

Surrey Photographic Association

INDIVIDUAL PRINT & PDI COMPETITION – RULES FOR 2026

All entries must conform with the SPA's General Conditions for SPA Events.

The competition is open to all eligible members of the Surrey Photographic Association (SPA) clubs

1. Entries

Entrants **must** be present on the day. If anyone who has entered is unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances, they must email competitions@surreypa.org.uk by midday on the day of the event and these entries will be disqualified.

- Images must not have been entered in a previous SPA Inter-Club Print or PDI Championship, or a previous Individual Competition. They may still go on to be selected by a club/society for a future SPA Inter-Club Championship.
- You may enter **up to two images** in any or all of four categories: Open Print, Nature Print, Open PDI, Nature PDI.

Please ensure you read and comply with 'Open' and 'Nature' definitions in the [General Conditions for SPA Events](#).

- **Every entry must have a title.** 'No Title' or 'Untitled' is not permitted
- For Nature categories, titles must be **factual** and should identify the subject (Latin names are not required). Judges will be instructed to mark down images with humorous, twee, informal or sentimental titles.

2. Deadlines

- **Entry deadline:** all entries must be submitted by midnight on **Saturday 03 October 2026**.
- **Amendment deadline:** no changes, replacements or amendments to an entry are allowed within **14 days** of the competition date.

3. PDI Image Specifications

PDI images of all PDIs and prints, separated into the relevant categories, must be uploaded through the online entry system by midnight on **Saturday 03 October 2026**.

- Size images to fit within **1600 × 1200 pixels**. Images are projected at the size supplied - smaller images will not be resized up.
- Use the **sRGB** colour space and **.jpg** format.
- The **maximum permitted file size is 4MB**.
- This applies to the digital version of **every** entry, including prints.

Print PDIs are projected for the audience during the competition but are not seen by the judges.

4. Print Requirements

Mounting

- A single entry may include more than one print on the same mount, provided it stays within the size limit.
- Mount each print on lightweight mountboard, **500 × 400mm** (tolerance ±2mm), no more than **4mm** thick. 500 × 400mm foamboard at 3mm thick is also acceptable. The print itself may be any size that fits the mount.
- Fasten the print securely to the mount. The mount must carry no fixings or materials that could damage other prints when stacked.
- Do not use cheap tape, including decorators' masking tape — it isn't durable enough.
- **Prints that don't meet these mounting requirements will be disqualified, and any that fall apart during judging preparation due to inadequate mounting will be withdrawn.**

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Labelling

- On the **back** of each print, clearly show (written in capitals or typed): **Image Title, Your Name, 'SPA Individual Print & PDI Competition 2026', and your club/society name.**
- No identifying information may appear on the front of the print.
- **Prints not meeting these requirements may be disqualified.**

5. File Naming (specific to each event)

Name each image file **exactly** as follows:

categorycode_clubshortname_photographer's full name incl. distinctions_image title.jpg

Example: **printo_Capel_John Bloggs ARPS CPAGB_Deadwood Tree.jpg**

- Use underscores to separate each part; spaces are permitted as above.
- **Please ensure that this naming convention is adhered to precisely otherwise the competition will not run successfully.**

Category codes:

printo (Open Print), **printn** (Nature Print), **pdio** (Open PDI), **pdin** (Nature PDI).

Club Short Names:

Bookham	CrawleyDown	Henfield	Natural	TheCamera
Brighton	Croydon	Horsham	OldCoulsdon	UnitedPhoto
Camping	Dorking	Kingston	Pagham	Wallington
Capel	EastGrinstead	Lewes	Wallington	Whitton
Carshalton	Epsom	Ludshott	Reigate	Windlesham
Cheam	Godalming	Malden	Richmond	Woking
Chertsey	Guildford	MidSussex	Southwick	Yateley
Cranleigh	Hampstead	Mitcham	Steyning	
Crawley	Hampton	Molesey	Tandridge	

6. Preparing Your Entry Files

Follow these steps to prepare and upload your entry:

- Create a folder named clubshortname_your full name — e.g. capel_joe bloggs.
- Place your correctly named image files (as detailed above) into this folder.
- Compress this folder into a ZIP file.
- Go to <https://www.surreypa.org.uk/machform/view.php?id=43255>, click 'Browse' to attach your ZIP file, complete the spam-protection question, and click 'Submit'.
- **Before you press 'Submit', double-check you're uploading the correct images.**

Once submitted, you'll see an on-screen confirmation and receive a confirmation email.

If you don't receive a confirmation email, or run into any problems, email competitions@surreypa.org.uk.

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7. On the Day

- Deliver prints to the designated print sorting room by 13:00.
- When delivering prints, each individual will be provided with customized labels which must be attached as close as possible to the bottom right-hand corner of their prints.
- The three Judges will have been selected from the SPA panel of judges and may not enter the competition. Using a scoring machine, each judge will award between 2 and 5 points per image – so a maximum score of 15.
- 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. 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.
- For the benefit of the audience, PDIs of the print entries will be projected as the respective prints are scored but these will not be visible to the judges. The images will be displayed and judged interleaved with those from other entrants.
- The judges will select the best image from the highest scoring images in each category. Should there be only one image scoring the highest mark, those images receiving one fewer mark will also be considered. The winner of each category will receive an SPA Individual Winner's medal. The judges will then review all images scoring at least one 5 and will select one image each to receive an SPA Judge's medal in each category.