



Competition Rules 2026

General

To enter or vote in any competition you must be a fully paid up member of the club.

Images must be the sole work of the entrant in their entirety. The entrant must be physically present to take the photograph, must compose the image and trigger the camera's shutter at or near the photographic location, either manually or by means of a cable-release, wireless device or mobile phone app.

Neither images that have been set up via the internet, known as 'Remote Shooting' nor images or part-images created by machine algorithms (known as Artificial Intelligence), are permitted as competition entries.

Images can be digitally manipulated as the entrant wishes. However, every element of an image entered in a competition must be the sole work of the entrant. For example, if an image is modified by replacement of a sky, the replacement sky used must also be the work of the entrant. This principle applies to any and all elements of a manipulated composite or montage image.

An image can only be submitted in one category (colour print, monochrome print or PDI) for any competition.

An image can only be submitted for one Yearly Competition. It can, however, be also used for one Annual Competition.

Duplicate entering of an image by re-cropping or manipulation is not permitted.

Monochrome images must be created from tones of one colour only. This need not necessarily be black (e.g. sepia toning is acceptable for a monochrome image). Images entered for competitions may be of any age, provided they are the sole work of the entrant.

An image entered in a competition that does not comply with the rules in this document will be disqualified. If you have any problem understanding, interpreting or complying with these rules then contact the Competitions Secretary.

For inter-club competitions, East Anglian Federation (EAF) rules will be applied, unless otherwise agreed with the competitor club(s). Our rules for internal competitions are different in some respects.

For inter-club competitions, a list of entries will be selected by a vote of the membership during a club meeting. The final list of entries will be selected according to a process set up by the Competitions Secretary. See the programme for submission dates.

1. Club Competitions.

There are two types of competitions held during the club's yearly programme.

1a. Yearly Competitions. Individual competitions will be held during club meetings as set out in the club's yearly programme. Club members may enter up to one colour print, one monochrome print and one projected digital image (PDI) for each competition. (The exception being the Panels Competition. See section 6).

All entries must be new images previously unused for any other competition. The competition judge will award each image marks out of 20. The scores for each entrant's colour print, monochrome print and PDI will be recorded and will accumulate over the year to give a year-end league table of results.

1b. Annual Competitions.

Annual Competitions are 'Open' (i.e. images on any theme of the entrant's choice). Club members may enter up to three colour prints, three monochrome prints and three PDIs. These may be totally new images or ones that have previously been entered for the Yearly Competitions. However, any image entered for the Annual Competitions may not subsequently be re-entered for any future Yearly Competition, whether or not it has been re-edited or altered. Images will be independently judged and awarded a 1st and 2nd place together with (at the judges discretion) Highly Commended and Commended.

2. Prints

All prints must be mounted. They can be plain mounted (ie. flush with a backing card without a window mount/matt) or they may be presented within a window mount. For inter-club competitions, prints must be flush mounted or window mounted no larger than 500mm x 400mm (including the window mount where relevant) unless otherwise agreed with the competitor club(s). For club competitions, prints/mounts must be no larger in area than 2000 square centimetres. Within that constraint they may be any size or shape. If the print is flush mounted, measure the edges of the print. If mounted within a window mount, measure the edges of the mount. Multiply the height x width (in centimetres). If the result is 2000 or less, your entry complies with these club rules.

For all competitions prints must be captioned legibly on the back left-hand top corner with the image title and entrant's name. No wording whatsoever is permitted on the front of the image or mount that might identify the photographer. Prints for competitions must be handed in by 7.15pm on the evening of the competition. The image title and the entrant's name must be emailed to the Competitions Secretary by midnight on the Wednesday of the preceding week. (At the discretion of the Competition Secretary this deadline may be extended).

3. Projected Digital Images (PDIs)

PDIs must be submitted as attachments to a signed email to the Competitions Secretary. The image title and entrant's name must be used as its file name (eg. "My PDI Image Title by Club Member.jpeg"). PDI images must be submitted by midnight on the Wednesday of the preceding week. (At the discretion of the Competition Secretary, this deadline may be

extended). All PDIs shall have maximum dimensions of 1920 pixels width x 1080 pixels height but either or both may be less. PDIs must be in jpeg format and in the sRGB colour space. The Competitions Secretary will advise members of different file requirements if a different projector is to be used. Should guidance be required on sizing a PDI image, please contact the Competitions Secretary.

4. Themed Competitions

Images may interpret the theme of the competition in any way. The appointed judge will decide upon the relevance of your image to the competition theme and score accordingly. Enter one colour print, one monochrome print and one PDI. See 2 and 3 above.

5. Open Competition

Enter one colour print, one monochrome print and one PDI on any subject. See 2 and 3 above.

6. Panels Competition

Enter one colour print panel, one monochrome print panel and one single projected triptych image. This competition is Open, so you may choose any subject you wish.

A `panel` consists of three images that are linked or have some relationship to each other. For example, they may be three different images of the same or similar subject(s) or three images that express the same idea or concept. The relationship between the images is the decision of the entrant but should be apparent to the judge.

A colour print panel and monochrome print panel can consist of 3 separate print images or a single triptych print, but in every case must comply with the size constraints in 2.above. The entrant should make clear the order in which the three printed images should be displayed by numbering them 1, 2 and 3 or left, middle and right.

For example :

1. Southwold Seascape.
2. Southwold Seascape.
3. Southwold Seascape.

Or :

Mary (left).

Mungo (middle).

Midge (right).

A PDI triptych image must consist of a single projected image containing the panel of three images within it. The single PDI should comply with the PDI rules (see 3. above). The orientation of the triptych, landscape or portrait, is open to the entrant.

The image file should be named with the title of the triptych, for example. `Three Dogs` or `Eyes, Nose, Mouth`, followed by the entrant's name.

7. Judging and Scoring

Themed, Open and Panel competitions will be judged, where possible, by an accredited EAF judge, who will score each image out of 20 points. Themed, Open and Panel competition scores in each category will be recorded and accumulated over the year. In the event of an external judge failing to attend, the competition will be judged by three members of the club appointed by the Committee. Two of the three members will comment on each image and each award a score out of 10 (to give a combined score out of 20). A member will not be permitted to comment on or score their own images.

8. Annual Competitions

Annual Competitions are `Open` themed and entries are divided into three categories: colour prints, monochrome prints and PDIs. Images may be entirely new or re-entries of images from the Yearly Competitions. (See 1b. above)

Club members can submit up to a maximum of 3 individual colour prints, 3 individual monochrome prints, 3 individual PDIs either colour or monochrome. (A maximum of 9 images).

Prints must be mounted and labelled as described in 2 above. In addition to the image title and entrant's name, the label must clearly indicate the category into which the image is entered (eg. Annual Colour Print).

PDIs must comply with the file format and pixel dimensions as described in 3 above. Files should be emailed to the Competitions Secretary. Your image title and your name should be used for the file name. (e.g. Beautiful Sunset by Club Member's Name.jpg)

All prints and PDIs must be submitted to the Competitions Secretary by the Annual Competitions closing date as specified on the clubs yearly programme. There will be no extensions to this date.

The Annual Competitions will be judged by an accredited external judge who will select a 1st and 2nd place in each category, plus (at the judge's discretion) Highly Commended and Commended awards. The results will be announced at the Club's Annual Presentation Evening, when trophies and certificates will be presented by the judge.

9. Albert Thwaites Memorial Trophy – Image Of The Year

All images scoring 18, 19, 20 points in the Yearly Competitions (excluding Annual Competitions) will qualify for the Image Of The Year Competition.

All eligible images should be emailed as PDIs to the Competitions Secretary (see 3 above) as soon as possible after the competition evening in which they were judged.

For print panels and pdi triptychs that have scored 18, 19, 20 points, the entrant can choose to submit the colour and mono print panels and pdi triptychs as a single pdi triptych. Or any single colour, mono or pdi image can be selected from the high scoring panel or triptych and will be eligible for this competition.

Images should be emailed with the file named with the image title (which must be the same as used in the competition in which it was judged) and include the entrant's name. All as for the PDI rules in 3 above.

All eligible images will be shown as projected images to club members who attend the AGM. Club members may vote for their favourite images according to a method set by the Competitions Secretary. The image receiving the largest number of votes will be awarded the Albert Thwaites Memorial Trophy – Image Of The Year.

Club Competition Rules agreed at AGM December 2022.

Amended EGM 25th October 2023.

Club Competition Rules Up-date agreed at AGM December 2024.

Albert Thwaites Memorial Trophy – Image Of The Year, rules amended AGM Dec 2025.