



Irish Photographic Federation

Nature Photographer of the Year Competition

Rules and Regulations

Updated for the 2015/2016 Season

Version 2.1

Updated by: John Cuddihy AIPF
Approved by Council Sept 5th 2015

1. The Competition

1. The competition is open to all members of Clubs in good standing with the Federation in the current season of the competition.
2. The competition shall consist of five separate sections/categories. The two themed categories will mirror the theme requirements for the FIAP Biennials for the two years following that competition.
 - Print - Open (per FIAP definition below)
 - Projected Image - Open (per FIAP definition below)
 - Colour Print - Themed - Mammals in Action (per FIAP definition below)
 - Projected Image -Themed The World of Insects (per FIAP definition below)
 - Projected Image - Open - The Natural World (per non-FIAP definition below)
3. The regional rounds shall be held between 1st November and 31st January on a date and venue agreed with each Regional IPF committee, with the National Finals being held on a date not later than the last day of the following February.
4. Regional committees shall appoint nature Judges from the list of nature Judges provided by the IPF National Council. Appointed judges must be from outside that region. All rounds shall be subject to the authority of the IPF National Council and the National Competition Coordinator, the decision of the IPF National Council being final.
5. All regional rounds and the National Final shall be judged by nature judges, each marking every image from nine points. Two nature judges are preferred at regional rounds, however one judge who is a nature judge is acceptable at regional level. The National Finals shall be judged by at least two Nature Judges. Results shall be from an aggregate of the Judges' scores.

6. New Nature Photography Definition

Images submitted in the open and themed categories must comply with the definition of Nature Photography as published by FIAP (Federation Internationale De L'Art Photographique) and as agreed with the PSA and RPS. Effective from Jan 1st 2015.

“Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, 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, cultivated plants 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 elements are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Colour images can be converted to grey-scale 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, geological 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.”

The full FIAP definition can be downloaded from the [FIAP website](#). The judge shall have the right to determine, for the purpose of this competition, what does or does not comply with this definition. The judge's decision is final.

7. The Natural World Definition (applies to Natural World Category ONLY)

To qualify for The Natural World category, an author can submit any image monochrome or colour, which depicts any creature (domesticated or otherwise), any living plant (cultivated or otherwise), any natural/biological/environmental aspect or feature, or any weather phenomenon to illustrate their view of the natural world. Humans may be included, as long as they are shown within their place in the world or interacting with it. A studio portrait of a human being does not qualify. An environmental portrait of a person within their home or any 100% artificially created environment does not qualify. A portrait of a human mountaineer clearly showing their place in the mountains does qualify. Cows in a field are acceptable as would be dogs in a farmyard. A dog sitting on a sofa would not be acceptable. Caged & captive creatures not acceptable.

8. For regional rounds, any nature judge must be based outside of that region and be chosen from the list of IPF approved Nature Judges. This list is available from the IPF. The National Finals shall be judged by at least two Nature Judges. Results shall be based on the aggregate of the Judges' scores.

9. Photographers who come under any of the following categories will be deemed to be Advanced photographers.

Persons who have -

- (a) received an IPF distinction or similar ie. FIAP, PSA, RPS or any other distinctions;
- (b) been awarded more than one IPF medal in IPF national competitions;
- (c) whose image(s) have represented the IPF in international competitions;
- (d) received an Acceptance or Acceptances with five or more image titles or one or more Awards, including a Ribbon, in FIAP and/or PSA recognized salons.
- (e) Persons whose club considers them to be of advanced standard in any discipline of photography (eg. Monochrome, Colour Print, Projected Image, AV etc.).
- (f) Photographers who, in the opinion of the Federation, are of advanced standard are not allowed to enter as "Non Advanced".

2. Entries

1. Each competitor may enter up to three images in each open section i.e. Print, and Digital Projected Image, and up to two images in each themed section. It is compulsory to enter at least one open section.
2. Prints must be mounted on 20" X 16" (50.8 X 40.6 cm) board and framed prints will not be accepted. Prints must be registered online and a digital copy uploaded for entry into the regional round. The prints must be presented to the regional competition event for judging.
3. Digital images for projection must be 2,400 pixels on the longest side @ jpeg quality 10, must be uploaded via the link provided for entry into the Regional competition. The IPF reserves the right to resize these images to optimize them for display or for acceptance into any international competition that the IPF may participate in.
4. Each print entry must carry the official completed IPF label (available on the IPF website) to include the name of the author, the name of his or her club, Advanced or Non Advanced, and the image title. Entries not marked in accordance with this rule will be disqualified.
5. Entries must entirely be the original work of the person represented as being the author of that work.
6. Images, which have been selected for previous National Nature finals, may not be entered in the regional rounds.
7. Unlabelled images will not be accepted for the Finals.

3. Regional Rounds

1. It is the responsibility of each entrant to present their work and appropriate fee to the regional organizers on or before the closing date for the regional round. Entry for the 2015-2016 season is via online registration. Any issues experienced while trying to enter online must be brought to the attention of the regional organizers before the closing date set by the region for its event.

2. Entry Fee:

The entry fees are as follows:

One Section : €10.00	Two Sections : €15.00
Three Sections: €20.00	Four Sections or more: €25.00

These fees must be paid at the point of registering for the regional round of the competition via the link provided on the IPF website.

3. Prizes for all competitions, if any, shall be as agreed between the IPF National Council and the sponsors.
4. A minimum of 80% of the entry from each region, as selected by the Judges, shall advance to the finals. The Final “cut-off” score for qualification shall be set on the day.
5. The Judges' decision shall be final.
6. Each region shall forward the qualifying prints complete with details and appropriate fees to the National Competition Coordinator on or before Monday 8th February 2016, clearly distinguishing Advanced and Non Advanced entries.

Note: A fee of one euro and fifty cents (€1.50) per qualifying image in the 4 fullest categories, for max 60% of the original entry (which will be retained from the regional entry fee) must be included to ensure participation in the National Finals.

7. Each Region will supply a list of entries, listing Title, Photographer Name, Contact Details, Image scores from the regional rounds on a completed spreadsheet to the National Coordinator and copied to the IT staff.

4. The National Finals

1. All qualifying entries for the National Finals must be forwarded to the National Competition Coordinator on or before Monday 8th February 2016. Entries will not be accepted after this date. The National Final shall be held not later than the 28th February each year on a date and venue agreed by the IPF Council.
2. Transmission of the entries for the National Finals shall be the responsibility of the regions, who shall make appropriate arrangements in each case. Entries will be returned through the regions by arrangement with the organizers of the competition.
3. Only images that have qualified through the regional rounds shall be eligible for the National Finals.
4. Marking shall be as outlined in Section 1.5 above. Where necessary, Judges shall rule on entries that gain equal aggregate scores in such a manner as they and the National Competition Coordinator decide. Said rulings are final.
5. IPF Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals will be awarded to the top three images in each Open section at both the advanced and intermediate level. One IPF Silver medal will be awarded to the author of the highest scoring image at advanced level in each themed section, and one IPF silver medal will be awarded to the author of the highest scoring image in each themed section at non-advanced level. Authors who enter as “Non Advanced” will only be eligible to win the medals as allocated for the “Non Advanced” section, even if they score higher than the advanced authors in any section.
6. Medals will be awarded on a ‘*first past the post*’ basis per section.
7. This competition is a recognized competition for the purposes of gathering qualifiers to use in your application for FIAP distinction. To attain a qualifier, you must have an image score in the top 35% in the national final. The Top 35% will be listed on the IPF website.
8. High scoring images will be retained by the IPF for possible selection for International competitions and FIAP Biennials and will be returned after selections take place.

9. A representative from each region must be present at the end of the competition to take possession of returned prints. The IPF will not accept responsibility for the safe keeping or return of prints after this point. It is up to the region to appoint whomsoever they wish.
10. It is not permitted to enter the same image in more than one section. This includes conversions to monochrome, digital versions etc. For the purpose of interpreting this rule, a monochrome version, a digital version, a colour version, (printed or otherwise), and a cropped version originating from the same original photograph will be deemed to be the same image.

5. General

1. The Irish Photographic Federation retains the right to reproduce any image entered in the competition in connection with publicizing or promoting the competition. The Irish Photographic Federation retains the right to publish any images entered in the competition in the annual Images of Distinction DVD. Copyright of the images shall remain with the respective authors. The Irish Photographic Federation retains the right to store the images in the National Archive Collection, and may use them to create online galleries or may display them on the IPF website.
2. The IPF National Council's decision in all matters relating to this competition is final.
3. Submission of any entry to this competition is deemed acceptance of these rules, as they relate to this competition.
4. All entries, (both open and themed) must conform to current specifications as defined by FIAP in each category of Monochrome Print, Colour Print, and Projected Image.
5. For the proper administration of IPF Competitions, amendments to the rules can be made at the end of the season on the recommendation of the National Competition Coordinator in consultation with the IPF primary officers.
6. The organizers will take reasonable care of the entries submitted but cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to images.

7. Any image, deemed by the organisers or judges, in the regional rounds or at the national final, to show a creature in a distressed state in the process of the image being taken, will be disqualified from the competition. Example - a close wide angle image of a nesting bird.

IPF ENTRIES TO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

IPF entries to all international competitions will be selected from the highest scoring images (theme relevant in the FIAP biennials) in each section of the National Nature Photographer of the Year competition; and, the winning panel and images receiving individual awards in each category of all IPF National Competitions.