



Irish Photographic Federation

Nature Photographer of the Year Competition Rules and Regulations

2018/2019

The Competition

1. The competition is open to all members of Clubs in good standing with the IPF and their IPF Region in the current season of the competition.
2. The competition will consist of two sections, Non-advanced and Advanced.
3. Photographers who come under any of the following categories will be deemed to be Advanced photographers and are therefore not eligible to enter the Non-advanced section.
 - a) Persons who have received an IPF distinction or similar or any other distinctions from a national or international photographic organisation (e.g., FIAP, PSA, RPS), or been awarded more than one IPF medal in IPF national competitions
 - b) whose image(s) have represented the IPF in international competitions;
 - c) received five or more acceptances or one or more awards, including an honourable mention, diploma or judges' award in FIAP, PSA or GPU recognised salons.
 - d) Persons whose club considers them to be of advanced standard in any discipline of photography (eg. Monochrome, Colour Print, Projected Image, AV etc.).
 - e) Photographers who, in the opinion of the Federation, are of advanced standard are not allowed to enter as "Non-Advanced".
4. The competition shall consist of five separate sections/categories. The two themed categories usually mirror the theme requirements for the FIAP Biennials for the two years following that competition. (please see definitions at the end of this document)
5. Each photographer may enter up to three images in each open section i.e. Print and Projected Image (including Natural World), and up to two images in each themed section. It is compulsory to enter at least one open section. It is not permitted to enter the same image in more than one section.
 - Print – Open
 - Projected Digital Image - Open
 - Projected Digital Image – Open - The Natural World

Each photographer may submit a maximum of two images in the following sections;

- Colour Print - Theme – Flora and Fungi
- Projected Digital Image - Theme – Irish Wildbirds and Wildlife

Conditions of Entry

1. The competition is open to all members of Clubs in good standing with the IPF and their IPF Region in the current season of the competition.
2. Entry to the competition is via the online entry system accessible from the website www.irishphoto.ie
3. Each image entered to the competition must be uploaded as a jpeg file, 2,400 pixels on the longest side @ jpeg quality 10.
4. Each image entered requires a title. The Title should be as you would like it displayed with the image, and should **not** contain underscores or any special characters (Example / \ _ : " ? < > |). Titles such as "Untitled" and "No Title" are not acceptable.
5. Entries must entirely be the original work of the person represented as being the author of that work. Inclusion of third party content is strictly forbidden. Use of stock images, even if the copyright has been purchased by the photographer, is also not allowed.
6. The same image may not be entered into more than one section.
7. Images previously entered in the POTY or NPOTY may not be entered in any other year of the competition.
8. Each competitor may enter up to three images in each open section, and up to two images in each themed section. It is compulsory to enter at least one open section.
9. 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.
10. Requirements for Print Entries
 - a) Prints must be mounted on 20" X 16" (50.8 X 40.6 cm) board (mounts of any other dimensions, larger or smaller, will be disqualified)
 - b) Prints must be securely fastened to the mount using quality mount tape. Framed prints will not be accepted.
 - c) IPF image labels must be fixed to the back top right corner of each print. Personalised labels will be sent by email to entrants after the closing date of the competition. No other labels or writing must appear on the back of the mount.
 - d) The prints must be presented to the regional competition event for judging.

Regional Rounds

1. It is the responsibility of each entrant to present their Print entries to the regional organisers on or before the closing date for the regional round. Entry for the 2018-2019 season is via online registration. Any issues experienced while trying to enter online must be brought to the attention of the regional organisers before the closing date set by the region for its event via the contact section of the upload page on the IPF website www.irishphoto.ie.

2. Entry Fee:

One Section: €15.00	Two Sections: €20.00
Three Sections: €25.00	Four Sections or more: €30.00

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. Entries for which fees have not been paid will be disqualified.

3. Regional committees shall appoint Judges from the list of Judges provided by the IPF Judges' Committee. 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(s), the decision of the IPF National Council being final.
4. Awards and medals decided at the regional rounds are at the discretion of the regional committees.
5. Regional rounds are judged out of nine points, and selection of images for awards should be done as in the National Finals.
6. 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.
7. The Judges' decision shall be final.
8. Each region shall forward the qualifying prints and scoresheets to the National Competition Coordinator(s) in advance of the Finals on or before date to be confirmed annually.
9. It is the responsibility of each region to ensure that all images comply with the entry rules, prints are mounted correctly (securely fastened with no loose tape which could cause damage to other prints) and to the correct size. No other labels or writing should appear on the mount.

The National Finals

- 1) All qualifying entries for the National Finals must be forwarded to the National Competition Coordinator(s) in advance of the Final. Entries will not be accepted after this date.
 - 2) The National Final shall be held not later than the 28th February each year on a date and venue agreed by the IPF Council.
 - 3) Only images that have qualified through the regional rounds shall be eligible for the National Finals.
 - 4) In the National Finals each image will be scored out of five points. Therefore, the maximum score for any image will be fifteen points.
 - 5) Images scoring 13 points or more will be presented to the judges for the purpose of awarding medals.
 - 6) IPF Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals will be awarded to the top three images in each section at both the Advanced and Non-advanced level.
 - 7) The judges may, at their own discretion, award Gold, Silver, Bronze, and HM's based upon their final review, and regardless of the initial scores awarded.
 - 8) Nature Photographer of the Year will be selected from the medal winners above (Open Sections Only), and may be awarded to either an Advanced or Non-Advanced photographer.
 - 9) Judges' medals may be awarded to any image in the competition provided that it has received an overall acceptance score
- This competition is a recognised competition for the purposes of gathering qualifiers to use in application for FIAP distinction. To attain a qualifier, entrants must have an image score in the top 35% in the national final. The Top 35% will be listed on the IPF website.
 - 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.
 - 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.

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, 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 organisers will take reasonable care of the entries submitted but cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to images. While every effort will be made to handle all print entries with care, the IPF, its regional bodies and agents working on its behalf, cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage incurred to prints.
- 7) 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 Photographer of the Year competition; and, the winning panel and images receiving individual awards in each category of all IPF National Competitions.

Definitions

- 1) Print - Open

Must comply with the FIAP definition.

- 2) Projected Image - Open

Must comply with the FIAP definition.

- 3) Colour Print Theme - Flora and Fungi

Must comply with FIAP's General Nature Definition (Note: The use of cultivated plants and fungi is not permitted in this category)

- 4) Projected Image - Theme - Irish Wildbirds and Wildlife

Must comply with the FIAP definition, and the following special requirement. Images entered in

this category must have been taken in any part of the island of Ireland, its islands or seas. Images taken in any other part of the world, including Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) are not allowed, but images taken in Northern Ireland may be entered. Life forms such as fish, insects, mammals and reptiles, vertebrates or invertebrates, may be entered in this category. One of the aims of this category is to encourage nature photographers to capture more high quality Irish wildlife images which may be selected for use by the IPF in future international biennial competitions.

5) Projected Image - Open - The Natural World Definition

Must comply with the FIAP definition. 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 and captive creatures are not acceptable

6) 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

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 judges 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.

Calendar

Competition opens for entries: Midnight 8th December 2018

Competition closes for entries: Midnight 29th December 2018

POTY Regional Rounds 2019

Region	Date	Venue
SACC	Saturday 12 th January 2019	The Wetlands Centre, Thurles, Co. Tipperary
North-East	Saturday 12 th January 2019	The Workhouse, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan
Mid-East	Saturday 19 th January 2019	Grand Hotel, Malahide, Co. Dublin (<i>prints to be handed in at same venue, 12th January between 9:30am and 12pm</i>)
Mid-West	Saturday 26 th January 2019	The Shamrock Lodge Hotel, Athlone

Finals 2019

Nature Photographer of the Year/Photographer of the Year	Weekend of 16 th & 17 th February 2019	Talbot Hotel, Carlow
--	--	----------------------

Judges POTY Finals 2019

Romain Nero EFIAP/g, HonEFIAP

Ian Whiston DPAGB, EFIAP, BPES

Paul Keene FRPS, MPAGB, MFIAP, EFIAP/d3

Judges for regional rounds will be advised by your region.