

Cork Camera Group Competition Rules

Updated Sept 2021

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

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

- League
- Photographer of the Year

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
- **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 requested to compete in Grade 2
- **Grade 3:**
 - New members

* See Promotions

***New members who demonstrate an advanced level of photography may be requested to compete at a higher grade. This will be at the discretion of the Committee.*

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 competitions, there is a single judge. Each round of the league is judged by a different judge. For Photographer of the Year, there are two 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.

League

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:

- Color Print*
- Mono Print*
- Projected Image(color or mono)

**Currently our monthly competitions are all digital images. This may change if and when we return to the clubhouse. The Committee will give notice when we revert to printed images.*

- 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 20
- Penalty system: If a judge feels that an images does not strongly meet the theme. 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 may be posted on the clubs social media sites each month. This slide show will include details about the photographer . 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 10pm 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.

****Until the club is back operating from the clubhouse, Monthly competitions will continue to be all projected images. To facilitate judging/organising of images, there is a deadline of 2200hrs on the Sunday prior to the competition.**

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

A club member shall receive a 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

Awards

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

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

Photographer of the Year (POTY)

Photographer of the Year POTY is an Open competition, so you can enter any image you wish. Images which qualify for this year's POTY must meet the following criteria....

- 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.
- Two external judges award up to 20 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.

If in the event of a dispute about when the image was taken, it is entirely up to the photographer to prove the image in question was taken within the given timeframe. RAW Files may be requested.

******We have introduced a rule in an effort to allow for “Creative Images” to be included. Creative images can often consist of multiple elements from several images combined to make one “Creative” image. The rules as they stood didn’t take this type of imagery into account. To help with this we have decided to adopt the PSA Definition for “Creative Photography”.

The PSA definition of Creative is “Altered Reality.”

“The image must obviously display a change in natural color, form, shape, or any combination of these three. Creative images are often montages (a blending or composite of multiple images). High Dynamic Range (HDR) images without further changes are not considered “altered reality.” The original image must be made by the entrant on photographic emulsion or captured digitally. All images must be original and may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else. Original images must be altered by the maker; artwork or computer graphics generated by the entrant may be incorporated, if the original photographic content predominates. Images may not be constructed entirely within a computer. It is necessary that the image’s core content be identifiable.”

The only Caveat to this is that the constituent parts of the image can be taken at any time, the image itself must have been created within the given timeframe for this year’s competition.

For example, If I have used one of my images in POTY last year, and enter the same image this year , because I have swopped out the sky, That is NOT Creative Photography, and as such would have to be disqualified.

The committee will have the final say on what does and does not qualify as “Creative Photography”.

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

Club Panels

No person may represent more than one club in interclub competitions.

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

The club must submit eight images in each of the categories in which they wish to compete. Up to two substitute images may be submitted which may be substituted in case of a dispute relating to an image on a panel. Of the eight images submitted in each category, the following shall apply.

Only one image per photographer per panel is allowed. Each participating club may enter up to two images per panel from advanced photographers provided that the only criteria that determine them to be advanced is that they hold a LIPF distinction from the IPF or similar distinction from another recognized photographic organization. Photographers with any of the following are not eligible.

- Any person who has received an IPF Associateship or Fellowship distinction or similar from FIAP, the PSA, or any other similar distinctions from any other photographic organization.
-
- Any person who has been awarded more than one IPF medal in IPF National Competitions.
-
- Any person who had an image that was chosen to represent the IPF in international competitions.
-
- Any person who has received acceptances with five or more image titles, or any award including a ribbon, at FIAP and/or PSA recognised salons.
- Any person whose club considers him or her to be of advanced standard in any discipline of photography.

-
- Any person who holds a diploma or degree in photography from any recognised educational institution in Ireland or elsewhere.

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

We invite all members to submit images for selection on the FIAP Panels

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!