



Irish Photographic Federation

National Shield Competition

Rules and Regulations

Updated for the 2015 Season

Version 2.0

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1. Introduction

1. The National Shield is an inter club competition, open to the non-advanced members of all clubs in good standing with the Federation.
2. All clubs affiliated to the Federation are eligible to enter i.e. there are no regional qualifying competitions.
3. The competition shall take place at a date to be fixed by the National Council each year, but shall in any case be held between 1st November and 15th December (both dates inclusive). The Council shall also fix the venue for the competition.

2. Eligibility

1. Participating photographers must be eligible to compete at Non-Advanced level as defined below.
2. Photographers who come under any of the following categories will be deemed to be Advanced and therefore ineligible for this competition:
 - (a) photographers who have received an IPF distinction or similar ie. FIAP, PSA, RPS or any other distinctions
 - (b) photographers who have been awarded more than one IPF medal in IPF national competitions
 - (c) photographers whose image or images have represented the IPF in international competitions
 - (d) photographers who have received Acceptances with five or more image titles, or one Award including a Ribbon, at FIAP and/or PSA recognized salons
 - (e) photographers 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

3. The Competition

1. The National Shield shall be competed for in each of the following categories:
 - Monochrome Prints
 - Colour Prints
2. A National Shield shall be awarded to the top club in the competition, which results shall be decided by the aggregate score in the two categories.
3. Clubs may compete in any or both of these two categories.
4. To compete, a Club must submit eight images in each of the categories in which they wish to compete. Up to two substitute images can be submitted which may be substituted in case of a dispute relating to an image on a panel.
5. Of the 8 images submitted in each category the following shall apply:
 - 5.1. No more than one image is allowed per photographer in each panel.
 - 5.2. The Interpretation of this is that a photographer can have one image in the Monochrome panel and one in the Colour panel.
6. An A4 sheet containing thumbnail images of all entries in each panel is required.
7. All images entered in the competition must be the work of the persons stated to have made them. Where the Federation requests proof of authorship, such proof shall be provided without delay.
8. No person may represent more than one Club in this or in any other competition under IPF or NIPA rules in any year.
9. Images used in previous National Shield competitions shall not be used in the current competition.
10. Infringement of rules 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 or 3.8 and 3.9 shall cause the relevant panel to be disqualified

11. Where a Club discovers that any of the said rules, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8 or 3.9 have been infringed, it is open to that Club to report the fact to the Referee, when the penalty at 3.9 may be disregarded and replaced by disqualification of the offending print only.
12. Rule 3.11 shall be valid only where the infringement is reported before that infringement is noted by the Referee.
13. A print disqualified under any rule, except rule 3.17, shall remain on display in its panel and shall not be removed. Removal of the print by the Club shall disqualify the relevant panel.
14. A Club shall not use the same images in more than one panel. Where an image is so used, all versions of the images shall be disqualified from scoring.
15. No print shall have an area greater than 182 square inches (equivalent to a 16 inches x 12 inches print). Any print which contravenes this rule shall not score points.
16. Notwithstanding rule 3.15 all the prints in a panel must be displayed so that all mounts are contained in an areas of 8 feet by 4 feet. Any mount or mounts which do not come fully within that area shall render their prints ineligible to score. Where necessary, the Referee shall decide by lot which print or prints are ineligible.
17. Prints mounted on blockboard, chipboard or similar materials, or presented in frames, with or without glass, shall not be displayed and shall not score points.

4. Participation in the Shield

1. The competition secretary shall issue entry forms, by which participating Clubs enter the competition. Such forms must be delivered to the competition secretary, accompanied by the entry fee by a date as specified on the IPF website, which deadline may be replaced by an earlier date with the consent of the National Council.
2. The entry fee shall be such an amount as will be set by Council from time to time. The current entry fee is €50.

3. Submission of the entry form constitutes acceptance of the rules of the competition.
4. Unless otherwise notified, it is the responsibility of each Club to hand its own prints to the host Club in the desired running order prior to a deadline which shall be set by the host Club.
5. Each print must carry the name of the author and club, a title and the panel number as shown on the entry form. Failure to comply with this rule will render the print(s) ineligible to score points.
6. The National Council, or the National Competition Secretary shall appoint an official Referee for the Shield, under whose supervision the competition shall be conducted.
7. Prior to judging, the Referee shall inspect the entries and no alterations may be made to entries once this inspection has begun.
8. The Shield shall be adjudicated by three judges appointed by the National Council, or by some other number of judges as the National Council may from time to time decide.
9. The judges decision is final and no discussion of that decision shall be entered into.
10. Scoring in the competition shall be on the basis of the official score sheet approved by the National Council from time to time, which sheet shall form part of the rules of the competition. Results shall be based on the aggregate scores given by all judges to each competing panel.
11. It is not permissible to publicly dispute the judges decisions or comments at any time during the competition, up to and including the awards ceremony. Any contraventions of this rule shall be dealt with by the Referee as he or she deems appropriate - to the extent, if necessary, of disqualifying a Club whose member has contravened the rule.
12. When judging is complete each Club must place a copy of the entry with form with authors and titles on their respective display boards.

13. The results of the competition will be announced on the day, or final day, of the competition. Presentation of awards will immediately follow the announcement.

14. Each Club participating in the Shield must be represented at the awards ceremony.

15. Prints may not be removed from display boards until after the conclusion of the awards ceremony.

16. While very care will be taken by the Federation and the host Club to ensure that material submitted will be handled properly, neither the Federation nor the host Club can accept responsibility for loss or damage to entries.

17. Contact Sheets:

1. Entries to the competition must include a digitally composed contact sheet (i.e. not a photograph of prints) per panel being submitted.
2. Contact sheets must be 2048 pixels in width, 72 DPI and in jpeg format only. Contact sheets should not include any text or watermarks.
3. Contact sheets must be emailed along with entry forms to the event coordinator unless otherwise agreed with the event coordinator.

18. Panel Images:

1. Digital copies of all images for panels must be submitted by email or on CD to the event coordinator, unless otherwise agreed with the event coordinator.
2. Images must be at least 1024 pixels on the longest side at 72 DPI and in jpeg format only.
3. Images should not include text or watermarks.

19. Entry forms are available at the [IPF website](#) and must be completed digitally and emailed to the event coordinator, unless otherwise agreed with the event coordinator.
20. Payment may be paid by PayPal via the [IPF website](#) <http://irishphoto.ie> or by cheque only. For administrative purposes, PayPal is preferred.

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 National Council's decision in all matters relating to the National Shield shall be final.
3. Where any person or Club considers that a person or Club is in breach of any of the rules of the National Shield, that person or Club may lodge a formal complaint with the Federation stating the details of the alleged offence, which complaint, to be valid, must be accompanied by a payment of €60 to cover the costs of the investigation into the complaint. If the complaint is upheld, the fee will be returned and the offending Club will be liable for the costs of the investigation, in addition to any other penalty which may be imposed.
4. Any Club in breach of the rules shall be subject to a penalty as determined by National Council.
5. It is incumbent on all participating Clubs to ensure that they have adhered to the rules of the competition and all rules shall be enforced on the basis that all competing Clubs and Club members have taken full cognisance of the rules.
6. All entries must conform to the current specifications as defined by FIAP in each category of Monochrome print and Colour print.

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.