

# Surrey Photographic Association

## *Inter-Club Open & Nature Print Championship Rules*

1. The competition is open to all member clubs of the Surrey Photographic Association (SPA). Photographers must be current bona fide members of the SPA clubs entering their images at the date of the competition entry.
2. There will be two categories – **Open** and **Nature**. Clubs may enter either or both. Nature images may **only** be entered in the Nature category.

**NB: See Appendix 1 for Nature definition**

3. An entry in the **Open** category will comprise of 16 prints of which a minimum of 4 images must be monochrome. A minimum of 8 photographers is required with a maximum of 2 images per photographer, with a relaxation of this rule for clubs that declare fewer than 20 print workers.

**NB: See Appendix 2 for Monochrome definition**

**NB: See Appendix 3 for number of active workers in clubs**

4. An entry in the **Nature** category will comprise of 8 prints. Entries in this category must contain images from at least 3 photographers, with not more than 3 images from any one photographer. Titles **must** be factual and the subject identified; Latin names are not required. Judges will be instructed to mark down images which use inappropriately humorous, twee, informal or sentimental titles.
5. PDI images of all prints, separated into the two categories, must be uploaded through the online entry system not less than 14 days prior to the competition. These will be projected during the competition for the benefit of those attending but will not be seen by the judges.

**NB. Club competition contacts will be notified of upload procedures**

6. PDI images must be sized to fit within an area 1600 pixels wide and 1200 pixels high. Images will be projected at the dimensions supplied and smaller images will not be resized. Titles and name of photographer or club must not appear within the image area.
7. Image files must be in the sRGB colour space and in .jpg format.

8. Image files must be named as follows:  
Club short name\_Image Number\_Photographer's full name incl. Distinctions\_Image Title.jpg

**EXAMPLE:**

Capel\_01\_John Bloggs ARPS CPAGB\_Deadwood Tree.jpg

*Note that underscores are used as separators and spaces are permitted*

**NB. See Appendix 4 for short form club names**

9. A single ZIP file, containing PDI files of all entries (which must also comply with Rules 6, 7 & 8) must be uploaded via the following link:  
<http://surreypa.org.uk/machform/view.php?id=20223>
10. Entries must be received by midnight not less than 14 days prior to the competition. Please see **Appendix 5** for ZIP file submission instructions.  
**Note:** Any entries received after the closing date may be rejected.

11. Images entered must be entirely the work of the photographer. Composite or Montage images are permitted in the **Open** category, provided all component elements meet this requirement. Entrants must own the copyright of all parts of all images used in any submitted entry. The SPA assumes no liability for misuse of copyright. For the avoidance of

doubt, use of images from any other source including, but not limited to, royalty-free image banks and clipart is not permitted.

12. Once an image has been used to represent one club in an SPA Inter-club competition, it shall not be permitted to represent a different club in another SPA Inter-club competition. Rule 14 also applies. Small clubs may use a maximum of two images previously submitted in a previous SPA competition.
13. An image which is sufficiently similar to another previously entered into this event by the same Club may be ruled ineligible as being effectively the same image. Monochrome and colour versions from one original are likely to be considered the same image, unless the artistic treatment is significantly different. Similarity may also arise where elements are repeated in different composite images. Photographers and clubs should be aware of the similarity issue, even if two entries have previously been given different titles.
14. Any image entered in any SPA event may not subsequently have its title changed.
15. Images used in previous PAGB Inter-Club competitions may not be used in this event.
16. A photographer who belongs to more than one club may only permit their images to be entered in an SPA Inter-club Championship event with one club in any one year (1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December). It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that any photographer whose images are chosen by a club is not also representing another club or has represented another club within that year. It is also the responsibility of every club and every individual to keep a record of all images entered in SPA events.
17. A single entry may consist of more than one print on the same mount provided it conforms to the size limits. Please note the following print stipulations:
  - Each print may be of any size but must be mounted on lightweight mountboard of size 500 x 400mm. The tolerance on mount size is +/-2mm and the mount must not exceed 4mm thickness.
  - The print must be securely fastened to the mount and the mount must not carry any fixings or other material likely to damage other prints when stacked. 500 x 400mm foamboard at a thickness of 3mm can also be used.
  - The use of cheap tape, including decorators' masking tape, to fix a print to its mount is prohibited as this product is not of sufficient durability.
  - Any prints and mounts which fall apart during the ~~competition~~ selection process as a result of the use of inadequate or ineffective mounting products will not be put forward for selectionPrints not adhering to these stipulations will be disqualified.
18. **Each print must have a label on the reverse, clearly legible in capitals or typed, with the following information: SPA Inter-club Print Competition (year), photographer's name, email address and telephone number, club name and image title. No identifying information may appear on the front surface.**
19. Prints must be delivered to the designated print sorting room at least 45 minutes before the advertised start of the competition. These **must** be pre-sorted into piles, face-down, with the print assigned Number 16 (under Rule 8) on the top, Print Number 15 second, etc with the Print Numbered 1 placed face-up at the bottom
20. Whilst every care will be taken of submitted work, the SPA cannot be held responsible for loss or damage, misuse or non-entry of any print used for a competition, no matter how this loss or damage may occur.
21. Judging will be by a panel of 3 judges using scoring machines and each judge will award between 2 and 5 points per image – a maximum score of 15.
22. A random selection of images will be shown at the beginning of the competition so that the judges can be aware of the typical standard of entries.

23. Each image will then be displayed and the title read out. Once all three judges have scored, the total score for the image will be declared and the next image displayed.
24. For the benefit of the audience, PDIs of the print entries will be projected as the respective prints are judged but these will not be visible to the judges.
25. The images will be displayed and judged interleaved with those from other clubs and not as club panels. They will be shown in the order of the assigned image numbers as outlined in Rule 8.
26. The winning club will be the club scoring the highest aggregate number of points. In the event of a tie, the winner will be decided by the highest number of high scoring images at each level - 15s, then 14s and so on until the winner is determined.
27. The runner-up will be the club with the second highest aggregate score, any tie to be determined in the same way as for the winner.
28. The judges will select the best image from the highest scoring images. Should there be only one image scoring the highest mark, those images receiving one fewer mark will also be considered.
29. The judges will review all images scoring at least one 5 and will select one image each to receive an SPA Judge's medal in each category.
30. The winning club in the Open category will receive the Surrey Comet Shield and in the Nature category, the Best Nature Print trophy will be presented.
31. The winning and runner-up clubs in the **Open** category will be invited to represent the SPA at the PAGB Inter-club Print Championship the following year.
32. Any submitted image may be used by the SPA for any SPA-related publicity or judges' training. The photographer of each image will normally be credited with any use.
33. By agreeing to the submission of an image in an SPA competition, the photographer consents to retention by the SPA, and if selected for the SPA Inter-Federation entry, the PAGB, of information identifying the photographer as the creator of an image, as if the photographer had entered in person. If the photographer is not eligible or does not wish their image to be considered for an Inter-Federation entry, the club must notify the SPA ahead of the competition.

**Note:** The SPA reviews entries for selection for the PAGB Inter-Federation competitions and will circulate a list of provisionally selected images to Clubs. Clubs must respond as follows:

  - to confirm the photographer has been contacted to check eligibility
  - to withdraw any image too similar to another image that has been used previously by the SPA for this purpose (See Rule 15)
  - if the member belongs to two clubs in two Federations, to confirm whether the SPA is their chosen Federation for the current year.
34. The decision of the SPA Committee on any matter is final. Submission of entries implies acceptance of these rules.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Definition for Nature (SPA ONLY)**

**Note that images already meeting the separate FIAP Definition of Nature will satisfy this less restrictive definition.**

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation.

The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality.

Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible. Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

Processing of the captured image, by cropping, exposure adjustment, colour correction, noise minimisation, dodging/burning, HDR, focus stacking and sharpening, is allowed.

Cloning of image defects and minor distractions are permitted when these do not distort the truth of the photographic statement.

Images entered as Nature can have landscape, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant organisms as the primary subject matter. This includes images taken with the subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food.

Access to biological subjects may be restricted. By entering a PAGB event, Photographers warrant that they have followed relevant codes of practices and hold any necessary licences.

### **Guidance**

Guidance on implementation and interpretation of the PAGB Definition of Nature is available separately, and may be read in conjunction with this Definition.

What **IS** allowed:

- Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots or digital noise.
- Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without altering the content of the original scene, including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning.
- Colour images converted to greyscale monochrome.
- Natural history subjects including wild animals, birds, insects, marine and botanical (including fungi and algae).
- Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals (and if present must not be removed).
- Images of natural history subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are dependent on man for food.
- Factual titles that describe the subject.

What **IS NOT** allowed:

- Any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.
- Stitched images.
- Infrared images.
- Anthropology or archaeology.
- Human elements except if an integral part of the nature story (e.g. barn owls adapted to a human environment).
- Images of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral or domestic animals, or mounted specimens.
- Inappropriately humorous, twee, informal or sentimental titles.

***Please note that the SPA Biennial Exhibition does not have a separate Wildlife category and such images should be submitted in the Nature Category.***

## Appendix 2

### **FIAP Definition of Monochrome used in SPA Competitions**

A black and white work fitting from the very dark grey (black) to the 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 category; such a work can be reproduced in black and white in the catalogue of a salon under FIAP Patronage. On the other hand a black and white work modified by a partial toning or by the addition of one colour becomes a colour work (polychrome) to stand in the colour category; such a work requires colour reproduction in the catalogue of a salon under FIAP Patronage.

## Appendix 3

### **Number of active workers in clubs**

The SPA acknowledges that membership of any club does not necessarily recognise the number of active workers in any one photographic genre – colour or monochrome prints. Clubs are therefore asked to declare a realistic indication of the number of active workers entering prints or PDIs in club competitions.

The SPA has accepted these declarations in good faith and, for the Print Championships, offers a concession to Rule 3 regarding the maximum number of images per photographer as follows:

***Where a club declares fewer than 20 Print workers, the maximum number of images per photographer shall be as follows:***

***Fewer than 20 Print workers but more than 10 – 3 images per photographer.***

***10 workers or fewer – 4 images per photographer.***

## Appendix 4

### **Club short name**

|                |            |              |              |            |
|----------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Adur           | Ashford    | BBC          | Bookham      | Brighton   |
| Camping        | Capel      | Carshalton   | Cheam        | Chertsey   |
| Cranleigh      | Crawley    | Crawley Down | Croydon      | Dorking    |
| East Grinstead | Epsom      | Godalming    | Guildford    | Hampstead  |
| Hampton        | Henfield   | Horley       | Horsham      | Kingston   |
| Laleham        | Lewes      | Ludshott     | Malden       | Mid Sussex |
| Middleton      | Mid Thames | Mitcham      | Molesey      | Natural    |
| Old Coulsdon   | Pagham     | Photocraft   | Reigate      | Richmond   |
| Rottingdean    | Southwick  | Tandridge    | United Photo | Whitton    |
| Windlesham     | Woking     | Yateley      |              |            |

## Appendix 5

### **Preparation of Entry Files by Competition Organiser**

1. Prepare two folders on your computer for your entry
2. Name these folders '**clubshortnamecategory**' eg. capelopen, capelnature
3. Place all your image files, correctly named as per Rule 8, in the relevant folders. No individual file should exceed 4mb
4. Compress (ZIP) these folders so that you have two .zip files named '**clubshortnamecategory.zip**'
5. Check that the zip files are correct by uncompressing and checking that all files are present

6. Once you are happy that the zip files are correct, click on the following link:  
<http://surreypa.org.uk/machform/view.php?id=20932>
7. You will receive an on-screen message, confirming that your upload has been successful and you will also receive an email confirmation

If you experience any difficulties, please contact us on [competitions@surreypa.org.uk](mailto:competitions@surreypa.org.uk)