

COMPETITIONS

This document outlines the rules for the various competitions run by Cork Camera Group over the year. Any questions or queries to Competitions Committee.

competitions@corkcameragroup.net

There are four competitions run during the year and each is explained in more detail later in this document.

- League
- Photographer of the Year
- Team
- AV

In addition, as a club, we compete in the following club competitions and again, further info on these is included later in this document.

- IPF National Shield
- SACC Interclub
- IPF National Club Finals
- FIAP World Cup

Grades

To ensure fair competition between photographers of similar ability, we operate three grades. New members are placed into Grade 3 by default, but can request to be moved to Grade 2 if they wish. New members who meet any of the criteria for Grade 1 will be placed in Grade 1.

- Grade 1:
 - Any distinction holders Associate or above – e.g. AIPF, ARPS etc
 - Have won CCG League Grade 2
 - Have won CCG Photographer of the Year Grade 2
 - Have been promoted from Grade 2 via CCG League Average Score Rule *

- Grade 2:
 - Have won CCG League Grade 3
 - Have won CCG Photographer of the Year Grade 3
 - Any holders of Licentiate Distinction – e.g. LIPF, LRPS etc
 - Have been promoted from Grade 3 via CCG League Average Score Rule *
 - Have requested to compete in Grade 2

- Grade 3:
 - New members

* See Promotions / Demotions

Judges

The Competition Committee will be responsible for selecting judges for all CCG competitions. There will be a pool of approved judges to select from.

For league, AV and team competitions, there is a single judge. Each round of the league is judged by a different judge. For Photographer of the Year, there are three judges.

Judges will be briefed on the subject of each competition and shown any brief that was given to the members. The scoring system of the relevant competition is also clearly explained to the judge. Judges are informed of grade structure of relevant competition and whether images from different grades are mixed together. Judges are also advised that any commentary on images is to be as constructive and objective as possible. Judges are briefed on the penalty system for themed rounds of league and how to indicate penalty to scorer where applicable. However, bear in mind that judges are people too!

The decision of the judges is final and no discussion is to be entered into with the judges regarding their decision. If any member has any issue with anything to do with judging they must take it up in writing with the Competition Committee.

Brief for Members

For themed competitions, a brief outlining the theme will be published on the club website. This will give guidelines on the theme and will include any do's or don'ts as applicable. This will also be used as the base for the briefing of the judge on themed competitions.

Workshop Images

Workshop images may be allowed where the owner of the image can demonstrate that there was sufficient technical and creative input by the photographer. That includes but is not limited to setting up the lighting, the location, hair, make-up & styling of the model involved. i.e.. did you really create the image, or did you simply click the button to record the image?

Prints & Mounts

For competitions where prints are entered, all entries must be mounted. The minimum size of images is 10" x 8" and the maximum mount size is 20" x 16". A simple mount of a photo on a card backing is acceptable.

Right of change

Competition Committee reserve the right to change or modify rules and running of competitions on a ongoing basis. Members will be notified in advance of any changes.

The league competition is typically run on the last Tuesday of every month and dates for each round are published on the calendar on CCG website.

- There are eight rounds
- Four rounds have themes, the other four are open – any subject matter
- There are three sections to each round:
 - Colour print
 - Monochrome print
 - Projected image
- You may enter maximum of three images in each round, with a maximum of two per section. For example, two projected images & one colour print.
- Each image is scored out of 30
- Penalty system: If a judge feels that an images does not strongly meet theme in themed round, they write an 'x' beside the score to indicate to the scorer to deduct two points. Result sheet will indicate if this has occurred.

Judges are briefed and will preview all images before scoring commences.

The images will be displayed or projected as appropriate and the judge will score silently by indicating score to competition organiser. A brief but constructive comment will be given on each image.

The winning images only from each grade and each section will be announced at the end of the night.

Full results and standings will be distributed by email at earliest convenience

All Images from each round will form part of a digital slide show each month. This slide show will include details about the photographer and the image score. Members who do not wish their images to be included must contact the competitions committee in writing requesting to be excluded.

Theme

Images deemed not to fit the theme will be discussed by the Competitions Committee and raised with the photographer. If unable to demonstrate the theme, the image will be rejected and a replacement sought.

The photographer has the right to appeal this to the club committee who will in turn make a full and final judgement

League (continued)

How to Enter

- Prints
 - Members must submit their prints at the club no later than 7.30pm on the competition day. Prints can be submitted prior to this deadline, including at the meeting the week before.
 - All prints must be clearly labelled on the back with your competition number. This must match the information on the upload form.
 - Digital copies of printed images must be submitted to the "Inbox" on the website no later than midnight on the Sunday prior to the competition

- Projected (digital images)
 - Digital images must be submitted to the "Inbox" on the website no later than midnight on the Sunday prior to the competition. The photographer must remain anonymous.

Regretfully entries will not be accepted later than 7.30pm on the evening of the competition. Competitions reserve the right to allow late entry where special circumstances apply.

Age limit on submissions

The purpose of the monthly competitions is to provide a forum for people to improve their photographic skills. The key to this is to be out there taking photos. To aid this, any image may be submitted to one and only one monthly competition. Note this applies to all images submitted to monthly competitions past and future. Submitting the same photograph under different categories is not permitted (e.g. a colour version of a previously entered monochrome image).

Entries used in previous Photographer of the Year competitions are accepted as long as they were not used in a monthly competition previously.

Promotion / Demotion of grades

A club member shall receive an promotion within the club ranking system under the following circumstances:

Winners of grade 2 and grade 3 in their respective Photographer of the Year or League competition shall receive promotion to next grade.

Receiving a Distinction from IPF or RPS (or equivalent) - An associate level distinction will be an automatic promotion to grade 1 which will be considered permanent and will

prevent demotion to any other grade. A Licentiate level distinction will promote the member to grade 2 (unless already grade 1) and will prevent demotion to grade 3

Promotions and demotions will be assessed twice yearly - at the end of round 4 and again at the end of round 8.

Promotions / demotions will be based on the average score rule - To be promoted your average score will need to be higher than that of the grade average score of the grade above you. To be demoted your average score would need to be below the grade average score of the grade below you

At the beginning of the 2014/15 season only, Individual members may submit a request to be re-graded. This must be approved by the competition secretary and is not applicable to members that hold an AIPF, ARPS (or higher). This will only be for the upcoming season and will help facilitate the new grading system.

Awards

At the end of the year, Awards are given for first, second and third place in all three grades.

In addition, there are perpetual shields awarded for the winners of grades 1 & 2.

Photographer of the Year

The rules of the competition are as follows:

- There are separate competitions for club grades 1, 2 and 3
- This is a print only competition - no projected section
- Only images captured in the previous 12 months are eligible for entry
- Images used in other club competitions are acceptable (league, AV, team)
- Images used on club panels are acceptable.
- A maximum of six images can be entered, with top five scores added together
- Any combination of colour and monochrome prints are acceptable
- Images from each competitor are distributed throughout judging and are not judged as a panel.
- Three external judges award up to 10 marks each for each image
- In the event of a tie for first or second place, the score of the sixth image is taken into account. If still tied, all six images from each photographer are shown to judges to determine the winner.

Awards

Awards are given for first and second place in all three grades.

A perpetual trophy is also awarded the Grade 1 Photographer of the Year.

In addition, there is a trophy for best overall colour print and best overall monochrome print.

Entry

- Completed entry form must be submitted along with prints
- Prints to be submitted between 6.30-7.30pm on competition night
- Late entries will not be accepted
- Your six prints needs to be labelled on the reverse with your competition number and the letters 'A, B, C, D, E, F'
- All the 'A's are placed in one pile, 'B's in another etc, to ensure that images are distributed throughout judging
- Judges are briefed and preview all images
- Images are judged and scored live using daylight balanced lighting
- At the end of evening before prize-giving, ALL prints are returned to authors

AV Competition

A short digital production of images to music using whatever means of software you choose. It can include stop-motion and time-lapse photography but excludes video. Details & rules for this event will be published separately closer to the date and will form part of the brief for the event.

Team Competition

The team competition is a very popular event on the club calendar and with each team comprising of a mixture of grade 1, 2 & 3 members, it makes for a great learning & social experience. Details & rules for this event will be published separately closer to the date and will form part of the brief for the event.

Club Panels

The Competitions Committee at various stages during the year request that members submit images for consideration for various competitions that we enter as a club. Each competition has a different level and we compete in all available competitions to ensure that all our members from novice to very experienced have the opportunity to represent themselves the club.

- IPF National Shield
 - This event is for photographers classified as non-advanced by the IPF. This excludes distinction holders, winners of more than one IPF medal, those with two or more acceptances in salon and those who have represented the IPF in international competition.
- SACC Interclub
 - This event is held by the SACC (Southern Association of Camera Clubs) and we invite all members from all grades to submit work for consideration.
- IPF National Club Finals
 - This event is held by the IPF (Irish Photographic Event) and we invite all members from all grades to submit work for consideration.
- FIAP World Cup
 - Submission for this one is by invitation only.

The Competition Committee appoints a subcommittee to assist with the selection of images from the pool and with draft panels. The final selection of club panels will be the responsibility of the competitions Secretary.

Submission of images does not guarantee selection for the final panels.

Images will be chosen on their merits as an individual image and as part of the panelling process. Regretfully, not every photographer who sends us their work will end up on a panel. Please keep sending your images!