



Sunshine Coast Photography Club Competition Rules and Procedures 2024

effective January 2024

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Terminology and Definitions

TERM	DEFINITION
SCPC	In this document the initials SCPC means the Sunshine Coast Photography Club Inc.
MPC	In this document MPC means the SCPC website at www.sunshinecoast.myphotoclub.com.au
Media	The physical presentation of the image, either Print or DPI (Digital Projected Image) .
DPI	Digital Projected Image; A photograph that is presented by electronic digital means.
Print	A photograph that is presented on an opaque surface.
Colour	Any photograph that is not monochrome. This includes a monochrome photograph that has been partially toned, or has colour added.
Monochrome	Any photograph containing shades of only one colour. If toning is carried out, it must be over the total photograph - unless otherwise expressly permitted for a particular competition, partial toning and/or the addition of one extra colour is not acceptable in a monochrome section.
Competition	For the purposes of this document, "Competition" means any monthly or annual competition run by and for the members of SCPC, or any other competition which may be arranged from time to time, for which these rules and procedures are applicable.

External Competition

External competition refers to any competition which is arranged and run independent of SCPC. SCPC rules and procedures may not apply for external competitions and there may be some additional requirements which are outside the scope of this document.

External Competition may be competitions which require individual entry, Club entry, or a combination of both.

In any competition for which the club is responsible for entries, the selection committee will consider *all* images entered in Competition during the preceding twelve months, together with any images entered solely for the purpose of selection for the event by members whether or not they have been previously entered in club competition.

Category

Entries may be submitted in each monthly competition in these categories:

Open Subject DPI
Set Subject, DPI
Creative Photography, DPI
Open Print.

Refer to "Entry Eligibility" for further information.

Open Subject DPI*

The choice of subject is open.

Images entered into the open category are permitted to have post-production adjustments, however it is the intent that all images in this category should maintain the integrity of the original image in colour or monochrome.

Editing may include adjustments to colour (including black & white), sharpness, tone, contrast, shadow and highlights, cropping, noise, dodging, burning and the removal or replacement of objects.

Techniques where two or more exposures are captured and merged to form a single image including focus stacking, HDR images and stitched panoramas are permitted.

Composite images are permitted to the extent that they contribute to a realistic enhancement of the original image intent.

Judges have the right to reject any image which they feel has been over edited and no longer holds the integrity of the original image.

Set Subject DPI A Set Subject definition is specified for each competition, and published in a separate calendar with explanatory definitions.

Unless required by the definition, images may be in colour or monochrome .

Images in this category have no post-production restrictions, however the image must be photographic in origin.

Single-capture and composite images are permitted.

The use of third-party content of any kind is not permitted.

Unless the definition of the set subject specifies otherwise, the photographer's creativity in the post-production stage has no limits other than that the image must interpret the subject literally or metaphorically in the opinion of the judge.

Creative Photography DPI*

The Creative category creates a space for these images where the photographer's creativity at the time of capture and in the post-production stage has no limits.

Images entered into this category have no post-production restrictions, however the image must be photographic in origin. Single-capture and composite images are permitted.

The use of third-party content of any kind is not permitted.

NOTE* These definitions are for SCPC Competition only and may differ significantly from "creative", and "open subject" definitions in other external competitions.

Open Print The print category may comprise printed images which would be eligible to enter in any of the categories outlined above.

Grade Members are assigned to either A or B grade on the basis of a portfolio of images submitted to the Grading Committee. Grade assignments may be reviewed from time to time.

New members will be granted an interim B grading pending assessment of their grading submission.

Subject The subject, theme, or content of an image (e.g. "Nature", "Portrait", "Landscape", etc.)

Definition A definition is provided for each Set Subject. Some traditional subjects have quite rigid definitions, whereas informal subjects may have broad and loose definitions (e.g. see Set Subjects and Definitions for the current year)

Image Title Each image entered in competition must have a concise title chosen by the maker (e.g. "Rio at Night"). Generally, it is not acceptable to change the title of an image if it has been or will be entered in another competition. The title should not include punctuation, special characters, or file type specifications (e.g. ".jpg").

File Name The name of the JPEG file containing a DPI entry or a digital version of a Print entry (e.g. Rio at Night.jpg). The file name must be the same as the image title (excluding the ".jpg").

Scores Entries are judged by assigning a numeric score in the range 0 to 9. Scores contribute to the Annual Accumulated Award Points. (See Points Scores and Awards below.)

Award Points Award Points are based on scores received and are accumulated throughout the February to November competitions. Annual winners in each category are presented with special awards at our Annual Dinner in December.

Accepted	This designation is applied to competition entries that scored in the range 1 to 9 and were judged not to have contravened any rules.
Not Accepted	An entry given a score of 0 was judged as “Not Accepted” because it contravened one or more rules. A print entry which has been entered but not submitted on competition night will be considered “Not Accepted” and receive a 0 score.
IOTM	“Image Of The Month” - A score of 9 indicates the Judge’s Choice of one DPI and one Print as best Image of the Month.

Entry Eligibility

In each monthly competition, for the 2024 competition year, a member may submit a maximum of 4 (four) entries, with a maximum of 1(one) entry in each category.

Members are required to have a grade assignment before submitting images for competition.

Photographs and modifications to them must be the member’s own original work however the use of an external service for the production of prints is permitted.

There is no restriction on the age of an original image, defined by the date of exposure.

The judge may rule any entry ineligible if in his or her opinion it does not conform to the definitions outlined above or if it does not conform to the monthly set subject definition in case of the Set Subject Category.

An image may be reentered in a competition only if it has received a score of 6 or less in any SCPC competition (or 2 in the years 2022 and 2023). Images which have been awarded an annual trophy award will be ineligible for re-entry.

All entries, including a DPI version of any print entry must be uploaded to the competition website SunshineCoast.MyPhotoClub by midnight on the due date.

Prints which have been digitally entered must be delivered to the judging location prior to judging. (see “Entry Procedures” below)

Competition closing dates are included in the Calendar of SCPC Meetings. Competitions close at midnight on the closing date. No alteration or substitution of entries is allowed once the competition is closed.

All entries must conform to specified size and naming conventions (see “Entry Procedures” below).

Entries which are not available for selection for entry into external competitions on behalf of the club, are welcome to participate and be judged on a month to month basis, but will be excluded from the annual point score and entry into annual competitions.

Entry Procedures

REGISTERING ENTRIES

Both DPI and print competitions are registered by uploading digital files to our competition website (SunshineCoast.MyPhotoClub) by the due date.

For each entry both DPI and Print, a JPEG file conforming to the prescribed specifications must be uploaded to the website before midnight on the closing date.

Registered Print entries should be brought to Competition Night and lodged with the Print Coordinator before 7:00 pm for verification and placement in the exhibition.

DPI SPECIFICATIONS:

Dimensions: Maximum Width = 1920 pixels;
Maximum Height = 1080 pixels (regardless of format).

File size: Maximum 2 Megabytes.

File Name: Must not include punctuation or special characters, except ".jpg" tag.

Image Title: Maximum 35 characters, should be the same as the file name, do not include file information or special characters. (Note - The title is automatically created from the file name on upload, but can be edited.)

PRINT SPECIFICATIONS:

Upload JPEG for registration: Same as DPI Specifications above.

Print: Mounted.

Maximum overall dimensions: 500 mm × 400 mm (20"X16") including any mount-board or mat.

Minimum dimensions: 150 mm × 100 mm.

Print Identification Label:

Labels for print entries can be generated for printing from the Competition Website after registration of entries.

These must be affixed to the reverse side, in the top left corner, to ensure correct orientation of the displayed print.

Labels must include the following information:

Category, Grade, Month and Year, Maker's Name, Image Title.

For example: *Colour Print, B Grade, January 2018, Frank Hurley, "Advancing Glacier"*.

Competition Subjects

SET SUBJECTS

The Set Subject for each month is defined before the beginning of the calendar year.

A table of set subjects and their definitions for the year is available for download on the INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS page on MPC.

EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS

SCPC facilitates members' participation in regional competitions that accept only club entries (e.g. the annual Interclub, Tewanin Shield, and River City Print competitions) by incorporating their Special Subjects into our Calendar.

Judging

DPI JUDGING

DPIs are judged "remotely" via our competition website (MPC) in advance of Competition Night. All images are projected on Competition Night, usually with comments by the judge.

Full comments on DPI entries are accessible via the published results on MPC.

PRINT JUDGING

Prints are "impact judged" on Comp Night with commentary by the judge and announcement of awards.

PEER JUDGING

Occasionally, a panel of SCPC members may provide "peer judging"—particularly, but not exclusively, to decide club entries for regional competitions. Peer judging may be conducted online via MPC.

JUDGES SCORES

The number of images receiving scores at each level may be decided by the judge and can vary, depending on the number and quality of entries. Image of the Month awards are limited to one DPI and one print entry each month.

JUDGES CRITIQUE

Judges normally provide a critique of print images either in person on competition night or by way of written comment if remotely judged. They will usually provide a critique of a particular entry when requested or answer questions from the audience.

Points Scores

SCPC uses numeric scores on a scale of 0 to 9 to determine awards. Half points are not allowed.

The following table provides a guide to the image features generally required to achieve a particular numeric score or award.

Score	Guide to expected image features
0	<p>This score is used to disqualify an entry. An image may be disqualified if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is considered to not fit the given definition of the Set Subject. • a Monochrome image does not conform to the definition of a monochrome photograph, • it is a Monochrome image entered in a Colour category, • it clearly infringes on another artist's copyright or contains material of an inappropriate nature.
1	The image displays significant technical defects, such as extreme under or over exposure, very poor focus, substantial (and clearly unintended) camera movement, or similar problems.
2	The image displays technical defects, noteworthy shortcomings in image content, or a combination of technical faults. Because most club competition entrants have a reasonable level of experience, scores of 1 or 2 are rarely used in club competitions. They should not be used to disqualify an image.
3	The image does not have significant technical defects, or other noteworthy shortcomings. However, it may have minor technical defects, and/or evidence that the handling of some elements has not been well controlled. There is further room for improvement and the creator is encouraged to improve the image and resubmit it in competition.
4	The image is acceptable in most respects and creates some interest for the viewer. The score could be raised by some small improvements (indicated by the judge) – the creator is encouraged to try again.
5	With minor alterations (suggested by the judge), the image could easily receive a higher score.
6	This score is equivalent to a "Commended" award. The image has been reasonably well produced. Technical aspects and image content have been competently handled, creating more interest for the viewer. If the image has not been entered before, re-entry of an improved version is recommended. (Receives 1 Annual Awards Point)
7	This score is equivalent to a "Merit" award. The image is very strong and the handling of all, or most, of the image aspects is regarded to be above average. (Receives 2 Annual Awards Points)

- 8 This score is equivalent to an “Honour” award. The image is exceptional and may be unique in its content or technical capacity. The image is worthy of special recognition. (Receives 3 Annual Awards Points)
- 9 This score is used to designate an “Image of the Month” for one DPI image and one Print image. The image is of the very highest quality. In the judge’s opinion, it is the best digital or print image in that month’s competition. (Receives 4 Annual Awards Points)

Annual Awards

Points are accumulated in each competition category throughout the year as set out above and these points are tallied annually.

The highest aggregate point scores in each category are presented with an Award. In the event of a tie, a tie-break will be applied as follows:-

1. The highest average score - ie the score divided by the number of entries in that category. If the result is still a tie, the person who has entered the most entries in that category for the year will be declared the winner.
2. If the result is still a tie:
The person with the most scores of 9, then 8, then 7, then 6 and so on will be declared the winner.
3. If after that time there is no clear winner two (or more) first places shall be declared and no second place will be awarded.

At the end of each year, subject to limits set from time to time, members may also submit their images entered during the year to be judged for Annual Awards in each category, in the category into which it was originally entered.

In addition to the above, members are invited to submit only entries which have NOT been previously entered in SCPC competition for the following Annual Trophies at the end of each year

- President’s Trophy (Print, subject, and definition chosen by the President),
- The Don Attree Founder’s Award (DPI Nature image),
- The Robin Simpson Trophy (DPI Australian Landscape) and
- The Ted Gillingham Trophy (Print, B-Grade, “My Country” based on the Dorothea Mackellar poem).

Refer to separate Annual Competitions descriptions on our website for rules, set subjects and procedures relating to each of the annual awards and competitions.

Judging is completed in December and images are exhibited and awards presented at the Annual Awards Night.