maximum height must not exceed **1200 pixels**. Submissions must be uploaded by the competition software.

There is no standard method of naming, but you are advised to label your file with the image title. The software tags your image to your entry so Author's initials should not be included.

Notes on post-processing

It is normal practice in club photography for images from the camera to have some post-processing before they are submitted for a competition. This is particularly the case where a RAW file format has been used.

Computer manipulated images are permitted in all categories **except:** Architecture and General Record; Nature; Scapes and Travel.

Images that are wholly or partially Computer generated are not acceptable in any category.

Whilst it is acceptable and indeed normal practice for current software to use AI for masking and selecting specific areas/ subjects of local adjustments, the use of generative AI removal/replacement of sections of the image is not permitted this also includes the use of generative expand AI. This re-enforces the rule that the image must be wholly the authors own work

Post-processing of images in the **Architectural and Record; Nature; Scapes; and Travel** categories should be limited to the techniques referred to under each category description below.

Photographic Categories

Open Colour

This is a category which does not limit the subject matter.

Open Monochrome

This is a category which does not limit the subject matter. However, all entries must comply with the following definition of monochrome:

"A black and white work going from very dark grey (black) to very clear grey (white) is a monochrome work with the various shades of grey. A black and white work toned entirely in a single colour will remain a monochrome work able to stand in the black and white (monochrome) category.

On the other hand, a black and white work modified by partial toning or by the addition of one colour, becomes a colour work (polychrome) to stand in the colour category."

Sport, Action, and Photo-journalism

1. Sport

This covers any image depicting a sporting event.

Action

Action shots do not need to depict a sporting event but should depict movement. Examples may include Dance; Ballet; Carnival; Music band(s); Street performer(s), etc.

Photojournalism

Photojournalism shots should depict a newsworthy item, tell a story or document an event in a way which you might see published. The title may be important to explain the context.

Architecture and General Record

The intention of this category is to portray a pure and accurate record of the subject, therefore distorting lenses such as fish eye are not acceptable. Images of any building or part of a building, ancient or modern and/or allied objects or furnishings belonging to or associated with the subject. This category also includes archaeological or other objects, e.g.: motor vehicles, ceramics.

Post-processing should be confined to contrast and colour corrections, cropping/resizing and cleaning up the image where necessary.

Portrait, People, and Figure Studies

As well as portrayal of an individual, this includes groups of figures and animal portraits.

Nature

Nature photography depicts living, untamed animals and uncultivated plants in a nature habitat, geology and the wide diversity of natural phenomena.

Photographs of animals which are domesticated and photographs of cultivated or hybrid plants are ineligible.

Minimal evidence of humans is acceptable for nature subjects, such as barn owls or storks adapting to an environment modified by humans, or natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves, reclaiming it. Any manipulation, modification is limited to minor retouching, HDR, focus stacking, dodging and burning and must not alter the truth of the original scene.

Notes associated with this definition:

Nature photographers frequently take pictures of animals under “controlled conditions” in order to record species behaviour that would be very difficult or impossible to record in the wild. This might even include microscopic subjects, which have to be anaesthetized. Such photographs are eligible for entry to this category.

Animals in reserves and wildlife parks and zoos, are permitted provided there is minimal evidence of humans. So too are “falconer’s” birds although, only minor retouching is permitted which would not, for example, include removing jesses in post processing. Also permitted are pictures of “wild” flowers growing in parkland or “wild” gardens provided these have not been modified by such cultivation.

A factor to consider is that creatures showing poorer conditions because of their captivity are likely to be marked less favourably by nature judges.

Manipulation of images in this category should be limited to contrast and colour corrections, cropping/re-sizing and cleaning up the image where necessary. This includes the removal of distractions in the image providing it has no impact on the main subject.

Scapes

Scapes may include any vista depicting our physical environment - land, sea, urban, rural. People and animals may be included in the scene as long as they are ancillary to and or supportive of the main subject. Entries to this category are required to be from a 'single image or burst of images'. This means the entered image should be from a single exposure, or from multiple exposures taken at the same time and merged to work round camera limitations. Specifically, HDR, focus stacking, and stitched panorama techniques are allowed including infrared. In-camera multiple exposures are also allowed. The integrity of the subject must be maintained and the making of major physical changes to the landscape is not permitted. You may not, for example, move trees or import the sky from another image.

Travel

A photo travel image expresses the characteristic features or culture of a land as they are observed. 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.

Creative

Images for this category are often highly manipulated and may contain elements from several images. Entrants are encouraged to take full advantage of the creative

capabilities of computer software and combine it with their own imagination and artistic temperament, to produce a final image which stimulates the imagination of the viewer. The image may be of any subject matter and must obviously 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 if the original photographic content predominates. Images may not be constructed entirely within a computer.

Annual Exhibition – Non-competitive section – Member’s Panel

In addition to the Annual Competition, an Experienced or Intermediate member may submit a further 4 prints as a Member’s Panel in the non-competitive section. The details should still be entered in the PhotoEntry system but using the code AP.

The intention is to display a number of panels to expand the range of our Exhibition. Each print in a panel, should be linked together by style or subject matter and/or depict a point of view or conceptual idea. Work has to be newly created and not composed of prints entered in the competitive section of the exhibition, nor prints already shown in previous exhibitions/competitions. There is an entry fee of £1.00 per print exhibited.

A panel may comprise up to a maximum of four 500x400mm mounted prints

Please note that space is also limited and that space is allocated on a first come first served basis. Members are strongly advised to upload their images to the PhotoEntry Software as early as possible, and acceptance will be taken by date of upload onto the software.

A short piece of descriptive text to explain the reason for producing the particular piece of work can also be submitted to the Competition Secretary if required (although if preferred a title will suffice). Please keep the text brief. It will be typeset for the Author.

Canvas mounted prints are acceptable in the Member’s Panel so long as they fit into the allotted wall area. In this case it is the responsibility of the contributors to affix mirror plate fixings to their entries. These must be facing outwards to facilitate screwing to the wall. If you intend to enter Canvas mounted prints, please notify the Competition Secretary as soon as possible once the Competition is open to entries

Annual Exhibition – Sale of Prints

When the exhibition is in Huddersfield Art Gallery prints can be made available for sale.

Details may be exchanged between the author and potential purchaser to negotiate the price and collection,

PART 3 – External Competitions

General

See the schedules in Part 4 for a matrix giving the numbers, categories and other details of all current competitions and critiques.

YPU Annual Exhibition

Print and projected images entries are submitted by the club on behalf of members in Feb/March in DPI and Print form. A full list covering all the categories will be published in Dec/Jan each year, once the YPU have issued the rules for the next year.

All entries into the YPU Exhibition software are made via PhotoEntry software. Entrants should read the rules carefully to ensure compliance.

Please ensure that print entries for the YPU conform with the 500mm x 400mm dimensions to within ± 2 mm. In order to assist with framing for exhibitions, the maximum thickness of mounts is to be 4mm.

Digital images are to be to the maximum dimensions' of 1600 pixels horizontal by 1200 pixels high saved as a minimum compression good quality Jpeg file and to sRGB colour space.

Multi-club battles

Our Club Battles currently involve:

1	The Interclub: a digital competition between us and 10/12 other clubs in Yorkshire and is held in four rounds from October to April.
2	Three-way battle: Digital competition between HPIC, Holmfirth and Halifax.
3	Batley Battle- Print and digital competition.
4	Sheffield Knock out—This is a knockout competition, and images are removed every round during approx. 6-8 rounds and approx. 30 clubs currently take part.

Selection

The selection for all external competitions is carried out by a selection committee. The committee is made up from experienced members of the club plus a number of volunteers who have put their name forward to the Competition Secretary. Each competition has different members taking part depending on the competition.

Part 4- Schedule of Exhibition and Competitions

Please refer to Schedule already sent out to club members.

Part 5 – Print labels

Example – the actual label is downloadable for the web site

HUDDERSFIELD PHOTO-IMAGING CLUB ANNUAL EXHIBITION 2023

Author

Category

Title

Entry No.	Score	Gallery No.
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Glossary

This glossary is aimed at clarifying some of the above rules, some of the definitions are taken from both the YPU and PAGB rules to ensure we conform to them.

Some parts may duplicate some of the section rules above.

- **Computer Manipulate Images**

Shall be permitted in all categories (**Nature, Record and Travel Categories must conform to the general rules as stated in the guidance for these 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 Clipart, internet copyright free images or graphics from any other sources is not permitted

- **Computer Generated/AI elements**

Images generated *solely* via AI are not permitted. All images or parts of images must be based on Photographic Images taken by the author

- **AI for masking**

It is accepted that many tools use AI as a method of selecting areas of an image to process. This includes such things as subject detection, landscape and sky selection,

- **Generative AI**

A feature called **Generative Remove**, which uses Adobe Firefly to intelligently remove unwanted objects from photos by filling the space with generated content. This uses stock images which are generally of a lower resolution than the original the fill in the removed sections, as this is not the authors own work it is not acceptable in competition images.

Also adding to the original image using Generative fill is not accepted in competitions.

- **Generative expand AI**

A feature in Photoshop that uses AI to extend an image beyond its original borders, creating new content that seamlessly blends with the existing image, again this uses stock or adobe generated images to the image and as such is not acceptable in competitions

- Cleaning up the image (architecture)

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.

- Minor retouching (nature)

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.

Nature excludes:

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

- Removal of distractions (nature) – example

The removal of branches etc which may overlap the main subject, the removal of out of focus objects which may be in the background and take the viewers eye away from the main subject of the image