

Scottish Photographic Federation

Club Print Championship Rules 2026

1. The Scottish Photographic Federation Club Print Championship is open to all members of clubs whose SPF affiliation fees have been paid for the current year, January to December.
2. All entries must be submitted through a club. Clubs may submit **THREE prints per member** in each of the following categories: **monochrome** prints, **colour** prints. monochrome prints must comply with the Monochrome definition.
3. **All authors and titles must be completed online via the SPF Website by the Club organiser. A copy of the completed entry list must be printed off and included with your prints and cheque (PDI copies are not required).**
4. No club may enter more than **80 prints** for the competition.
 - No author may represent more than one club.
 - Prints entered in previous SPF club print championships (or those so similar as to be indistinguishable) are ineligible (*this includes a mono version of that previously entered as colour and vice versa*).
 - Trade processed prints are eligible for the competition.
 - All prints must be mounted on suitable card not exceeding 50 cm x 40 cm. Prints must bear the authors name, club represented, category entered, title, and if nature. All velcro tabs, or sticky areas must be removed or covered before submission.
 - There may be no more than **five nature prints** in the club's top twenty.
 - The winning club will be decided by the aggregate score of its **top ten monochrome and top ten colour prints** and will receive the John Logan Trophy. *The Best Mono Club - the best scoring club from their ten counting mono prints - SPF Gold Medal; The Best Colour Club - the best scoring club from their ten counting colour prints - SPF Gold Medal*
 - If there is a Tie-Break, the **SPF Tie Break Procedure** will be introduced (see below).
 - All prints gaining the qualifying points total will be submitted for selection for individual awards. The qualifying points total will be decided by the judges during the competition. *SPF Gold Medals will be awarded for each of Best Mono Print and Best Colour Print; The Best Overall Print will receive the Esme Smythe Trophy. The Best Landscape Print will receive the Campbell McNair Trophy. **Best Portrait, Best Creative and Best Nature will also be awarded SPF Silver Medals – Only prints that comply with the Nature definition are eligible for that award.** Each judge will award an SPF Bronze Medal to their personal choice. Commendations will be awarded at the discretion of the judges*
5. Where the total number of prints exceeds **1200**, the SPF reserves the right to remove prints to a manageable level for judging equally across clubs e.g. to 75 prints per club. If necessary, the author's 3rd print in one or both of monochrome/colour sections will be the one(s) removed.
6. Clubs are responsible for the collection of all entries on the day of competition or after any exhibition which may immediately follow the competition. If clubs wish their entry returned by post, suitable packaging and postage must be sent with the entry.
7. Best Nature Award - For Nature Images to be eligible for the Nature award they **must comply with the SPF Nature Definition*** and be indicated as such when entering on the website. Nature images that do not comply with this SPF Nature Definition are not eligible and **must not be indicated on the website.**
**Please see nature definition supplied later in these rules.*
8. The organisers will take all possible care but cannot accept liability for damage to or loss of entries.
9. The Scottish Photographic Federation Club Print Championship will normally be held in February each year. Trophies must be returned to an SPF committee member, or the SPF Custodian, within two months of the Competition date that the trophy was received.
10. **NEW 2023 - All entries must comply with the Conditions of Entry Statement supplied with these Rules.**
11. Any interpretation of the rules will be the prerogative of the Scottish Photographic Federation President or his nominees, and any decision will be final.
12. Submission of entries implies acceptance of all rules and conditions of entry.
13. An Entry of 70p per print is payable and must be submitted with a copy of the online entry form. (Payment via BACS, Cheque or PayPal) A copy of the entry form must also be included in the print box.

SPF TIE BREAK PROCEDURE (Agreed 7 March 2010)

One - No tiebreak will be used in either of these competitions to decide position. If two, or more, clubs tie for first place they will be awarded the trophy equally and there is also no need to separate 2nd, 3rd or lower equal places.

Two - If it is necessary to decide between two or more clubs tied for the same position in order to say who will be invited to represent the SPF at a national PAGB Championship then this will be calculated as follows.

Where more than two clubs are tied then any Club which can be separated by that step will be dropped even if two or more have to proceed to the next step.

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- Step 1. Count the Awards made to each Club in the competition and choose the Club with the most – whatever value the awards are. I.E. 3 HC are better than 1 Gold medal plus 1 Silver medal. If this does not separate the clubs take the Club with most gold medals then most silver medals and so on until they can be separated.
- Step 2. If Step 1 is inconclusive then count back the highest Scores. i.e. The Club with the most 15s followed by the most 14s, 13s, 12s etc until the clubs can be separated.
- Step 3. If Steps 1 and 2 are inconclusive a Random Draw conducted by the President or his/her nominee will decide the issue.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY STATEMENTS – including new AI rule.

'To be eligible to enter SPF competitions individuals must be resident in Scotland* or via application to the SPF' *An exception is made for members of Clubs close to the Scotland/England border who stay in the north of England provided they indicate they do not wish to enter through NCPF. See Competition Guidance website for more details if required.

'Images entered must be entirely the work of the photographer. Composite Images are permitted provided all component images meet this requirement. For the avoidance of doubt, use of images from any source including, but not limited to, royalty free image banks, textures and clipart are not permitted'.

NEW 'The use of AI software is allowed provided all images used have been taken by you, and only your own photographs are used in the processing. No modifications are allowed based on AI generated text input or generated using images or elements not taken by the photographer.'

NEW - All images entered must comply within the ethos laid out in our "What is and Isn't Allowed..." document. – See full document, 'Advice on What is Allowed when entering SPF Competitions' (including new AI guidance) from the following SPF webpage - <https://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/competitions-guidance>

NEW 'RAW files or jpegs (incl. neighbouring jpegs) may be requested if there is any doubt of the eligibility of the entry.'

'By entering, the Photographer consents to the retention by the SPF of information identifying the Photographer as the creator of an Image. Where a Federation, or Club is the Entrant, on behalf of multiple Photographers, then the Entrant warrants that each Photographer has consented to the retention of identifying information as if the Photographer had entered in person. Any photographs submitted may be selected to represent the SPF. By virtue of submitting an entry the entrant certifies the work as his own and permits the SPF to reproduce all or part of the entered material free of charge for publication and /or display in media related to its Competitions, including on its website or by circulation to its member Clubs. The Photographer of each image will normally be credited with any use. The SPF assumes no liability for any misuse of copyright.'

MONOCHROME DEFINITION - A work fitting from the very dark grey (black) to the very clear grey (white) is a monochrome work with the various shades of grey. A monochrome work toned entirely in a single colour will remain a monochrome work able to stand in the monochrome category. A monochrome image modified by a partial toning or by the addition of one colour becomes a colour work (polychrome) to stand in the colour category.

SPF NATURE DEFINITION – Now for Best Nature Award only. Please indicate eligible images when completing your entry on our website.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible. Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. Stitched images are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Colour images can be converted to greyscale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed. Images used in Nature Photography competitions may be divided in two classes: Nature and Wildlife.

Images entered in Nature sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above can have landscapes, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant organisms as the primary subject matter. This includes images taken with the subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food.

Images entered in Wildlife sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above are further defined as one or more extant zoological or botanical organisms free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Landscapes, geologic formations, photographs of zoo or game farm animals, or of any extant zoological or botanical species taken under controlled conditions are not eligible in Wildlife sections. Wildlife is not limited to animals, birds and insects. Marine subjects and botanical subjects (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild are suitable wildlife subjects, as are carcasses of extant species. Wildlife images may be entered in Nature sections of Exhibitions.