



# The Northern Counties Photographic Federation

## The NCPF Annual Competitions 2026

### RULES

#### Event - Introduction

The NCPF Annual Competitions are the main competitive event organised by the Federation. They are held each year, usually over a weekend in mid/late April. This year the dates are Saturday/Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> April. All NCPF member clubs are cordially invited to enter.

Though there is an element of club competitions, the Annual Competitions are basically for individual NCPF club photographers, where awards and certificates may be awarded for i.e., the best images in specific categories, NCPF Alliance selections or the NCPF Portfolio. NCPF Alliance selections are entered into the PAGB Inter-Federation competition.

Judging of the Annual Competitions is a closed event, not open to general viewing, though clubs are very welcome to propose helpers to attend. An e-mail invitation with entry details showing dates/times/judges is included in this Entry Pack. Please read the rules and entry guidance requirements carefully.

**There are NO Entry forms.** Instead, photographic work shall be identified by use of each unique file name. See separate document Guidance for Club Competition Secretaries on how to enter.

#### 1. Competitions

There are five separate competitions:

##### The Open Competitions:

- Colour Prints.
- Monochrome Prints.
- Projected Digital Images (PDI's).

##### The Beginners Competitions:

- Beginners Prints.
- Beginners Projected Digital Images (PDI's).

#### 2. Eligibility

##### Clubs and their photographers

- Every Member Club of the NCPF may enter any, or all, competitions.
- Each Entrant Club is responsible for ensuring the eligibility of Photographers Images as set out below and in the General Conditions.
- Clubs should therefore communicate with their Photographers as necessary before submitting their entry.

## Photographers

- Are invited to enter relevant competitions. Each submitted image shall be judged and shall receive a score.
- Photographers may have images entered for **one Federation** only each year.
- Photographers may have images entered from **one Club** only each year.
- Photographers must be a bona fide member of a current NCPF club.

## Images

- All entries submitted must originate from the personal work of the entrant, using light falling on photosensitive medium. (*see also appendix ONE Infringements*).
- **Very similar images from the same Photographer may not be entered into more than one competition.**
- Images which have previously won an NCPF Annuals award, been chosen as an Alliance Selection or Highly Commended (HC) are ineligible for re-entry into any further NCPF Annual Competition in any category.

### 3. Entries – Dimensions and Specification Prints

- Each Print may be of any size but must be mounted on boards sized 500x400mm (+/-2mm). NB: To avoid damage of adjacent prints: **Mounts smaller than this, shall not be accepted.**
- Mountboards should be lightweight and never exceed 4mm thickness.
- Mounts must not carry any fixings or other material likely to damage prints when stacked.
- Identification labels: An ID label must be fixed to the back of the mount; when viewed from the back the label should be placed as close as possible to the bottom right corner. NB: Templates suitable for printing onto Avery products have been provided.
- Each Print Entry requires upload of a matching Projected Digital Image File (jpeg), in addition to the Print Labels, (*requirement are same as PDI below*).
- At the Competition Chairman's discretion: Prints outside the specification may be judged and marks entered into club aggregate scores but cannot win an Award or be selected for the Alliance Entry or Portfolio.

## Projected Digital Image Files (PDI)

- Image Files must be in RGB mode (even for monochrome images) and in the sRGB colour space.
- Files must be saved in JPEG format, at not less than quality 10, (80%).
- Maximum image dimensions are 1600 pixels horizontal by 1200 pixels vertical. **If any PDI files received are greater than the maximum dimensions they will be re-sized automatically to the maximum dimensions.**
- File size must be 2MB or less.
- It is recommended that the free software "WeTransfer" is used to transfer PDI files for Prints and PDI entries, it is available from ctrl+click: <https://wetransfer.com/>

### 4. Sections – Competition Details

#### Open Competition - Colour Prints.

- Each entrant may submit up to 3 Colour Prints.
- This is an OPEN Competition and covers all Categories of Subject.

### Open Competition - Monochrome Prints

- Each entrant may submit up to 3 Monochrome Prints.
- This is an OPEN Competition and covers all Categories of Subject.

*Definition of Monochrome.* Monochrome Images include:

- An Image in tones of neutral grey ranging from transparent/white to opaque/black.
- An Image in a single colour:
- A Print using a chemical process such as sepia, cyanotype, etc.
- A digitally produced Image 'colorized' in a single hue\*.

\* Monochrome prints which are duo toned will be disqualified from the Monochrome competition.

### Open Competition – Projected Digital Images (PDI's)

- Each entrant may submit up to 3 Projected Digital Images
- This is an OPEN Competition and covers all Categories of Subject.

### Beginners' Competition\* – Prints

- Each entrant may submit up to 3 Print Images.
- This is an OPEN Competition and covers all Categories of Subject.

### Beginners' Competition\* – Projected Digital Images (PDI's)

- Each entrant may submit up to 3 Projected Digital Images.
- This is an OPEN Competition and covers all Categories of Subject.

*Definition of a Beginner\*.* A Beginner is someone who at the time of entry, is classified as such by their own club. They will not have obtained an award or certificate in any section of any NCPF/PAGB affiliated competition, or hold any accreditation from i.e., RPS, FIAP, PSA, PAGB, BPE.

## 5. Judges and Scoring

Three judges will be chosen for the Open Print and the Projected Digital Image competitions. Two of the judges for each Format will be from the NCPF Judges' List and one other from outside the Federation Area. An NCPF Listed Judge will judge both the Beginners' Competitions.

Marking in the Open Competitions will be done using silent marking machines and the maximum mark per image will be fifteen. Subject to APPENDIX ONE (Infringements) the decision of the Judge(s) shall be final, and awards may be withheld at the Judges' discretion. If a judge has entered images, when one of their images is presented for scoring, they shall declare that is their image, and refrain from scoring. An average of the other judges scores will be added to the total to give the score for the image, rounded up where appropriate. If a judge's image score makes the image eligible for an award they shall not take part in the selection process for that award.

The maximum mark per image in each of the Beginners' Competitions will be 15.

## 6. Club and Individual Themed Trophies

### Club Trophies (3 off)

These trophies are awarded to the club whose nominated 6 images for that competition receives the highest aggregate marks.

Bewick Trophy

Colour Prints

Corder Trophy

Monochrome Prints

Myles Audas Memorial Trophy

Projected Digital Images

Each club must number accordingly their 6 nominated entries to be considered for the three Club Competitions 01 to 06. Any one member's work is limited to no more than 2 entries for each competition's nominated 6 images. The 6 entries will be automatically entered into the three Club Competitions and will count as part of the total entry by any one entrant in the corresponding Open Competition.

If a Club is not entering a Club Competition the numbering of the entries shall commence at number 07.

The winning club(s) will receive the appropriate trophies and an NCPF Certificate plus a memento. The second and third clubs will receive an NCPF Certificate.

## Individual Themed Trophies

These trophies are awarded to the individuals who, in the view of the Judges, have produced the best themed images in the various competitions

### Monochrome Print

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| • Federation Challenge Cup | Best Monochrome Print                  |
| • Pinkney Trophy           | Best Human Portrait – Monochrome Print |
| • Galloway Rose Bowl       | Best Monochrome Landscape Print        |

### Colour Print

- |                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Weir Trophy           | Best Colour Print                |
| • Norman Jefcoat Trophy | Best Colour Landscape Print      |
| • Ken Henderson Trophy  | Best Human Portrait Colour Print |

### Monochrome or Colour Print

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Alf Shoebottom Trophy | Best Natural History Print |
| • Grier Trophy          | Best Creative Print        |
| • PAGB World Cup        | Best Sport Print           |

### Projected Digital Images

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| • Diamond Trophy       | Best Projected Digital Image                 |
| • Bates Trophy         | Best Landscape Projected Digital Image       |
| • Vickers Trophy       | Best Natural History Projected Digital Image |
| • Bryan Gilbert Trophy | Best Human Portrait Projected Digital Image  |
| • Hilton Trophy        | Best Creative Projected Digital Image        |
| • Eagle Trophy         | Best Sports Projected Digital Image          |

### Beginners

- |                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Robert Chalmers Trophy | Best Monochrome or Colour Print |
| • Jane Black Trophy      | Best Projected Digital Image    |

### Overall Top Award

- |                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Joan Rooker Centenary Trophy | Best of All – Trophy Winner |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|

- All individual competition winners will receive a Federation Trophy, a memento and an NCPF Certificate.
- The Joan Rooker centenary Trophy will be awarded to the best piece of work overall in the NCPF competitions.

## Highly Commended

In addition, in the Open and Beginners competitions Highly Commended Awards will be given to a percentage of the next highest marked entries in each of the 5 competitions. Each recipient will receive a Certificate.

## 7. Other Awards - Alliance Entries and Federation Portfolio's

All images selected for Alliance Entry and Portfolios will be acknowledged by a Certificate.

### Alliance entries (PAGB Inter-Federation Competition)

A selection of prints, identified as Alliance entries shall be chosen to represent the NCPF in the PAGB Inter-Federation Competition. The competition has 3 different categories; Monochrome Print, Colour Print and Nature Print. 20 prints will be selected for each category. The selected prints will be given an Alliance award.

### Federation Portfolio's - Awards and Alliance Entry and Selectors Choice Portfolio

Alliance entry prints selected to represent the NCPF in the PAGB Inter-Federation Competition will be copied for circulation within the NCPF Awards Portfolio as PDIs.

Portfolio selectors will be requested to select a representative 20 Prints and 20 PDI's (including a minimum of 3 prints and 3 PDI's from the Beginners section). Selectors will later present written critiques to the Portfolio Secretary who shall oversee creation of 2 x AV/PDI Presentations named as the "Awards and Alliance Entry" and "Selectors Choice" Presentations.

**Print:** (presented as PDI-AV slideshow). Winning individual awards, the winning Club entry and all highly commended awards + Selectors choice with narrated commentary.

**PDI:** (presented as PDI-AV slideshow). Winning individual awards, the winning Club entry and all highly commended awards + Selectors choice with narrated commentary.

- These Portfolios suitable for showing as an evening's entertainment will be made available to all Federation Clubs. Distribution by the Portfolio Secretary shall be via electronic means in good time for the following season. Clubs are encouraged to show these presentations on members nights celebrating the work of our NCPF photographers.
- All original prints will be returned to their authors via their respective Clubs as soon as possible.

*NB: Alliance entry prints for the PAGB Inter-Federation Competitions will be returned by November, unless selected for the PAGB Print Exhibition which will be travelling the UK, in which case they may be delayed by a further 12 months.*

## 8. Awards Presentation

An Awards Presentation Day shall be held Annually celebrating successful images from NCPF Club Championship, Beamish and Annual Competitions, with presentation of club and individual awards and Certificates while showing PDI's on a large screen. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow photographers, in a celebratory atmosphere.

- **APPENDIX ONE**

### General Conditions for NCPF Events (in common with PAGB)

Club Organisers are requested to read and understand these rules, which may change on an Annual Basis.

- The Rules, contact details, invitations, timetables and other information will be published by the Organisers.
- Matters relating to interpretation of the Rules will be decided by the Competitions Chairman in conjunction with sub-committee members.
- By entering, the Photographer consents to the retention by the NCPF of information identifying the Photographer as the creator of an Image. By entering via a club, then the entrant club warrants that each Photographer has consented to the retention of identifying information as if the Photographer had entered in person.
- Although every care will be taken the NCPF cannot be held liable for the loss, misuse or non-entry of any Images or other material used for an Event, no matter how this loss or damage may occur.
- The NCPF reserves the right not to exhibit an individual image, and delegates such decisions to the Competition Chairman and sub-committee.
- All trophies will be available for presentation at the Awards Presentation Day. Winners are encouraged to take awards away for show and retention at their club until required for next Presentation. Signatures will be required to take Awards.
- All compilations in the form of Portfolio's remain the copyright of the NCPF. Copyright of the individual images remains with the respective Photographers.
- An entered Image may be used by the NCPF in any form to announce results and awards, to create media circulated to participating Clubs including Portfolio's, or for other NCPF related publicity including Northern Focus. The Photographer of each Image will normally be credited with any use.

### Images

- Images must be entirely the work of the Photographer. In composite images, all component images must meet this requirement. For the avoidance of doubt, use of images from any other source including, but not limited to i.e., Artificial Intelligence, remote shoots, royalty free image banks, clipart etc are not permitted.
- An Image, including the front of a print mount, must not display the Photographer's name or Club.
- A Club may not enter the work of more than one Photographer who resides more than thirty miles outside the boundaries of the Northern Counties Photographic Federation.
- Entry by any one photographer, once entered via one Club, may not be entered for a different Club.
- Entry by any one photographer, once entered via one Federation, may not be entered for a different Federation.

### Infringements

- Prior to the day of the Competition: Should an image be determined to be ineligible through error, then it may be possible to substitute an eligible Image before the Competition takes place.
- If an ineligible image is found during / after the event, the Competitions Chairman shall allocate a score of zero to the ineligible Image and, if the Image received an award, to withdraw that award.
- For Club Trophies / Tie Breaks: In the event of a tie, the tied clubs will have their lowest scored image score subtracted and new total recounted, with the process repeated until a winner is identified. NB: *Any disqualified image (with a Zero noted against the image), will not count as a scored image.*

- Should serious failures of entry be found the Competitions Chairman and committee reserves the right to remove any single image, an entrant's total images or, up to and including, a club's partial or total entry.
- Failure to comply with any of the Annual Competition Rules may result in any entry being disqualified. Should any situation arise, not covered by these rules, any decision necessary shall be taken by the Competitions Chairman, in consultation with the Competition Officer(s) and NCPF President.
- Decisions taken by the Competitions Chairman will be final.

- **APPENDIX TWO**

#### MONOCHROME ELIGIBILITY IN NCPF ANNUAL COMPETITIONS

Monochrome Images include:

- An Image in tones of neutral grey ranging from transparent/white to opaque/black.
- An Image in a single colour:
  - A Print using a chemical process such as sepia, cyanotype, etc.
  - A digitally produced Image 'colorized' in a single hue.

- **APPENDIX THREE**

#### NATURE ELIGIBILITY IN NCPF ANNUAL COMPETITIONS

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 and marked as such on the entry form 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.

(Extract from PAGB Inter-Federation Competition and Exhibitions RULES February 2025)

## *NCPF Club Codes 2026*

Alnwick & District CC	ALNW	Gosforth CC	GOSF	Saltburn PS	SALT
Amble PG	AMBL	Guisborough PG	GSBO	South Shields PS	SOSH
Ashington Co-op CC	ASHI	Hartlepool CC	HACC	Stanhope PS	STAN
Blyth PS	BLYT	Hexham & District PS	HEXH	Stockton CC	STCC
Cambois CC	CAMB	Keswick PS	KESW	Stokesley PS	STLY
Carlisle CC	CARL	Leica Fellowship (the)	LEIC	Tynemouth PS	TYNE
Castleside & Dist PC	CAST	Morpeth CC	MORP	Washington CC	WASH
Chester-le-Street CC	CHES	Northallerton CC	NORT	Wear Valley PC	WEAR
Consett & District PS	CONS	North Shields PS	NOSH	Whickham PC	WHAM
Cramlington CC	CRAM	Pen & CC of Methodism	PENC	Whitley Bay PS	WHIT
Dalston PS	DALS	Penrith & District CC	PENT	Winlaton CC	WINL
Darlington AP	DARL	Ponteland PS	PONT	Wooler & District CC	WOOL
Durham PS	DURH	Richmond CC	RICH	Workington CC	WORK
Gallery PG	GALL	Ryton and District CC	RYTN		
Gateshead CC	GATE				

END