



Irish Photographic Federation

National Shield Competition

Rules and Regulations

Updated for the 2017 Season

Version 4.0

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1. Introduction

1. The National Shield is an inter club-competition, open to non-advanced and specified categories of other members of all clubs in good standing with the Irish Photographic Federation.
2. All clubs affiliated to the IPF 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 National Shield Co-ordinator shall also fix the venue for the competition.

2. Eligibility

1. Participating photographers must be eligible to compete at Non-Advanced levels as defined below.
2. Each participating club may enter up to two images per panel from LIPF holders, provided that they do not fit into any of the definitions as laid down by the next section, section 3.
3. Photographers who come under any of the following categories will be deemed to be ineligible for this competition:
 - (a) anyone who has received an IPF Associateship or Fellowship distinction or similar from FIAP, the PSA, the RPS or any other similar distinctions;
 - (b) anyone who has been awarded more than one IPF medal in IPF national competitions;
 - (c) anyone who had had an image that was chosen to represent the IPF in international competitions;
 - (d) anyone who has received acceptances with five or more image titles, or any award including a ribbon, at FIAP and/or PSA recognised salons;
 - (e) anyone whose club considers him or her to be of advanced standard in any discipline of photography;
 - (f) anyone who holds a diploma or degree in photography from any educational institution in Ireland or elsewhere.

3. The Competition

1. The National Shield shall be competed for in each of the following categories:
 - Monochrome Prints
 - Colour Prints
2. The National Shield shall be awarded to the top club in the competition, which results shall be decided by the aggregate total 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 may be submitted which may be substituted in case of a dispute relating to an image on a panel.
5. Of the eight 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. An A4 sheet containing the titles of each image must be provided to the National Shield Co-ordinator when submitting the panel on the day of the competition. Clubs entering the competition must provide a list of image titles for each image on their panels. These titles will be provided to the judges to assist them to interpret the images. Titles may not be more than 35 characters in length and may not contain the name of the photographer, the club or anything which could indicate to a judge who the photographer or club might be. No extra marks are awarded for titles.

8. All images entered in the competition must be the work of the persons stated to have made them. Where the IPF requests proof of authorship, such proof shall be provided without delay.
9. No person may represent more than one Club in this or in any other competition under IPF rules in any year.
10. Images used in previous National Shields competition shall not be used in the current competition.
11. Infringement of any of the rules 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 or 3.8, 3.9 or 3.10 shall cause the relevant panel to be disqualified.
12. Where a club discovers that any of the said rules have been infringed, it is open to that club to report the fact to the National Shield Co-ordinator, when the penalty at 3.10 may be disregarded and replaced by disqualification of the offending print only. The process for submitting a complaint is set out in rule 5.3.
13. Rule 3.12 shall be valid only where the infringement is reported before that infringement is noted by the Referee. The process for submitting a complaint is set out in rule 5.3.
14. A print disqualified under any rule, except rule 3.18, shall remain on display in its panel and shall not be removed. Removal of the print by the club shall disqualify the relevant panel.
15. 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.
16. No print shall have an area greater than 1.2 square metres (equivalent to approx. 40cm x 30cm). No mount shall exceed 51cm x 41 cm (20 x 16 inches) in area. Any print which contravenes this rule shall not score points.
17. Notwithstanding rule 3.16 all the prints in a panel must be displayed so that all mounts are contained in the standard IPF panel display boards as used in all competitions since 2016.

18. Prints mounted on blockboard, chipboard or similar materials, or presented in frames, with or without glass, shall be automatically disqualified.

4. Participation in the Shield

1. The National Shield Co-ordinator shall issue entry forms, by which participating Clubs enter the competition. Such forms must be delivered to the co-ordinator, 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 2017 entry fee is €80.
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 display their images on the panel boards prior to a deadline which shall be set by the National Shield Co-ordinator.
5. Each print must carry the name of the author and club, a title and the panel number as shown on the entry form, on the bottom lower half of the back of the mount. Failure to comply with this rule will render the print(s) ineligible to score points.
6. The IPF Council or the National Shield Co-ordinator shall appoint an official referee for the National 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' decisions are final and no discussion of such decisions shall be entered into.

10. Scoring in the competition shall be on the basis of the official score sheet approved by the National Shield Co-ordinator. Results shall be based on the aggregate scores given by all judges to each competing panel. Each image shall be scored out of ten points per judge, the maximum available score being 240 points per 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 National Shield Co-ordinator 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 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 without the permission of the National Shield Co-ordinator.
16. While very care will be taken by the IPF and the host club to ensure that material submitted will be handled properly, neither the IPF 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 2,400 pixels in width, 300ppi 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 2,400 pixels on the longest side at 300ppi, 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 publicising or promoting the competition. The Irish Photographic Federation retains the right to publish any images entered in the competition in the promotion of the work of the IPF and its member clubs. Copyright of the images shall, at all times, remain with the respective authors. The IPF 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. The IPF retains the right to use any images entered in its competitions in international biennials and the Celtic Challenge.
2. The IPF Council's decision in all matters relating to the National Shield shall be final.
3. Each competing club will be required to nominate two persons to represent them at the competition. Complaints in relation to any image or panel will only be accepted from those specified designated representatives, an IPF Council member or a regional officer. Any such complaint must be in writing and signed by the complainant. A fee of €60 must accompany the complaint if made by a club representative. If the complaint is upheld, the fee will be returned and the offending club will be held liable for the costs of the investigation, in addition to any other penalty which may be

imposed. All complaints must be made before judging of each section commences.

4. Any club in breach of the rules shall be subject to a penalty as determined by the IPF 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.