

# Internal League Competition Rules, Entry Requirements and Submission Guidelines

Version 3.3

Substantive changes from version 3.2:

- The wording of general entry requirements 6 and 7 (concerning the use of software tools) and the guidance on the use of AI have been updated to conform to the WCPF text at the time of writing.

## Internal League Competition Rules

1. Entrants may enter up to 2 images in each section (print and DPI).
2. Entries must meet the general entry requirements.
3. Submissions should follow the submission guidelines.
4. An image may not be entered if it is nearly identical to an image that received an award when entered into an earlier round (in the same season or an earlier season) of the internal league competition
5. An image may not be entered if it is nearly identical to an image that was entered in an earlier round in the same season of the internal league competition unless
  - The earlier entry was to an open round and the later entry to a themed round
  - The earlier entry was to a themed round and the later entry to an open round
6. Whilst this list is not exhaustive, two images will be considered nearly identical if the main differences between them are one or more of:
  - One is monochrome and the other colour
  - One is in a portrait orientation and the other a landscape orientation
  - One is a print and the other a DPI
7. The judge will allocate awards as follows:
  - First place (5 points)
  - Second place (4 points)
  - Third place (3 points)
  - Highly commended (2 points)
  - Commended (1 point)
8. For each individual round, the competition secretary will determine the number of highly commended and commended awards.
9. Judges may be given limited discretion to vary the number of commended and highly commended awards based on their assessment of the images entered.

10. A separate league table is maintained for each section
  - An entrant's league score in a section is the total number of award points received plus one point for each round in which they entered images in the section
  - If there is a tie for first place based on league points alone, then the entrant with the most first places in the season will be declared the winner. If there is still a tie when the number of first places is taken into account, then second places, and then third places and so on will be considered in order until the tie is broken. If this is still not sufficient to break the tie, then joint winners will be declared.
11. Entrants may submit images "for critique only".

## General Entry Requirements

1. Entrants must be club members in good standing throughout the period from the submission date to the judging date inclusive.
2. Entries must be submitted by the specified closing date, unless by arrangement with the competition secretary.
3. By entering, entrants give the club permission to:
  - a. display submitted images on the competition results pages of the club website
  - b. retain submitted digital images (including digital versions of prints) indefinitely; retained images may be:
    - i. used to support the routine operation of club competitions and activities, e.g. checking for duplicate competition entries or finding candidate images for external competitions
    - ii. stored in club archives and used for activities with a historical aspect, e.g. web pages, newsletter articles or other publications covering the history of the club.
4. By entering, unless otherwise stated, entrants give permission to include award winning images in reports of club meetings to the local press
  - a. To exclude your images from being offered to the press, send an email to the internal competition secretary (see [committee page](#))
5. For all entered images and components of composite images
  - a. the original image must have been taken using a photographic process
  - b. it must be the sole work of the entrant
  - c. the entrant must own the image copyright
6. The use of clip-art, computer generated elements, downloaded textures, third-party decorative borders, or elements from any other photographer's images are not permitted. Images or image elements generated by any software tool are not permitted. This includes but is not restricted to backgrounds, textures, skies, props and other embellishments. Any creative, shaped or textured brushes must be created by the photographer.
7. Software tools that replace or remove an image element or extend an image such as content-aware fill, healing, patching or object removal are only permitted where the reference for the inserted image data is wholly contained within the base image(s). It is the photographer's responsibility to ensure that the tools they use do not draw image content from outside the photographer's own work.

8. Digital projected images (DPIs) must be in JPEG format, use the sRGB colour space and be no more than 1600 pixels wide and no more than 1200 pixels high.
9. Prints may be mounted using card or unmounted.
10. Mounts must be rectangular, no larger than 50cm by 40cm.
11. Unmounted prints are typically A4 in size. They must be no smaller than 8 inches by 8 inches and no larger than 12 inches by 8.5 inches.
12. Images must not, in the opinion of the club committee, be likely to cause significant offence.

## General Submission Guidelines

1. DPI entries must be sent by email to the competition secretary at [intcomp.thornburycameraclub\(AT\)gmail.com](mailto:intcomp.thornburycameraclub(AT)gmail.com)<sup>1</sup>. The email should
  - a. Have a subject line identifying the competition and round
  - b. Clearly identify the submitter
  - c. Indicate if the images are “for critique only”. If there is no indication, then the images will be considered for awards
  - d. Have the submitted images as direct file attachments - avoid zip files and embedded images
  - e. Image file names should generally be the title of the image with a file extension indicating its file type, i.e ‘.jpg’.
    - Use spaces between words
    - The file name should only contain letters, numbers and the characters space, dot, hyphen or underline.
    - When the full image title contains characters other than those allowed in the file name, the full title may be specified in the submission email.
    - Do not include additional identifiers or other text in the file name
    - File name extensions should be lower case.
    - For example, an image with the title ‘Severn Sunrise’ should have a file name ‘Severn Sunrise.jpg’.
2. Prints will be collected at the club meeting on the closing date, and optionally earlier.
  - a. If the club is not meeting at its usual venue on the closing date, alternative arrangements for print collection will be announced.
  - b. Additional arrangements to collect prints may be announced to suit prevailing circumstances.
  - c. In case of difficulty, contact the internal competition secretary by email.
3. There should be a title or an ‘untitled’ mark on the back bottom right of unmounted prints or mounts along with the initials of the entrant and an image number (e.g. bwm-1). The photographer’s name should not appear anywhere on print mounts or prints. A DPI version of each print should also be submitted following the DPI submission guidelines.
4. Both print and DPI submissions will be acknowledged by the competition secretary. If an acknowledgement is not received in a reasonable time, contact the competition secretary to check the submission has been received. The acknowledgement will show how the entry has been recorded by the competition administration software.

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<sup>1</sup> Substitute “@” for “(AT)”

Please contact the competition secretary promptly to report any errors in recording the entry.

## Guidance on the use of image creation and processing Tools (sometimes labelled as “AI”)

Generative AI uses various algorithms, data and sometimes user prompts to generate new content that is not photographic. Therefore, images or image elements created using Generative AI are not permitted.

Increasingly image processing software includes tools which use AI /machine-learning for content fill, scene expansion, patching or object removal (e.g. Photoshop’s “Remove Tool”). Their use needs to be consistent with the General Entry Requirements above.

Image enhancement tools (e.g., AI De-noise, AI Scaling, AI Sharpening) are acceptable, so long as they do not introduce image elements that are not present in the original. In general, the images immediately before and after enhancement should look nearly identical when viewed at full-screen.

The PAGB Compliance Statement on AI (Oct 2023) states that “It is appreciated that the individual photographer may not be fully aware of exactly how individual processing functions act, whether in-camera or in post-processing, However, Thornbury Camera Club would expect photographers to be aware of when any significant addition has been made to an image which is not part of an original work by the photographer.”