



DIGITAL (PDI) & PRINT LEAGUES COMPETITION RULES

Effective from 1st September 2023

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Norwich & District Photographic Society (NDPS) prides itself on being a friendly group of people all with a common interest in capturing and creating photographic images. NDPS's overall aim is that with the support of the more experienced photographers within the Society all members can become the best photographer they can be.
- 1.2 NDPS holds regular competitions throughout the year to give members an opportunity to put their skills into practice, and these are a great way to improve and get feedback on their own photography.
- 1.3 Currently the 'Photographer of the Year' (POTY) is the most prestigious accolade that NDPS members can achieve. **The POTY is the member who achieves the highest aggregate score by competing in all the eligible competitions for the current season including the Digital and Print Leagues.**
- 1.4 Members are able to enter either the Digital League or the Print League or both. However, should a member decide to only compete in one of the leagues they should note that this will adversely affect the aggregate score they can build-up towards POTY.
- 1.5 Members entering the Digital and/or the Print League are expected to have read and be familiar with the document **NDPS GENERAL COMPETITION RULES & CONDITIONS OF ENTRY** which also apply unless stated otherwise in this document.

2. Special 'Rules' that apply to the Digital League

- 2.1 Due to the much higher level of participation in 'PDI' competitions during previous seasons the Digital League will be divided into two groups. The purpose of the groups is to encourage more beginners to enter images and allow them to improve their photography at their own pace over time.
 - a) f2.8 group - those members who have, passed photographic qualifications (minimum A Level, or NVQ Level 3), been awarded photographic distinctions (for example RPS, PAGB etc.), have in the past FIVE (5) years won previous awards in NDPS exhibitions (or their equivalent), have regularly represented NDPS in external Competitions and/or are generally considered to be accomplished 'club' photographers.
 - b) f5.6 group - those members who are less accomplished photographers, and/or are new to photography.
- 2.2 Each year, before the first round of the Competition (cycle) each member will choose which group they should join, and they will remain in that group throughout the entire competition cycle season.

- 2.3 At the end of the competition cycle the 'top' three members in the f5.6 group will be expected to automatically move up to the f2.8 group.
- 2.4 Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2.1 a) the 'bottom' three members in the f2.8 group will be expected to move down to the f5.6 group the next September. In arriving at the 'bottom' three the Competition Secretary will take into account whether the aggregate score has been adversely affected by the member's inability to compete in all rounds of the competition, for example new member joining mid-season or long term absence due to illness etc.
- 2.5 New members of the Society will normally be placed in the f5.6 league unless following discussion with the Competition Secretary it is decided that the current standard of their photography merits inclusion in the f2.8 group (See paragraph 3.1 a)).
- 2.6 In addition, an existing member may ask the Competition Secretary at the end of each competition cycle, to promote or relegate him/her at the beginning of the next competition. The Competition Secretary will review such requests sympathetically considering the member's scores in the competitions, success in other competitions and, if necessary, based on a review of a sample of the member's recent work. The Competition Secretary will balance the member's wishes with the need to maintain a fair competition for all other entrants.
- 2.7 Members are able to appeal any decisions of the Competition Secretary in accordance paragraphs 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 within SEVEN (7) days of notification. In such cases the decision of the Competition Secretary will be reviewed by the President and TWO (2) other members appointed for that purpose. The decision of this review group will be binding.

3. Special 'Rules' that apply to the Print League

- 3.1 Currently, there are no special rules that apply to the Print League and all entrants will compete equally with one another. This is because there is at present a much smaller 'hardcore' of NDPS members who regularly produce prints of their work. The ambition is that over time as more members enter 'prints' that similar to the Digital League (paragraph 2.1 above) f2.8 and f5.6 groups will be introduced.

4.1 The Competition Structure

- 4.1 The following Rules hereafter apply equally to both the f2.8 and f5.6 groups except as set out in paragraph 4.5 below.
- 4.2 The **Digital League will consist of FIVE (5) rounds** and **Print League will consist of THREE (3) rounds**. The rounds will be held on the dates detailed below and/or published in the NDPS Programme available on the Society's website.
- N.B.** If for circumstances beyond the control of NDPS it is necessary to alter the arrangements for any round revised details (that will take precedence) will be published on the NDPS website.
- 4.3 In both the Digital and Print Leagues members will be able to enter a maximum of TWO (2) images as detailed below:
- a) ONE (1) image the theme or subject for which will with the approval of the Committee be decided before the 1st September 2023.

- b) ONE (1) image the theme or subject of which shall be the 'free choice' of the photographer. There will be no restriction on the level of manipulation allowed during processing post-capture of images for these images.
- 4.4 In each round the 'themed' images (paragraph 4.3a) will be shown first followed by all the 'free choice' images (paragraph 4.3b).
- 4.5 During each round the appointed judge(s) will, where applicable, be encouraged to give feedback and constructive help when marking each entry in the f5.6 group whereas entries in the f2.8 group will be expected to be of a higher standard, demonstrate high levels of technical and artistic expertise and therefore judged more critically.
- 4.6 At the end of both competitions the member who has been awarded the highest aggregate score will be the winner of the League. In the Digital League there will be a winner of both the f2.8 and f5.6 groups.
- 4.7 In the event of a tie (in one of the leagues) the member who received the lowest score for a 'themed' image during the rounds will be deducted (one by one) until a winner emerges.

5. Allocation of points towards Photographer of the Year

- 5.1 The best FOUR (4) scores received for themed images together with the best FOUR (4) scores received for free-choice images during the FIVE (5) round of the Digital League will count towards each members' aggregate score for POTY.
- 5.2 The best TWO (2) scores received for themed images together with the best TWO (2) scores received for free-choice images during the THREE (3) round of the Print League will count towards each members' aggregate score for POTY.
- 5.3 If in either the Digital or Print League a member has not entered sufficient rounds or images in a round to meet the criteria of Rule 5.1 or 5.2 in full then a score of ZERO (0) will be entered for 'missing images' when calculating that member's aggregate score for POTY.

Full details regarding the Competition dates and themes are provided below.

Please note the Digital League is followed by Print League and therefore competition dates are not in complete chronological order.

Digital League Round 1 (PDI)

Each member is entitled to enter ONE themed image (DLR1T) and ONE free-choice image (DLR1F). Details of the theme are provided below along with a brief note of guidance.

ENTRIES (PDIs) MUST BE RECEIVED BY 7:00pm on SUNDAY 8th October 2023

October 2023	17 th	Tu	CLOSE-UP. A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN FROM A SHORT DISTANCE THAT GIVES A VERY DETAILED PICTURE
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A close-up shot is a photograph or movie shot taken of a subject or object **at close range intended to show greater detail to the viewer**. If the subject is a person, the close-up starts at the shoulders and ends at the top of the head. You should be able to recognize the imagery in the frame, and if the close-up is of a person, there will be a much more significant emotional connection between your viewer and the subject or object featured in the shot. When people are not the main subject close-up shots signal to the audience that something is important, and this can be a subject or reaction, but often it is best when the subject (or object) has a significant influence on the story and the viewers understanding of the story.

For purposes of clarity **macro-photography is excluded** from this round. Images can be either colour or monochrome.

Digital League Round 2 (PDI)

Each member is entitled to enter ONE themed image (DLR2T) and ONE free-choice image (DLR2F). Details of the theme are provided below along with a brief note of guidance.

ENTRIES (PDIs) MUST BE RECEIVED BY 7:00pm on SUNDAY 12th November 2023

November 2023	21 st	Tu	ON THE STREET
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Images should fall within the broad heading of street photography as 'a real, unposed moment', that means they **should not have been staged** but be chance encounters and random incidents within public places. **Images do not necessarily have to be in an urban environment or include people though their presence should be suggested by the subject.**

Images can be either colour or monochrome.

Digital League Round 3 (PDI)

Each member is entitled to enter ONE themed image (DLR3T) and ONE free-choice image (DLR3F). Details of the theme are provided below along with a brief note of guidance.

ENTRIES (PDIs) MUST BE RECEIVED BY 7:00pm on SUNDAY 31st December 2023

January 2024	9 th	Tu	SEEING DOUBLE
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The theme of this round is 'Seeing Double' and asks you **to explore reflections and symmetry in photography**. Reflections may be used in an artistic way and can include reflections in water, glass, mirrors or any highly polished surface for that matter. They add a layer of interest and depth to a photograph making it appear more visually interesting. Reflections can make an

image appear to be more abstract or artistic and they can encourage the viewer to examine a scene more carefully in order to discern what is reality and what is reflected.

Reflection can also be interpreted a technical way to explore the use of reflected light in photography or the use of multiple exposure as a way of layering different images to create a single new image.

Symmetry in composition can have a very powerful impact on the outcome of a photograph.

Symmetry in architecture, for example, can strengthen the composition and create an eye catching point of interest. Symmetry in nature can also be captured through the close up macro photography and can allow the intricate details of creation to be witnessed in all their magnificent glory.

Images can be either colour or monochrome.

Digital League Round 4 (PDI)

Each member is entitled to enter ONE themed image (DLR4T) and ONE free-choice image (DLR4F). Details of the theme are provided below along with a brief note of guidance.

ENTRIES (PDIs) MUST BE RECEIVED BY 7:00pm on SUNDAY 10th March 2024

March 2024	19th	Tu	COLOURS
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Life is a stream of colour. Red, blue, yellow, and a billion pigments in between..! This round is **all about colour-inspired photographs...literally and figuratively**. A scene, a detail, a narrative or mood. A single tone or a technicolour daydream.

Urban street scenes, portraits, travel adventures, landscapes, editorial, conceptual, still life - the challenge is to colour our lives...!

For obvious reasons **monochrome images are not allowed**.

Digital League Round 5 (PDI)

Each member is entitled to enter ONE themed image (DLR5T) and ONE free-choice image (DLR5F). Details of the theme are provided below along with a brief note of guidance.

ENTRIES (PDIs) MUST BE RECEIVED BY 7:00pm on SUNDAY 5th May 2024

May 2024	14th	Tu	OPEN CALL (MONOCHROME)
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For this round there's **no explicit theme**. You are being given the freedom to inspire with your photography, no matter the style, subject matter or genre but the **image must be presented in monochrome**.

For example, landscapes, portraits, reportage, conceptual, personal documentary, travel, and so on - whatever 'rocks your boat'. From spontaneous street moments to meticulous studio set-ups, **entries must be new images taken in the previous 12 months (prior to the deadline date for submissions)** – this is an opportunity to showcase your technique, vision and creativity.

For obvious reasons **colour images are not allowed**.

End of details for Digital League rounds

Print League Round 1 (Mounted Prints)

Each member is entitled to enter ONE themed image (PLR1T) and ONE free-choice image (PLR1F). Details of the theme are provided below along with a brief note of guidance. The deadline for **RECEIVING PDIs of PRINTS** being entered is **7:00pm on SUNDAY 26th November 2023**

ENTRIES (PRINTS) MUST BE HANDED IN AT OR BEFORE 7:00pm TUESDAY 5th December 2023

December 2023	5 th	Tu	CONTRASTS
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The dictionary definition of contrast is, 'The state of being strikingly different from something else'. In **photographic terms, contrast can be manipulated in three ways, tonal, with colour or conceptual.**

A high tone image mainly includes white and black with few or no middle grey tones. A normal tone image will have elements that are white, some that are black and many middle tones of grey. A low tone image is the one with almost no highlights or shadows; all the tones are very similar one to the other. A good example of tonal contrast would be the use of silhouette.

Colour contrast is used to achieve great compositions. Colours with opposite characteristics, like blue and yellow, contrast strongly when placed together. When two opposing colours are placed together they complement and accentuate the qualities of the other colour. Cold colours and warm colours almost always contrast, light colours contrast against dark ones and bold colours offset weak colours.

Conceptual contrast is abstract and much more subjective than the previous ones because it is based on ideas. Images with this type of contrast have a strong story telling component that usually surprises the viewers.

Contrast consists of putting together things that you don't expect to see in the same image. The challenge for this round is **to use contrast to create texture, highlight, shadow, colour and clarity in your images.**

Images can be either colour or monochrome.

Print League Round 2 (Mounted Prints)

Each member is entitled to enter ONE themed image (PLR2T) and ONE free-choice image (PLR2F). Details of the theme are provided below along with a brief note of guidance. The deadline for **RECEIVING PDIs of PRINTS** being entered is **7:00pm on SUNDAY 4th February 2024**

ENTRIES (PRINTS) MUST BE HANDED IN ON OR BEFORE 7:00pm TUESDAY 13th February 2024

February 2024	13 th	Tu	URBAN JUNGLE
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The objective of this round is **to encourage members to document the interplay between architecture and nature in urban settings.** Whether it's the lush greenery peeking through concrete structures, vertical gardens adorning skyscrapers, or the cohabitation of urban wildlife with the built environment, we want you to capture the spirit of the "Urban Jungle." **Show us the unique blend of human creativity and the raw power of nature as they converge within the urban landscape.**

Images can be either colour or monochrome.

Print League Round 3 (Mounted Prints)

Each member is entitled to enter ONE themed image (PLR3T) and ONE free-choice image (PLR3F). Details of the theme are provided below along with a brief note of guidance. The deadline for **RECEIVING PDIs of PRINTS** being entered is **7:00pm on SUNDAY 14th April 2024**

ENTRIES (PRINTS) MUST BE HANDED IN ON OR BEFORE 7:00pm TUESDAY 23rd April 2024

April 2024

23rd

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TAKEN IN NORFOLK

This round you are **not restricted to any particular genre of photography, but it should be evident to most viewers who are familiar with Norfolk where the photograph was taken.** For example, intimate landscape images that could have been taken anywhere, or portraits that are tightly framed to any background are not allowed.

What's to love about Norfolk..? Well, there are those huge beaches alive with wonderful wildlife, quiet, ancient woodlands carpeted in wild flowers and the beautiful, ever-changing watery wonderland that is the Norfolk Broads. Then there's Norwich, the handsome, historical city rich with culture and heritage (and amazing independent shops) and the quaint and quirky market towns dotted around the county, the busy coastal resorts and fishing ports, and the gifted artists and the inspirational people who live here.

The one constraint is that **entries must be new images taken in the previous 12 months (prior to the deadline date for submissions).** Images can be either colour or monochrome.