



Irish Photographic Federation

Code of Fairness for IPF Competitions

1. Purpose

The Irish Photographic Federation (IPF) is committed to competitions that are fair, transparent, and respectful. This Code sets the standards expected of participants in individual and club competitions and applies to all members of the affiliated club community.

2. The IPF's Fairness Commitments

- Judging of IPF competitions will take place in the main, in public spaces, with the coordinator, an agreed competition team and a named competition referee present at all competitions.
- The IPF will utilise, in so far as possible, an independent digital scoring system with an inbuilt audit trail and there will be dual verification of any written records/scores.
- The competition referee's presence will ensure transparency where the coordinators or print handlers are managing their own entries.

3. Fair Behaviour in Competitions

Club members agree to:

- Treat judges, organisers, volunteers, and fellow entrants with courtesy and respect.
- Accept that judges' decisions are final and must not be challenged during or after judging.
- Raise concerns only with the co-ordinator and/or competition referee after judging concludes.
- Refrain from gossip, accusations, or personal remarks about officials or competitors.

Prohibited behaviour includes:

- Approaching/interrupting judges or the competition operations area during judging.
- Harassing, intimidating, or accusing officials/judges/volunteers of dishonesty or bias.
- Derogatory/slanderous remarks about officials, judges, or entrants.
- Persistently challenging results outside the proper process.
- Persistently misrepresenting events and competition outcomes within the Federation's community after the competition has ended.



4. Immediate Action During a Competition (on-the-day)

The competition coordinator or referee may take immediate action to protect order and fairness, including:

- Verbal warning/s
- Disqualification of an entry/entries, and/or
- The right to have an individual or individuals removed from the venue if behaviour is disruptive.

5. Escalation Beyond the Event

5a) Appeals or further complaints by an entrant

- If an entrant remains dissatisfied after the coordinator's/referee's response, any formal complaint/appeal must be made by the entrant's affiliated club on their behalf on the official IPF complaints form available from the IPF secretary.
- On submission of the complaint, the IPF secretary will arrange for the matter to be investigated by the competition committee, with potential for sanctions against any of the parties involved.
- Where sanctions are recommended, decisions regarding such sanctions will be made by resolution of IPF Council at the next council meeting following the investigation of the matter.

5a) Complaints about an entrant's behaviour relating to a competition by judges/officials/others

- A judge, official, volunteer, or witness may submit an incident report to the IPF secretary should they consider the matter to be serious and/or injurious to other entrants, volunteers of the IPF, to member clubs or to the reputation of the IPF.
- The matter should be heard by the competition committee in the first instance, who will make a report to Council regarding the findings.
- Council will decide how to proceed and whether the matter requires the establishment of An Article 6 Complaints Committee. Should such a committee of investigation be required, the process set out in the constitution will be adhered to.

The decision of IPF Council is final in all matters relating to competitions.