



# PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION RULES

Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

## 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 competition that NDPS members can enter.
- 1.4 Members entering POTY 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. POTY Structure

- 2.1 The POTY competition consists of TWO (2) parts.
  - a) In the first part of the competition there are FIVE (5) qualification rounds with members competing in TWO (2) leagues
  - b) In the second part of the competition the THREE (3) photographers in each league with the highest score at the end of the qualification rounds will compete in the 'Final' round to be elected the 'Photographer of the Year' by the members of the Society.

## 3. The Leagues

- 3.1 The purpose of the leagues is to encourage more members to enter images and allow them to improve their photography at their own pace over time.
  - a) **f2.8 league** - those members who have, passed photographic qualifications (minimum A Level, or NVQ Level 3), awarded photographic distinctions (for example RPS, PAGB etc.), have in the past FIVE (5) years won previous POTY rounds, and/or awards in previous NDPS exhibitions (or their equivalent) and/or are generally accepted to be accomplished 'club' photographers.
  - b) **f5.6 league** - those members who are less accomplished photographers, and/or are new to photography.

- 3.2 In September each year members will choose which league they wish to join, and they will remain in that league throughout the competition.
- 3.3 There will be no automatic promotion or relegation between the leagues at the end of each year, but members who have excelled in the f5.6 league will be encouraged to move up to the f2.8 league if appropriate. However, a member who wins the f5.6 league in each of TWO (2) consecutive competitions will be expected to move into the f2.8 league at the start of the next competition.
- 3.4 A member of the f2.8 group whose work throughout TWO (2) competitions has consistently been amongst the lowest scoring may be encouraged to move down to the f5.6 group.
- 3.5 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 Rule 3.1 a)).
- 3.6 An existing member may ask the Competition Secretary at the end of each competition, to promote or relegate him/her at the beginning of the next competition. The Competition Secretary will review such request 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.

#### **4. The Competition**

- 4.1 The following Rules hereafter apply equally to both the f2.8 and f5.6 leagues except as set out in paragraph 4.6 below.
- 4.2 There will be FIVE (5) qualification rounds consisting of TWO (2) rounds consisting of MOUNTED PRINTS and THREE (3) rounds consisting of PROJECTED DIGITAL IMAGES (PDIs), held on the dates announced and published in the NDPS Programme available on the Society's website.
- 4.3 A maximum of TWO (2) images per photographer are permitted to be entered in each qualification round as follows:
  - a) ONE (1) image the theme or subject for which has been 'defined' with the approval of the committee by the Competition Secretary before the start of the competition.
  - 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 'defined' images (paragraph 4.3a) will be shown first followed by all the 'free choice' images (paragraph 4.3b).
- 4.5 Images will be presented to the judge for comments/review and scoring in a random order with only the title of the image and league being announced prior to the image being shown. All images will be scored in increments of half a mark with TEN (10) being the highest possible score.
- 4.6 During each qualification round the appointed judge(s) will be encouraged to give feedback and constructive help when marking each entry in the f5.6 league whereas

entries in the f2.8 league will be expected to be of a higher standard, demonstrate high levels of technical and artistic expertise and therefore judged more critically.

- 4.7 At the end of the qualification rounds the THREE (3) members in both leagues (f2.8 & f5.6) who have been awarded the highest aggregate score will compete against each other in a final round for the title of Photographer of the Year.
- 4.8 In the event of a tie (in one of the leagues) the member who received the lowest score(s) for an image in the qualifying rounds will be eliminated until a winner emerges.
- 4.9 in the final round each of the final SIX (6) photographers shall submit an additional portfolio of THREE (3) images each depicting a different subject or photographic genre. These images must be either ALL prints or ALL PDIs but not a combination of the two.
- 4.10 The images making up each photographer's portfolio MUST have been captured no earlier than the previous first day of September.
- 4.11 In addition, the portfolio cannot include an image that is identical to, or substantially similar to, one entered during the qualification rounds.
- 4.12 Lots will be drawn to decide the order in which each photographer's portfolio of work is shown in the final.
- 4.13 The judge appointed to officiate during the final will comment upon each portfolio of work but will not give any score nor express an opinion regarding either a preference or order of merit. When all the finalists' images have been shown the judge will pass the Competition Secretary a sealed envelope containing his/her scorecard on which the finalists are ranked one through to six.
- 4.13 After the judge has completed his/her scorecard each member of NDPS who was eligible to participate in POTY will select the Photographer of the Year in a secret ballot. Members who choose not to attend the final forfeit their voting right.
- 4.16 The photographer who receives the highest number of votes will be the Photographer of the Year. In the event of a tie the votes for runner-up and third place will be taken into consideration to decide upon a winner.
- 4.17 In the event a tie still exists the finalist (of those tied) who received the highest ranking on the judge's scorecard will be declared the Photographer of the Year.

Details for the 2021-2022 Season are attached.

**POTY Round 1 (Digital images)**

Each member is entitled to enter ONE free-choice image (POTY 1F) and ONE themed image (POTY 1T). Details of the theme are provided below along with a brief note of guidance  
The deadline for receipt of PDIs is **7:00pm on SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

<b>October 2021</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>MINIMALISM (IN COLOUR)</b>
---------------------	------------------------	-----------	-------------------------------

Minimalism emphasises the use of a minimal number of compositional elements: colour, objects, shapes, and textures. To so many of us Minimalism refers to clean lines and black and white objects. But you do not have to see the world in two colours to be a loyal Minimalist...! Minimalism does not mean that no colour is ever allowed in your life anymore.

**POTY Round 2 (Digital images)**

Each member is entitled to enter ONE free-choice image (POTY 2F) and ONE themed image (POTY 2T). Details of the theme are provided below along with a brief note of guidance  
The deadline for receipt of PDIs is **7:00pm on SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

<b>December 2021</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>A UNIQUE INTERPRETATION OF A FAMILIAR SUBJECT</b>
----------------------	-----------------------	-----------	--

What separates a great photograph from a truly memorable one? An element of surprise. Unexpected brilliance sticks in your mind, and the memory becomes something you can return to for inspiration

**POTY Round 3 (Digital images) – NEW DATE**

Each member is entitled to enter ONE free-choice image (POTY 3F) and ONE themed image (POTY 3T). Details of the theme are provided below along with a brief note of guidance  
The deadline for receipt of PDIs is **7:00pm on SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

<b>February 2022</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>WORKING WITH LIGHT</b>
----------------------	------------------------	-----------	---------------------------

Lighting is a key factor in creating a successful image. Lighting determines not only brightness and darkness, but also tone, mood, and atmosphere. Therefore, it is necessary to control and manipulate light correctly in order to get the best texture, vibrancy of colour, and luminosity on your subjects.

**POTY Round 4 (Mounted Prints) – NEW DATE**

Each member is entitled to enter ONE free-choice image (POTY 4F) and ONE themed image (POTY 4T). Details of the theme are provided below along with a brief note of guidance  
The deadline for receipt of PDIs is **7:00pm on SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**PRINTS MUST BE HANDED IN ON OR BEFORE TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

<b>March 2022</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>YOU'RE IN CONTROL OF THE SHUTTER SPEED</b>
-------------------	------------------------	-----------	---

Timing is crucial in photography. In camera we control time by selecting appropriate speeds. "Shutter speed" is the length of time your camera shutter is open, exposing light onto the camera sensor.

On the technical side, the shutter speed will affect your exposure. "Slow" shutter speed will allow more light in – making your image brighter, and "fast" shutter speed will let in less light – thus your image will be darker.

But there is also a creative side! And that is what we want to see in your pictures...! By controlling the shutter speeds, we can either freeze action (by selecting fast speeds) or blur motion (slow speeds).

**POTY Round 5 (Mounted Prints)**

Each member is entitled to enter ONE free-choice image (POTY 5F) and ONE themed image (POTY 5T). Details of the theme are provided below along with a brief note of guidance  
The deadline for receipt of PDIs is **7:00pm on SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**PRINTS MUST BE HANDED IN ON OR BEFORE TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022**

<b>April 2022</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>CAPTURED DURING 2022 (OPEN)</b>
-------------------	------------------------	-----------	------------------------------------

There is no theme for this round, but we do want to see new work. Therefore, your task is to enter an image that was captured after the last day of 2021 and before the deadline for submission. Your task is as simple as that...!

**POTY FINAL**

Each finalist is entitled to enter THREE images of their choice (POTY F01, F02, & F03).  
The deadline for receipt of PDIs(included PDIs of Prints) is **7:00pm on SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**However, PRINTS MUST BE HANDED IN ON OR BEFORE TUESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022**

<b>June 2022</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>FINAL OF PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR</b>
------------------	-----------------------	-----------	--