

IRISH PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION

NATIONAL
N&W
NATIONAL
NATURE &
WILDLIFE
PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



HANDBOOK

NNWPC IMAGE OF THE COMPETITION, 2024



**BLACK NECKED GREBE FEEDING BY SUZANNE BEHAN FIPF, ARPS
KILKENNY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

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1. Introduction

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to this year's celebration of nature and wildlife photography. The NNWPC Competition has been a showcase of patience, skill, and passion, and 2025 promises to be no exception. This competition handbook will guide you through the rules and process for entering.

The competition will continue with print format for four categories, Flora & Fungi, Fauna, Macro and Wildlife - all operating within the updated 2025 FIAP rules set for nature and wildlife photography. Two additional categories have been provided in PDI/digital format. Full details of the category themes can be found in the category section of the handbook. The IPF Competition Entry System (IPF-CES) will be used for both collection of images and running of the competition.

This year we have some exciting updates to the competition. Fungi will be given sub-specialist status alongside Flora and we look forward to seeing the exciting images you enter.

We have also revised the distribution of entries across categories. Entrants may now submit a maximum of six (6) images per category, with an overall limit of twenty-four (24) entries in total. For example, if an entrant's preferred subject is Flora, they may submit up to six (6) images within the Flora & Fungi category. The remaining entries may then be distributed across other categories, subject to the same maximum of six (6) images per category, not exceeding the overall total of twenty-four (24) entries. We have also provided 4 free images per person.

I would like to thank the IPF council and competition committee, chaired by Sheamus O'Donoghue for their support and trusting me with this competition.

I wish you the very best of luck in the competition and look forward to seeing the wonderful nature and wildlife photographs entered.

Suzanne Behan FIPF ARPS

NNWPC Co-ordinator
Irish Photographic Federation



2. The Competition

Encouraging the highest standards in Irish photography

Entry to the competition is open to all members of clubs affiliated to the Irish Photographic Federation. There will be no distinction between advanced and non-advanced sections in the IPF National Nature & Wildlife Photography Competition (NNWPC).

Competition Format

- The 2025 NNWPC is a print & PDI competition to be judged at a one day event. Images must be entered through the IPF Competition Management System (CMS) at: <https://ipfhost.org/main/main.php>
- The NNWPC will be held in The Westgrove Hotel, Clane Co.Kildare on Sunday, 21st Sept 2025

Competition Categories

The 2025 IPF NNWPC consists of **six** separate categories - four **PRINT** Categories Flora & Fungi, Fauna, Macro, and Wildlife, and two PDI categories - "Animal Interactions" & "Our Living Coast". Entrants are limited to a maximum of 24 images across the six categories (up to 6 images in any individual category). For example if your specialty is Macro you can put 6 entries into your specialty category of Macro and so on across your preferred categories (max total 24).

Competition Awards

- Winning Images in each category will receive IPF gold, IPF silver and IPF bronze medals and two honourable mentions.
- IPF-NNWPC "Image of the Competition" (IOC) will be chosen by the judges from the 1st place winning images from the six categories.

The Competition Continued...

The Competition

- The Nature & Wildlife Image of the Competition will be awarded an IPF trophy and a €500 prize
- The IPF-NNWPC "Photographer of the Competition" (POC) will be awarded to the photographer with the highest cumulative score across all six categories, four print & two PDI combined. The POC will be awarded an IPF medal and a €500 prize.

Image Creation and Ownership/Copyright

- All content of each image entered must be the work of the photographer.
- All images entered in the National Nature & Wildlife Photography Competition across all categories must comply with the 2025 updated FIAP definitions.
- Images created in whole or in part by artificial intelligence (AI) software are **not** allowed in any category.
- Your entry remains your copyright. It is, however, a condition of entry that the IPF may use your entered images for inclusion in competition brochures and/or for the purpose of promoting photography in Ireland and abroad and the work of the IPF and its regions.
- Competitors are strictly forbidden from using the same image that has been entered in previous IPF national nature competitions. Any such image will be disqualified.
- A particular image can be entered in one category only.
- Images entered can be either colour or monochrome. Mono and colour versions of an image will be considered the same image.

3. Competition Categories

The 2025 NNWPC provides six categories to entrants:

Category Title	Format	Rules
Flora & Fungi	Print	FIAP Definitions
Fauna	Print	FIAP Definitions
Macro	Print	FIAP Definitions
Wildlife	Print	FIAP Definitions
Animal Interactions	PDI (Projected Image)	FIAP Definitions
Our Living Coast	PDI (Projected Image)	FIAP Definitions

Competition Categories

Category 1 Notes

1. Flora & Fungi Category

Format - Print

- **Definitions Flora** - Any natural plant life, NOT including human created hybrid plants or cultivated plants (FIAP). The term 'flora', for the purpose of this competition, is defined as all the naturally occurring native plants of a particular region or area (species from all countries are allowed). Some examples of flora are wildflowers and plants.
- **Definition Fungi** -The term 'fungi', for the purpose of this competition, is defined as any group of spore-producing organisms feeding on organic matter including moulds, yeast, mushrooms and toadstools.
- Cultivated plants and human created hybrids are not permitted.
- Flora and fungi should be photographed in their natural habitat. Botanical organisms may not be removed from their natural environment for the purpose of photography.
- Your title should identify the species **or** natural element depicted in your image.
- In order to prevent duplication of images at national level please add an additional element to the title such as a location or season. Try to add simple wording to give individuality to your title due to the volume of similar species being entered.
 - (i) **Example of incorrect titling** - Flora 1
 - (ii) Example of correct titling - Wild primrose Boora Bog.
 - (iii) Example of correct titling - Primula Vulgaris in Spring.
 - (iv) Example of correct titling - Fly Agaric Tollymore
- **Editing Guidelines** - See FIAP definitions page.

Competition Categories

Category 2 Notes

2. Fauna Category – FIAP Nature Definition

Format – Print

- **Definition** – All images entered into the Fauna Category must fall under the FIAP Nature definitions
- The most important part of a Nature image is the nature story it tells.
- Nature images must convey the truth of the scene. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity threatening a living organism's life or welfare are not allowed.
- Your title must identify the species depicted in your image. Common **or** species name is accepted
- In order to prevent duplication of images at national level please add an additional element to the title such as a location or season. Try to add simple wording to give individuality to your title due to the volume of similar species being entered.
 - (i) Example of **incorrect titling** – Fox 1
 - (ii) Example of correct titling – Fox Dublin Mountains.
 - (iii) Example of correct titling – Vulpes Vulpes with cubs in Spring.
 - (iv) Example of correct titling – Fox mating.

Editing Guidelines – See FIAP definitions page.

Competition Categories

Category 3 Notes

3. Macro Category

Format - Print

- **Definition** - Macro images of anything in nature as defined in the FIAP nature & wildlife photography definition.
- Macro photography shows a subject larger than it is in real life. It utilises extreme close-ups to show the detail of something small. Examples could include, insects, arachnids, animal features in macro detail, minerals & rock textures, natural formations such as ice, snowflakes, etc. (list is not exhaustive). Images entered must be true MACRO.
- Your title must identify the species **or** element depicted in your image.
- In order to prevent duplication of images at national level please add an additional element to the title such as a location or season. Try to add simple wording to give individuality to your title due to the volume of similar species being entered.
 - (i) **Example of incorrect titling - Butterfly 1**
 - (ii) Example of correct titling - Small White Butterfly Boora Bog.
 - (iii) Example of correct titling - Pieris Rapae feeding.
 - (iv) Example of correct titling - Small White on cabbage.

Editing Guidelines - See FIAP definitions page.

Competition Categories

Category 4 Notes

4. Wildlife Category

Format - Print

Definition - All images entered into the Wildlife Category must fall under the FIAP Wildlife definitions.

- Your title must identify the species or natural element depicted in your image
- In order to prevent duplication of images at national level please add an additional element to the title such as a location or season. Try to add simple wording to give individuality to your title due to the volume of similar species being entered.

(i) Example of **incorrect titling** - Hare 1

(ii) Example of correct titling - Irish Hare Kilberry Bog.

(iii) Example of correct titling - Lepus Timidus in Spring.

(iv) Example of correct titling - Irish Hare mating.

Editing Guidelines - See FIAP definitions page.

Competition Categories

Category 5 Notes

5. Animal Interactions

Format PDI

- **Definition** - This category celebrates the complex and dynamic relationships between animals. Whether its playful moments, mating rituals , feeding behaviour solo or in groups , territorial disputes or predator/ prey interactions. Images that capture the true connections , tensions and interactions between animals is key. All images entered into this category must fall under the FIAP rules
- The title of the image can assist the viewer in understanding the story.
- **Editing Guidelines** - See FIAP definitions page.

Category 6 Notes

6. Our living Coast

Format PDI

- **Definition** - This category celebrates the raw spirit of coastal Ireland. From windswept cliffs to vibrant tidal pools, Ireland's coastal regions are teeming with life. This category celebrates the diverse wildlife found along our shores—both on land and beneath the waves. Whether it's seabirds in flight, seals basking on the rocks, or marine creatures in their underwater habitats, we invite photographers to capture the beauty & behaviour that can be seen across Ireland's coastal habitats.
- The title of the image can assist the viewer in understanding the story.

Editing Guidelines - See FIAP definitions page.

General Considerations

- It is the competitor's responsibility to read and understand category definitions and photography/editing rules. Submission of entries is deemed to confirm acceptance.
- Interpretation and implementation of the rules shall be at the discretion of the competition co-ordinator who shall be honour-bound to adjudicate all disputes fairly and without favour.
- The co-ordinator may request to see original images as part of this process.
- Any form of canvassing of any judge or organiser is strictly forbidden.

The Use of Drones

- The use of images taken from drones is permitted. However, the drone should not cause any interference with other individuals or animals, a disturbance in their normal activity, or disrupt the way any individuals or animals interact with their environment.
- Entrants should comply with all relevant laws and regulations, associated with aerial photography, in the country in which the image was taken.

Disturbance of People and Wildlife

- Photographers must respect the laws of the relevant country in regard to the taking/presenting of wildlife images and the prevention of harm to animals in captivity or in the wild. By entering a IPF event, Photographers warrant that they have followed relevant codes of practices and ethical practises.

4. Judging

Encouraging the highest standards in photography

- The competition will be judged by three qualified judges selected by the IPF Judges' Committee.
- The judges for the 2025 NNWPC are:
Gianpiero Ferrari (UK) EFIAP, FRPS, DPAGB, FBPE
Mark Sedgwick (IRE) FIPF EFIAP/b
Ralph Snook (UK) FRPS
- The IPF Competition Management System will be used to run and score the competition.
- The judges will view the images in random order.
- Judging will be conducted in accordance with good judging practices.
- Judging of PDI rounds will be conducted on properly calibrated projectors or screens.
- Print images will be viewed under appropriate lighting conditions.
- Judging will be anonymous.
- Images will be scored out of five points per judge.
- Judges may not consult with each other until all three have submitted their scores.
- Judges may consult when adjudicating on tied images for awards.
- Prize-winning images will be chosen from the top scoring images in each category.
- Results will be announced at the final and prize-winners will be presented at the final in an awards ceremony. All results will be posted by email within two days.
- All images entered to the NNWPC Final will be compiled in a digital catalogue that will be made available to entrants.

5. Entering the Competition



Entry Process

- Entries must be made via the IPF online competition management system at: <https://ipfhost.org/main/main.php>. The system must be used to enter both print and digital images. There is no other entry system or process.
- First time users are required to register on this site in advance of entering images. It is advised to register and ensure your account is up and running in a separate session from your image upload session.
- Previous users do not need to register again. Once you login you can update your email in the 'edit details' section, if required.
- Use the 'competitions' tab, select 'competitions for YOUR NAME' and available competitions will become available. Please select National Nature & Wildlife Competition 2025.
- Entry fees must be paid by PayPal to complete your entry. There is no other payment method available.
- If you do not receive notification by email within a few minutes, your entry is not complete, please check that all is in order and try again.
- If you have issues with the entry system, use the 'contact us' button on the top right of the system's page. This 'help' function is delivered by people, not AI, so we will respond ASAP.
- **Fees:** The entry fee is €25 and it will be €2 per image thereafter. First 4 images are free. Entrants are limited to a maximum of 24 images across the six categories with a max of 6 images in any one category. For example if your specialist subject is fungi you may enter 6 fungi and use your entries like credits across the categories until your max 24 is used up.

Entering the Competition continued...

Entering the Competition

Entry Requirements

- Image upload files must be JPG. All other file types will be rejected by the software.
- You must upload digital versions of your print images to have them included on the scoring system and catalogue.
- There will be no distinction between Advanced and Non-Advanced sections in the IPF National Nature Photography Competition.
- Each image should be titled as indicated in the category description.
- Your digital entries should be exported/saved in the sRGB colour space.
- Individual images should be a maximum of 2,000 KB (2.0 MB)
- Images must be sized correctly in order to be accepted by the online system. Images must be a maximum 1,600 pixels wide and 1,600 pixels high.
- Images smaller than these maximums will be accepted but will be judged at the size submitted. Small images may be at a disadvantage.
- Identifying marks, such as your name or logo, will result in the image being automatically disqualified.
- An entry may be rejected if, at the reasonable discretion of the IPF and the competition coordinator, it believes the entry does not conform to the competition rules and requirements, or is of an offensive nature.
- The organisers have the right to request the original unedited RAW or unedited JPEG file, negative or slide. Non-compliance with such a request may result in the image being disqualified.
- Competitors are strictly forbidden from using the same image that has been entered in previous IPF National Nature competitions. Any such image will be disqualified.

Print Requirements

- A digital copy of your print image must be uploaded and entered on the online software system.
- Entrants must generate a barcode label from the software, this is done by pressing the "print labels" option located beside the checkout (shopping trolley) icon.
- The barcode must be attached to the rear of the print, ensuring not to obstruct the barcode with tape or to mark it with pen. Printing your barcodes in draft mode is best for scanning.
- Please ensure you match the correct barcode with the correct print, double check the title and details on your barcode and affix to the matching print. If for any reason you have changed or replaced an image after finalising your entry you must ensure you reprint your barcodes as a new barcode will have been generated on the system for your replacement image.
- Printed images for categories 1 to 4 may be any size/orientation, as long as they fit in/on the maximum mount board size of 20"x16" (50 x 40 cm). The most important consideration when choosing a print size is that it should be sympathetic to your image.
- Poorly mounted prints or framed prints will not be accepted.
- Entrants may use their own choice of paper and choice of mount colour.
- Entrants should be aware that judges will be seated a minimum of 1.5mtrs from the lightbox when judging the initial round of prints, therefore very small prints may be at a disadvantage.
- No identifying marks should be on the front of the print.
- Entrants should present their prints to the print receipt desk from 9.30AM - 10.15 AM. Prints will not be accepted after 10.15 AM on the morning of the competition.
- Please organise your prints per category as there will be 4 separate receipt desks.
- All prints should be collected after the competition is completed. Images not collected will not be stored by the IPF or host club. If you can not be there for collection please arrange this with an attending club member, etc.

Calendar

Opening date for entries	Sunday August 17th 2025	9 PM
Closing date for entries	Sunday September 14th 2025	12 Midnight
National Final	Sunday September 21st 2025 (Judging 11 AM)	Westgrove



FIAP DEFINITIONS 2025

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE

The International Federation of Photographic Art

INFO 313 / 2025 E

The text provided below must be included in the salon rules of events organized under FIAP patronage which contain a "Nature" section.

The new definition which has been worked out together with officials of respective departments of PSA, takes effect immediately.

FIAP Nature definition

Content Guidelines

Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both over water and underwater.

Nature images must convey the truth of the scene. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity threatening a living organism's life or welfare are not allowed.

The most important part of a Nature image is the nature story it tells. High technical standards are expected, and the image must look natural.

- Objects created by humans, and evidence of human activity, are allowed in Nature images only when they are a necessary part of the Nature story.
- Photographs of human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domesticated animals, human-created hybrid animals, and mounted or preserved zoological specimens are not allowed.
- Photographs made where the scene is natural and the animal is unharmed in a carefully managed environment, such as Zoo, rescue centers, and ethically managed natural environment farms are permitted.
- Attracting or controlling subjects through the use of food or sound for the purpose of photographing them is not allowed. Maintained situations such as provided supplemental food due to hardship caused by weather conditions or other conditions beyond the animals' control, where photography is incidental to the feeding of the animal does not fall under this provision.
- Controlling live subjects by chilling, anaesthetic, or any other method of restricting natural movement for a photograph is not allowed.
- Human-made elements shall be permitted under the following circumstances:
 - a) When they are an integral part of the nature story, such as a songbird singing atop a fence post a manmade object used as nest material, or a weather phenomenon destroying a man-made structure.

FIAP NATURE DEFINITIONS CONTINUED..

- **Human-made elements shall be permitted under the following circumstances:**

a) When they are an integral part of the nature story, such as a songbird singing atop a fence post a manmade object used as nest material, or a weather phenomenon destroying a man-made structure.

b) When they are a small but unavoidable part of the scene, such as an unobtrusive footprint or track in the background.

c) Scientific tags, collars, and bands are specifically allowed.

When photographing at a zoo, sanctuary, or rehabilitation centre, it would be construed that the photographer ensured that it's properly accredited and conforms to best practices.

Wildlife Photography

In addition to the restrictions on nature photography, to be eligible for any Wildlife award and acceptance,

images must meet the following conditions:

- Zoological organisms must be living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat of their own choosing.
- Images of zoological organisms that have been removed from their natural habitat, are in any form of captivity or are being controlled by humans for the purpose of photography are not allowed.
- Botanical organisms may not be removed from their natural environment for the purpose of photography.
- Images that have been staged for the purpose of photography are not allowed.

EDITING TECHNIQUES CONTINUED ...

Editing Guidelines:

Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible, except that conversion to grayscale monochrome is allowed.

Allowed editing techniques:

- Cropping, straightening and perspective correction
- Removal or correction of elements added by the camera or lens, such as dust spots, noise, chromatic aberration and lens distortion
- Global and selective adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation and contrast to restore the appearance of the original scene
- Complete conversion of colour images to grayscale monochrome
- Blending of multiple images of the same subject and combining them in camera or with software (exposure blending or focus stacking)
- Image stitching – combining multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively (panoramas).

Editing techniques that are not allowed:

- Removing, adding to, moving or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening.
- Adding a vignette during processing
- Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene
- Darkening parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene
- All conversions other than to complete grayscale monochrome
- Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome, or partial toning, desaturation or over-saturation of colour

