

Surrey Photographic Association

Inter-Club Open & Nature Print Championship Rules for 2024

1. The competition is open to all member clubs/societies of the Surrey Photographic Association (SPA). Photographers must be current bona fide members of the SPA clubs/societies entering their images at the date of the competition entry.
2. Images may **not** have been entered into **any** previous SPA Inter-club Championship.
3. There will be two categories – **Open** and **Nature**. Clubs may enter either or both. Nature and Nature-type images may **only** be entered in the Nature category. Any Nature or Nature-type image entered in the Open category will be disqualified. All composites must be entered in the Open category. A review for eligibility will be carried out in advance of the competition and clubs/societies notified of any issues.

NB: See Appendix 1 for Open definition

NB. See Appendix 2 for Nature definition

4. An entry in the **Open** category will comprise 16 prints of which a minimum of 4 images must be Monochrome. A minimum of 10 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 3 for Monochrome definition

NB: See Appendix 4 for number of active workers in clubs/societies

5. An entry in the **Nature** category will comprise 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.
6. All entries must be titled; 'No Title' or 'Untitled' is not an acceptable title and any such image will be disqualified.
7. **No amendments/changes/replacements to an entry will be allowed less than 7 days prior to the date of the competition.**
8. PDI images of all entries 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/society must not appear within the image area.
9. Image files must be in the sRGB colour space and in .jpg format.

10. 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

Note: Please ensure that this naming convention is adhered to precisely otherwise the competition will not run successfully.

NB. See Appendix 5 for short form club names

11. ZIP files, containing PDIs of Open Category entries and Nature Category entries (where appropriate) (which must also comply with Rules 8, 9 and 10) must be uploaded via the following link: <https://www.surreypa.org.uk/machform/view.php?id=38014>

12. PDI images of all prints, separated into the two categories, must be uploaded through the online entry system **not less than 21 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.
Note: Any entries received after the closing date may be rejected.

NB. See Appendix 6 for ZIP file submission instructions.

13. Images entered must be entirely the work of the photographer. Composite or Montage images are permitted in the **Colour, Monochrome** and **Open** categories, 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, the following are not allowed: use of images from any other source including, but not limited to, generative AI, picture elements available within editing software (eg. replacement skies), royalty-free images, and clipart. The SPA reserves the right to request the original file(s) for any image entered.

Note: AI used within post-processing software is acceptable. Generative AI that within post-processing software or sourced by other means uses pixels which do not originate from the photographer's image, may not be used in any way, including, but not limited to, replacing elements or introducing content in an extended canvas.

14. Once an image has been used to represent one club in an SPA Inter-club Championship, it shall not be permitted to represent a different club in another SPA Inter-club Championship. Rule 16 also applies.
15. An image which is sufficiently similar to another previously entered into this event by the same club/society, or another club/society, 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/societies should be aware of the similarity issue, even if two entries have been given different titles.
16. Any image entered in any SPA event may not subsequently have its title changed.
17. A photographer who belongs to more than one club/society may only permit their images to be entered in an SPA Inter-club Championship event with one club in any one year (1st January to 31st December). Clubs/societies **must** inform their members that they intend to use their images. It is the responsibility of the club/society to ensure that any photographer whose images are chosen by a club/society is not also representing another club/society or has represented another club/society within that year. It is also the responsibility of every club/society to keep a record of all images entered in SPA events. It is recommended that clubs/societies advise their members to do the same.
18. 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. 500 x 400mm foamboard at a thickness of 3mm can also be used.
 - 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.
 - 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.**Prints not adhering to these stipulations will be disqualified.**
 - Any prints and mounts which fall apart during the preparation for judging process because of the use of inadequate or ineffective mounting products will not be put forward.

19. **Each mounted print must show on the reverse, clearly legible in capitals or typed, the following information: Image Title, Photographer's Name, SPA Inter-club Print Competition (year) and relevant Club/Society name.** No identifying information may appear on the front surface.
Prints not adhering to these stipulations may be disqualified.
20. Prints should 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 10) on the top, Print Number 15 second, etc with the Print Numbered 1 placed face-up at the bottom.
21. On arrival, each club representative will be provided with a set of customized labels which must be attached to the **bottom right hand corner** of their prints.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. The images will be displayed and judged interleaved with those from other clubs/societies and not as club/society panels. They will be shown in the order of the assigned image numbers as outlined in Rule 10.
27. The winning club/society will be the club/society 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.
28. The runner-up will be the club/society with the second highest aggregate score, any tie to be determined in the same way as for the winner.
29. 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.
30. 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.
31. The winning club/society in the Open category will receive the Surrey Comet Shield and in the Nature category, the Best Nature Print trophy will be presented.
32. The winning and runner-up clubs/societies in the **Open** category will be invited to represent the SPA at the PAGB Inter-club Print Championship the following year.
33. 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.
34. The PDI of 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.
35. 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/societies. Clubs/societies 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 or by a **previous Federation of the photographer** for this purpose (See Rules 15 - 17)
- if the member belongs to two clubs in two Federations, to confirm whether the SPA is their chosen Federation for the current year.

36. The images being submitted must neither infringe copyrights, trademarks, contract rights or any other intellectual property rights of any third person or entity, nor violate the rights of privacy or publicity of any person.
37. The SPA reserves the right to seek financial compensation from any club or club member that causes the federation to suffer a financial loss as a consequence of copyright infringement or other fraudulent activity. This can include use of an image by a club or by an individual club member for which the individual does not hold the copyright.
38. The decision of the SPA Committee on any matter is final. Submission of entries implies acceptance of these rules.

Appendix 1

Explanation of Open Category

All genres and styles of photography **except Nature** are permitted. **If it looks like Nature, it must be entered in the Nature category.**

Guidelines on avoiding Nature-type images in the Open Category

What **IS** acceptable:

- A creative interpretation of a nature subject which alters the truth of the image such that it would not be permitted in the Nature category.
- Landscape images may include flora or fauna where they are **not** the main subject of the image (eg. a meadow of flowers within the landscape **is** permitted).

What **IS NOT** acceptable:

- Images which appear to fit the Nature category, even if they have been processed outside the Nature requirements (**see Appendix 2**)
- Landscape images where flora or fauna is the main subject of the image (eg. a prominent flower as a main subject in the foreground with an out-of-focus landscape background is **not** permitted).

Appendix 2: Definition for Nature (SPA ONLY)

Note: Images meeting the FIAP Definition of Nature will satisfy this less restrictive definition; images meeting this definition will satisfy the PAGB Nature definition. If it looks like Nature, it must be entered in the Nature category.

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 reserves, wildlife centres, wild flora in botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food.

'The Welfare of the subject is more important than the photograph.' Where access to biological subjects is restricted, photographers warrant that they have followed relevant codes of practice and hold any necessary licences.

PLEASE NOTE: Titles **must** be factual and the subject identified.

What **IS** acceptable:

- 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 reserves, wildlife centres, wild flora in botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food.
- Factual titles identifying the subject **are required**.

What **IS NOT** acceptable:

- 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; livestock or poultry; or mounted specimens.
- Inappropriately humorous, twee, informal or sentimental titles.

Appendix 3

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 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 4

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 5

Club short name

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

Appendix 6

Preparation of Entry Files by Competition Organiser

1. Create two folders on your computer for your club entry
2. Name these folders 'clubshortnamecategory' eg. capelopen, capelnature (see Appendix 5)
3. Place all your image files, correctly named as per Rule 10, in the relevant folders: 16 images for Open and 8 images for Nature. No individual file should exceed 4mb
4. Compress (ZIP) these folders so that you have two .zip files named: 'clubshortnamecategory.zip'. Maximum ZIP file is 60mb
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: <https://www.surreypa.org.uk/machform/view.php?id=38014>, follow the instructions and upload your .zip files
7. **Before submitting your club entry, please ensure that the correct and correctly titled images are being uploaded.**
8. You will receive an on-screen message, confirming that your upload has been successful, and you will also receive an automated email confirmation. Should you not receive a confirmation email, please email competitions@surreypa.org.uk without delay

If you experience any difficulties, please email competitions@surreypa.org.uk