Introduction

Unless otherwise announced by the Council, the rules set out below will apply to all BPA Internal competitions and Members' Annual Exhibitions with effect from 1st January 2026.

Internal Competitions

Internal competitions will be held throughout the season, as convenient. The Council will propose which competitions shall be organised during the forthcoming season at or before the Council meeting immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting.

The categories for each season's competitions will be announced at the preceding Annual General Meeting and listed in the Association's syllabus and website.

Each member may enter in each internal competition

 Projected digital images (PDIs) a number specified by the Competition Secretary

In the event of a large entry for a competition, the number of images allowed per entrant may be reduced. Please number your images in your order of preference.

Preparing entries for competitions

The entrant must have created every element of an image and thereby own

copyright in the image.

Projected Digital Images (PDIs)

To simplify the preparation and running of the competition with DiCentra

software, please ensure that the image files in your entry are

 1600 pixels wide x 1200 pixels high (these are maximum values)

Images of smaller dimensions will be accepted, but a small image will not be

enlarged to fill the projection screen during judging.

Don't forget that the digital projector can only project images in landscape format. This means that any images taken in portrait format must be resized to a height of no more than 1200 pixels (not 1600 pixels). They are then usually best presented against a black background measuring 1600 x 1200 pixels at 72ppi.

 In sRGB colour space (this applies to both colour and monochrome PDIs).

• High quality JPEG (setting 10-12) with no limit on file size. Check that each image file is saved in JPEG format.

• Named in accordance with the following conventions

• Number (in order of preference) within the entry

• Space

• Title of the image.

o Please do not type the title in capital letters or insert hyphens between words in image titles.

Monochrome images

In common with the L&CPU and the PAGB the BPA follows the FIAP definition

of monochrome: "Pictures entered must be monochromatic images (which

may be singly toned in a single tone colour)."

Further points to consider when preparing a competition entry

Over the years our long standing members Ron Thomas and Mike McNamee have entered, won and judged many competitions. They've compiled a checklist to help other members to prepare successful competition entries.

If you listen carefully to judges making comments during a competition evening, a pattern usually emerges as they continually criticise particular and specific features of images. The late Eddy Sethna related the tale of a judge at one competition which he attended who spent the entire evening complaining about the colour of the mount! Be that as it may, there are certain things that will frequently draw criticism and many of these can be eliminated relatively easily. The basic premise should be, 'don't give a judge anything to whinge about!' – doing so draws their fire, leaving them unable to find technical faults and often leave an image in the mix until later on in the elimination process.

Now, with the best will in the world, we often get so carried away with how clever our image is that we forget to complete a final check of the basics. Having spent hours performing fancy tricks with Photoshop, it is easy to forget to consider whether a little vignette on an image would just provide the finishing touch, for example.

The following checklist highlights some of the points we have found it worth considering before adding files to a competition entry. Although it is not, and can never be, complete, it does at least remind you to think about the basics!

Another point to bear in mind is that many judges look badly upon multiple entries of very similar images. The expression most often heard is "If you can't decide which is the best image don't ask me to do so". So don't use the competition as a filter to sift a bunch of images which are essentially the same.

Ron and Mike's 'Before-U-send' Checklist

TECHNICAL POINTS

Exposure (check the histogram)

Colour Balance

Sharpness - over all the image - at the Point of Focus

Horizon – is it level?

IMAGE COMPOSITION

Cropping – is it the best crop?

Flipping for better 'reading' side to side

Vignetting

Dodge & Burn – would the image benefit from a lead line?

CREATIVE CONSIDERATIONS

Black and White? Does the image look better in colour or in mono?

Are there are distractions?

Invert the image

Squint at it

Do all the elements contribute?

Emphasis

Does the main subject colour stand out? – should it?

Should background be pushed back?

You could do this by - adjusting focus and blur - desaturating - making it bluer

Would the image benefit from a filter treatment?

Could the image be the basis of a composite?

FINAL CHECKS

Resolution

Sharpening

Borders

Colour Space and profile

File naming (and spelling)

General regulations

1. Only full members who have paid their subscriptions may enter competitions.

2. Trophies, when awarded, shall be held by the winning member until the corresponding competition during the following season, but shall remain the property of the Association. The Council may demand their return at any time.

3. The Council will appoint the judge or judges for any competition or exhibition. The judge or judges may withhold any awards except first place, at their discretion.

4. Any matters of dispute shall be referred to the Council, whose decision is binding on all members.

5. The Syllabus Secretary shall provide all judges with a copy of these rules. The interpretation of eligibility shall be at the discretion of the Competition sub committee. The judge will be the final arbiter.

6. The Competition sub-committee shall have the discretion to exclude any image which they consider unsuitable and shall report such exclusions to the Council.

7. The Association reserves the right to make copies or reproductions of any entry submitted. Copyright of images remains with the original author.

8. If held, the Annual Exhibition shall be timed so that images entered may be considered for the Association's entry into the L&CPU's Annual Competition. The Council may appoint a committee to choose the entry.

9. Low resolution copies of images entered in competitions may be displayed on the Association's website.

10. Images may be retained to represent the Association in external competitions.

11. Whilst every care will be taken, the Association does not hold itself responsible for any damage to images when not in the owner's possession.