

COMPETITION RULES FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

SECTION A - COMPETITIONS

The club (Whitchurch Photographic Society) will hold a number of formal **Club Competitions** and informal **Friendly Competitions** for members to enter their images.

These are held within a club 'season'. Each season usually starts around the middle of September and finishes around the end of April the following year, but this can vary slightly, being dependent on the seasonal events and competitions organised by the club Programme Secretary.

On occasion, for reasons beyond normal control, competition dates may need to be changed, or cancelled. If this occurs, members will be notified.

Members who have paid their annual WPS subscriptions are eligible to enter any competition.

Club Competitions

A **Club Competition** is a **formal** competition for members to have their work critiqued and judged by a suitably qualified independent person. Judges are booked by the Programme Secretary at the beginning of each season.

Within this season, there are normally **five** formal **Club Competitions**:

- Open Competition No.1
- Open Competition No.2
- Open Competition No.3 – "This Year's Work" (*from 2027 'This Season's Work'*)
- Open Competition No.4
- Image of the Year.

Friendly Competitions

A **Friendly Competition** is an informal competition for members to have their work judged and occasionally critiqued by their fellow club members.

These often offer an opportunity to test an image you may not be sure of prior to later entry of that image into a **Club Competition**.

There are normally **six** **Friendly Competitions** each season, but occasionally, the club Committee may change this:

- Captured in camera - PDIs
- It's a Knock-Out - PDIs
- Panel – Several prints mounted together on a board
- Audio Visual – Pictures to music / Documentary
- Set Subject
- Pictures taken with your Phone

SECTION B – COMPETITION IMAGES

Note that the number and type of images that can be entered into any competition, **Club** or **Friendly** will be determined by the WPS Committee at the end of each season when the next season Programme has been finalised. Details will appear in the Competition Quick Reference Rules attached to the new Programme.

When submitting any entry into a competition, please remember what you are permitted and not permitted to do as set out later in Section C.

Club Competitions

'Open'

You can submit an image of any type taken at any time.

'This Years Work'

The image must have been taken within the 365 days prior to the comp closing date as set in the Programme.

Where 'This Years Work' is 'Open', you can submit an image of any type.

Where the subject is 'set', your image must be what is required by that subject.

Examples of set subjects are detailed at the end of this section.

From 2027 'This Years Work' will become 'This Season's Work'. Images must be taken between last day of the previous club season and the closing date of the competition in the current season.

'Image of the Year'

You can submit an image of any type taken at any time

Friendly Competitions

These are member judged. Note that depending on the number of entries submitted and the nature of the comp, the manner in which members vote may vary.

‘Captured in Camera’

You can submit an image of any type taken at any time.

You are only allowed to straighten, crop and make global adjustments to your image.

Local adjustments, spot, object and distraction removal are not permitted.

‘It’s a Knockout’

You can submit an image of any type taken at any time.

If necessary, after initial ‘culling’ by members, images are presented randomly in pairs side by side.

Only one image of the two by member vote will go forward to the next round.

When four images remain, members will vote these into 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th places.

‘Panel’

A Panel is set of images which are linked or related to a subject or topic. The images may have been taken at any time.

Images must be mounted on a board (= panel) of any size up to a maximum of A1 (23 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 33 $\frac{1}{8}$ " or 59.4cm x 84.1cm)

A panel can be in portrait or landscape orientation.

A panel can have any number of images Colour, Mono, or both bearing in mind that only so many will fit on an A1 board. The more images on the board, the smaller they will be – find the right balance.

‘AV (Audio Visual) – Pictures to music or Documentary’

Your video should be circa 4 mins.

A longer video is acceptable if you feel the extra length is relevant to a story you are telling.

A video can be images, or video footage you have taken, set to a music track (= Pictures to Music), or images, or video footage you have taken, set out in a documentary fashion with commentary and / or text, and / or music added.

Images or video footage used may have been taken at any time.

Your AV is an exception to normal club rules in that you can add any music of your choice but note that any images or video still must be your own work.

Committee ‘Set Subject’

Each season, the WPS Committee will set a different subject, or subjects.

This (or these) may be from the list of genre definitions set out below or be something entirely different. Where different, the member may apply his or her interpretation to the subject bearing in mind that it will be member judged.

‘Pictures taken with your ‘Phone’

You can submit an image of any type taken at any time as long as it was taken on your ‘Phone, this being any Mobile Telephone that can take pictures.

Your image from your ‘phone may transferred to your computer for editing, before entry.

Examples of Set Subjects	
Genre	Definition
Landscape	An image of natural countryside and weather.
Seascape	Similar to landscape, but featuring the sea as a major part of the image.
Architecture	An image of human constructions.
Street	An image taken candidly of people or human constructions which reflect on human life.
Sport	An image taken of a person or people engaged in a sporting activity.
Nature	An image of an animal or insect in its natural or captive environment. Pets are not allowed. Editing is not allowed that substantially alters the image, but this rule does not apply to a nature image entered into an Open comp.
Macro	An image taken with the subject close to the camera. The scale or reproduction is not defined, and images taken with normal camera lenses working at close to their closest focus distance are acceptable. Photomicrography is allowed.
Still life	An image of an arrangement of inanimate objects.
Portrait	An image of a human being in either a posed or a candid situation.
Humour	An image that can evoke laughter, happiness and / or feelings of amusement.
As a painting	An image which may have been manipulated on a computer to resemble one painted by hand. A picture of an existing painting is not allowed.
Creative	An image generated from at least three separate images to create a composite image to convey an interesting result such as an amusing story or representation. Surreal and imaginary images are allowed.
Abstract	An image taken to reveal interesting patterns, textures, forms or colours, the origin of which might not be clear as it is unimportant.
Shapes, Forms and Texture	Any image that uses Shape, Form or Texture as an integral part of the image. One or more of these elements may form the main element within the image or be a supporting element that enhances other elements within the image.

SECTION C – IMAGES PERMITTED AND NOT PERMITTED

Types of images you can enter

Usually, all competitions will be based on the following general image formats, but occasionally a specific competition (usually a **Friendly**) may have slightly different rules or format which over-ride these.

- Colour Print
- Mono Print
- Colour PDI (Projected Digital Image)
- Mono PDI

Age of images that can be entered

In **all** competitions except “This Year’s Work” (*from 2027 ‘This Season’s Work’*), an image taken at any time.

Images entered into “This Year’s Work” must have been taken within the 365 days prior to the comp closing date as set in the Programme.

From 2027 images for ‘This Season’s Work’ must have been taken between the date of the last day of the previous club season and the entry closing date of the competition in the current club season.

How often images can be entered

Friendly Competitions

An image previously entered into a **Club Competition** cannot be entered into a **Friendly Competition**, one exception being the AV **Friendly Competition** where the member may need to use many images to compile an AV.

An image can be entered into a maximum of three **Friendly Competitions**, but once it has achieved a place in the first three, it cannot be entered into another **Friendly Competition**.

It can be however, subsequently entered into a **Club Competition** and any previous entries into **Friendly Competitions** will not count as far as eligibility into **Club Competitions** is concerned.

Club Competitions

An image can be entered into a maximum of three **Club Competitions**, but once it has achieved a place in the first three, it cannot be entered into another **Club Competition** with the exception of the "Image of the Year" competition. An image can only be entered only **once** into an Image of the Year competition. Images entered into an Image of the Year competition cannot be subsequently entered into any later competitions.

Changes you are permitted to make to your image

The following changes are permitted in all competitions, **Club** or **Friendly**, with exception of 'Captured in Camera' which has separate rules.

All parts of any image entered must be your own work.

Images **created** using AI for a part, or the whole image will **not** be permitted. (NOTE: the later section on the use of AI).

If the competition permits:

- an image may be cropped for purposes of composition.
- parts of an image may be removed by manual cloning, or AI Cloning. This is aimed at things like dust spots or distractions.
- adjustments for sharpness, contrast and colour can be made globally (to the entire Image), or locally (to a specific part of the image).
- where additional imagery is added to an image, for example a texture layer, the texture must be your own work. Note that this image will now be classed as a 'composite image'.
- The image canvas size can be expanded as long as the expanded area contains pixels from your original image. These can be inserted by cloning or content aware fill.

Rules for 'Captured in Camera':

- the image may be cropped and / or straightened.
- Local adjustments (= part of an image) are **not** permitted.
- Global adjustments (= to the whole image) are permitted to:
 - sharpen
 - adjust colour saturation
 - adjust brightness and contrast

For examples of Global and Local adjustments, see the next section.

Changes made later to images already entered into competitions

If a member:

- changes an image format from print to PDI, or vice versa.
- changes an image by cropping.
- changes an image by re-processing.
- changes an image by converting from mono to colour, or vice versa.
- changes an image title.
- changes an image in any way

This does not make it a new image nor make it re-eligible for entry into additional competitions over and above what is normally permitted.

Note that the above list of changes is not exhaustive.

If on checking, prior to the competition date an image entered is found that contravenes these rules, the member concerned will be contacted by the Competition Secretary and asked to withdraw or enter a substitute image.

If after a competition has been held it is found that an image was entered in contravention to these rules, the image and any result will be removed. In this instance, the member concerned will be contacted by the Competition Secretary and informed. If the member disagrees with this decision, he or she may appeal to two club committee members, one of whom must be the Club President or Chairman. Their decision will be final.

Examples of 'Global' and 'Local' image adjustments



ORIGINAL IMAGE

= no changes



GLOBAL

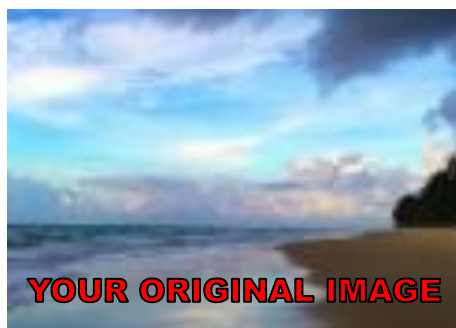
In this instance the image has been changed by lightening = change to the *entire* image



LOCAL

In this instance the clouds alone have been darkened = change to just *a part* of the image

Examples of expanding the 'canvas size' of your image



No limits have been set in respect of how much you can enlarge your image, as long as the expanded part is made up from pixels from your original image.

Other Considerations

Images that closely resemble other images you have previously entered

If you enter an image almost identical to an image you have previously entered, you may be asked to withdraw it at the discretion of the Competition Secretary. If the member disagrees with the Competition Secretary's decision, he or she may appeal to two club committee members, one of whom must be the Club President or Chairman. Their decision will be final.

Image Titles

If you change an image title, you must inform the competition secretary and provide the earlier title.

If you enter an image with the same title as another of your images, or another member's image, the Competition Secretary may modify the title and will notify you. For example, if two images were submitted with the title 'The Beach'. A suffix of 'A' and 'B' may be added at the end. Alternatively you may be asked to change the title yourself.

Self-Regulation

Members are expected to use a degree of self-regulation in respect of the preceding paragraphs with regard to the images they submit into all competitions.

They are also expected to exercise a degree of self-censure with regard to image content in respect of what is acceptable in the current moral climate.

Disciplinary Action

Disciplinary action may be taken against members who ignore or demonstrate a blatant disregard of the WPS Competition Rules.

AI (Artificial Intelligence)

In recent years, AI has become a tool to sharpen or reduce noise in images however, recent developments in AI, particularly in Photoshop, but also in other image enhancing applications, have taken AI to a different level.

Credible images can now be created with relative ease, without the need of a camera.

AI used in this manner is an interesting and creative tool however, it is not photography, it is Digital Art.

This is a Photographic Society.

Members take images with their cameras or 'phones. If needed, they "develop" their images by cropping, or adjusting sharpness; colour; contrast; noise; etc. Where permitted, they may remove unwanted parts of their image or vignette an image. However, ALL parts of any image submitted in any club competition, MUST have been taken using a camera, by the member submitting that image.

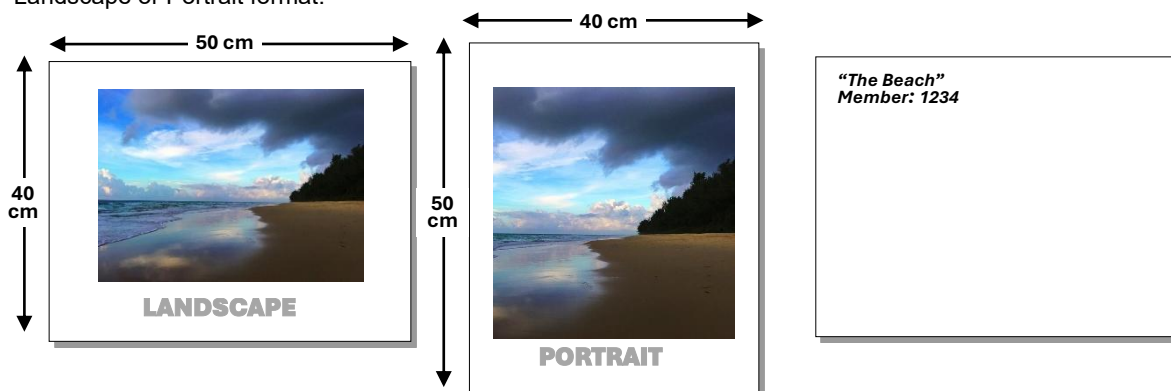
This does not mean that for example, you cannot use the Sky replacement tool in Photoshop. It does mean however that the sky you use, must be a photograph of the sky you have taken yourself. The image would then become a "composite".

The use of AI as a conventional cloning tool is permitted, however if used to create images, or parts of images it is not permitted.

SECTION D – HOW IMAGES ARE TO BE ENTERED INTO COMPETITIONS

Club Competitions - Prints

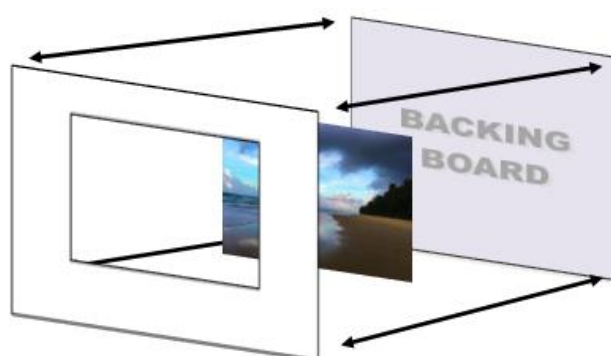
A print can be any size, provided it is mounted *within* a standard 500mm x 400mm mountboard, presented in Landscape or Portrait format.



A mountboard can be any colour, but please consider the comments regarding Judges in the 'Quick Competition Rules' attached to the current Programme.

There are three ways you can mount your print:

1. Once you have cut your mountboard and affixed your print to the rear of it, now affix a full backing board using double sided tape or adhesive. **THIS IS THE PREFERRED METHOD** – note that mountboards can be purchased with pre-cut holes to accommodate A4 or A3 prints, but this may hinder your creativity by restricting the shape of your image.



CUT MOUNTBOARD WITH FULL BACKING BOARD



GLUED TO THE FRONT OF A MOUNT BOARD

2. Alternatively, fix your print directly onto the face of a standard mountboard using spray adhesive, or double sided tape,
3. Alternatively, once you have cut your mountboard and affixed your print to it, now affix a **smaller** backing board. Note that prior to competitions, prints are stored on top of each other. If you secure a smaller backing board using sticky tape, please ensure that this cannot peel, as this could damage somebody else's work stored below.

WPS will not be responsible for damage to an image caused by incorrect mounting.

On the **TOP REAR LEFT CORNER** of all prints submitted, you must write the **TITLE** of your image and your **WPS MEMBERSHIP NUMBER (not your name)**. PLEASE ENSURE THIS IS CLEARLY LEGIBLE = NOT WRITTEN FAINTLY WITH A THIN PENCIL ON A GRAY MOUNTBOARD. USE BLACK PEN, OR A FIRMLY AFFIXED LABEL. During the competition, this information will be read out in DIM LIGHT.

There are links on the club website regarding mounting, and usually once per season, we have a practical session at the club house.

See Here: <https://www.whitchurchphotographicsociety.org.uk/learning-zone>

This is the club 'LEARNING ZONE' page.

There are also links regarding Producing Videos and Uploading Images into PhotoEntry, plus other useful resources.

A copy of each print entered into any Club Competition must be uploaded into PhotoEntry into the relevant competition you are entering.

Club Competitions - PDIs

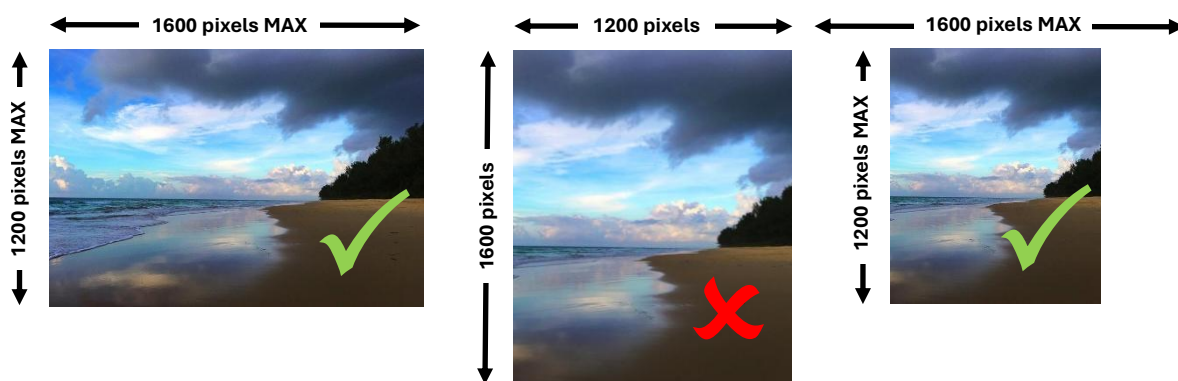
PDIs must be uploaded into PhotoEntry into the relevant competition you are entering.

PhotoEntry and DiCentra Software

The Club uses DiCentra Software to run all **Club Competitions** and also some **Friendly Competitions**. This links to PhotoEntry, an online facility in which electronic images for competitions are stored. Members must upload copies of their images into this software when required.

Format of Images to be uploaded

- Colour space – sRGB.
- Format – JPG.
- Maximum **horizontal** dimension – 1600 pixels.
- Maximum **vertical** dimension – 1200 pixels.
- The above dimensions include any border added.
- PDIs uploaded for print competitions, must share the same name as the print.
- PhotoEntry will accept most PDIs that do not comply with the above requirements and will re-size your image for you if too large. However, beware, you may not like the consequential appearance. Better to re-size yourself prior to upload.



If you are in any doubt regarding the above specification, please ask the Competition Secretary or another member of the Club Committee. There is comprehensive information on the club website Learning Zone page regarding PhotoEntry. You can view this here:

<https://www.whitchurchphotographicsociety.org.uk/learning-zone>

Deadlines – Upload of PDIs and handing in of prints for competitions

The deadline for handing in of prints and uploading PDIs into PhotoEntry for **Club Competitions** is set in the current programme. It is usually one week before the date of the competition. Members unable to meet these deadlines for circumstances beyond their control may be granted an extension by the Competition Secretary if possible.

Friendly Competitions – Prints, PDIs and AVs

The manner in which Prints, PDIs or Avs are collected for **Friendly Competitions** can vary. Please read the current programme.

Awards - Competitions

The final meeting of a club season, is usually a combination of the AGM (Annual General Meeting) and the Prize Presentation for members who have been successful in competitions.

Certificates will be awarded to members who have achieved a place in the first three of any competition and Trophies may be awarded to the winners of each competition.

Awards – POTY (Photographer of the Year) Competitions

In addition to awards for each individual competition, the club holds a seasonal POTY Competition.

The **POTY** title will be awarded to the photographer that accrues the most points awarded by judges in Club Competitions over the course of the WPS season.

The **PRINT POTY** title will be awarded to the photographer that accrues the most points for Printed Images in Club Competitions over the course of the WPS season.

The **PDI POTY** title will be awarded to the photographer that accrues the most points for PDI Images in Club Competitions over the course of the WPS season.

In the event of a points tie, the title will be awarded to the photographer who has achieved the greater number of high placings during the season.

Images entered into competitions.

The Competition Secretary may request at any time, that a member provide their original, unedited image as taken in their camera, or mobile 'phone, for inspection.

The Preceding Rules are in line with other Photographic Clubs and Societies.

These rules were approved by Club Members at an Extraordinary AGM at Pearl Yard on 15th September 2026.