Hastings Photography Group Inc.
COMPETITION RULES
Issue 10/10/2022

Introduction

The Hastings Photography Group holds monthly digital competitions and an annual print competition. Images for digital and print competitions are uploaded to the HPG website: (https://hastings.myphotoclub.com.au). Print entries are handed to the Print steward and a digital copy of the print is uploaded to the HPG website. Competition digital images and prints are appraised by judges appointed by the competition steward. Additional competitions may be also run at the discretion of the committee. Only registered members of the HPG may enter competitions.

1 Digital and Print Competitions

a) A member may submit a maximum of two (2) images per category in digital competitions and three (3) prints or images in the print and digital image of the year competitions.

b) A member shall not enter the same or substantially the same image or print in more than one category or competition except in accordance with Clauses 7(a) and 8 (e).

2 Digital and print competitions may include the following categories as determined by the committee:

a) Open Colour
b) Open Monochrome
c) Open Set Subject which may include Monochrome or Colour images
d) Nature
e) (Creative-Experimental images shall be submitted in the Open Colour or Open Monochrome categories).

3 Digital and Print Competitions - Administration

a) Digital and Print competitions shall be held on dates nominated by the committee.
b) The committee shall specify competition categories and conditions of entry.
c) The competition steward shall appoint a judge or judges to appraise digital images and prints, make comments, allocate awards, select category winners as well as the top digital image or print in a competition.

4 Prints - Specifications

a) Competition print entries shall be submitted in accordance with instructions issued by the competition steward.
b) Prints shall be handed in to the print steward on or before the date and time nominated by the competition steward.
c) Late entries will not be accepted
d) Prints may be commercially or home processed and shall be mounted.
e) By submitting an entry, entrants certify that the work is entirely theirs (i.e., the capturing of the image and all alterations that have been applied, either digitally or otherwise, and comply with these guidelines).

f) Mount shall be **50cm x 40cm (20" x 16")** in a vertical or horizontal format. Combined thickness of print and mount board is not to exceed 3mm, unless otherwise determined by the print steward. Polystyrene or foam mounts are not eligible. (This complies with Federation of Camera Clubs (FCC) and Northern Photographic Federation (NPF) competition rules)

g) Prints can be any size or shape which fits within the mount defined in (f) above, unless otherwise directed by the print steward.

h) Members shall upload a digital copy of their print entry to the HPG website to enable judges' comments and awards to be entered onto the website. (Digital images must be in accordance with Clauses 5(a) – 5(m) shown below)

i) After uploading print images to HPG website members shall print labels which must be affixed to the top left side of the back of the mount. (Download and print labels from competition page of HPG website).

j) Print title shall not exceed 35 characters, including spaces with no exclamation marks or symbols.

k) All digital image files must have the same file name as the print title e.g. Lighthouse Beach at Dusk, with no other symbols or exclamation marks.

5 Digital Images – Specification

Images uploaded to the HPG website for competitions shall comply with the following dimensions and file sizes:

a) JPG Format and sRGB
b) Maximum of 1920–pixels on the longest (horizontal side) edge.
c) Maximum of 1200 pixels on vertical side. (height)
d) Maximum of 1200 pixels on vertical/horizontal sides for square images
e) Maximum file size = 2MBs
f) For maximum impact members should aim to resize images as closely to the maximum dimensions and file size described in 5 a – e above.
g) The website will reject images which are too small (less than 1024 x 768 pixels), and members should resize the original image to meet requirements of a – e, above and re-upload the image.
h) These dimensions may be amended by competition stewards who may also stipulate different requirements for special purposes e.g. external competitions.
i) By submitting an entry, entrants certify that the work is entirely theirs (i.e. the capturing of the image and all alterations that have been applied, either digitally or otherwise and comply with these guidelines).
j) Competition digital entries must be uploaded to the HPG website by 5pm on the third Wednesday of the relevant competition month, unless otherwise approved by the competition steward.
k) Late entries will not be accepted.
l) Digital images or prints must not show any added text, watermark, border, or signature on the face of the entry.
m) Title of image must not exceed 35 characters including spaces.

n) The title of the uploaded image shall be the same as the file name of the image.

O) Image titles on the website shall be in simple text, for example: *Approaching Storm — Sunset over Port Macquarie — Girl Wearing a Pearl Earring — Flying High, Boy on a Bike,* etc. Filename must contain only letters, numbers and spaces with no symbols or punctuation marks. (Because they print as gibberish on judges' comments).

6 Aggregate Points — Digital Competitions.

Points and awards shall be awarded in digital competitions in accordance with the following schedule.

HPG Competition Awards and Aggregate Scoring System –Digital Competitions		
Judging Standard	Award	Points
Image does not comply with the definition of the category.	Rejected	0
Obvious technical problems in picture capture, production, or presentation	Entry	1
A picture with only minor blemishes but without pictorial strength	Acceptance	2
A strong picture with no major technical blemishes but needs more visual impact (wow factor)	Credit Certificate	3
A very strong picture with strong visual impact (wow factor) which contains no technical blemishes. Image is of a high enough standard to be accepted in a National Photography Competition	Distinction Certificate	4
Top image in Category	Certificate	0
Top Image of the Competition	Certificate	0

7 Re-entering digital Images for reappraisal by a different judge.

a) Entries receiving a Credit, or a Distinction cannot be entered again in an HPG competition, except for the annual print and digital competition awards in accordance with Clause 8. Members shall use the same image title as the original entry. (That is the image can never be entered again in an HPG Competition)

b) Entries receiving a Rejected, Entry or an Acceptance award may be edited and re-entered in any category in a subsequent monthly competition to be re-appraised by a different judge.

c) Only one attempt to re-enter a reworked ~~print~~ or digital image is permitted except in accordance with Clause 8 and the same title should be used as the original entry.

8 Annual Print and Digital Competitions Awards

a) The committee shall set the date, place and conditions of the competition and award ceremony.

b) These awards shall be appraised by a judge selected by the competition steward/s.

c) A maximum of three (3) entries per member may be entered in any category nominated by the committee for Digital Image or Print of the Year Competitions.

d) Entries for annual awards must have been entered in an HPG Group competition during the current competition year.

e) Any digital images or prints which have been entered in monthly competitions within the current competition year may be entered in the digital Image or print of the year competitions in any category, as a print or digital entry but only in one category.

f) Images may be edited using the original digital image provided the same pictorial content of the digital image is used.

9 Awards - Annual Competition Award Categories

Trophies - Certificates:

a) Open Colour — Digital & Print

b) Open Monochrome — Digital & Print

c) Nature — Digital and Print

d)

e) Print of the Year — All print categories

f) Digital and Print Image of Year —Overall winner from Print and Digital Categories

g) Highest aggregate score of the year in all digital categories only.

10 Awards — Aggregate points - Digital Images:

a) Aggregate points for digital competitions are calculated automatically by the HPG website for each category in the current competition year.

b) Digital competition entries are awarded aggregate points in accordance with clause 6 above.

c) The aggregate points in each digital category shall be calculated by adding together the HPG competition scores awarded to a competitor during the current competition year.

d) In the event of a tie, the number of images of the month awards will determine the winner.

Image and Print Definitions
(Current FCC definitions)

11 Open Definition:
Any subject that is treated pictorially, embodying the elements of good design, arrangement, or composition, which reflects the personal interpretation of the photographer.

12 Open Colour Definition:
Any photograph that does not meet the criteria of the monochrome definition (below).

13 Open Monochrome (Definition)
A black and white work fitting [sic] from the very dark grey (black) to the very clear grey (white) is a monochrome work with the various shades of grey. A black and white toned entirely in a single colour will remain a monochrome work able to stand in the black and white category. On the other hand, a black and white work modified by a partial toning or by the addition of one colour becomes a colour work (polychrome) to stand in the colour category.

14 Nature – Definition
Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible. Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed.

Stitched images are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Colour images can be converted to grey-scale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed. Images used in Nature Photography competitions may be divided in two classes: Nature and Wildlife. Images entered in Nature sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above can have landscapes, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant organisms as the primary subject matter. This includes images taken with the subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food.

Nature images described above can also be included in the set subject category where relevant to the subject, and in open categories.

(For further explanation see the chart prepared by Roy Killen, EFIAP, MPSA, GMAPS at Appendix 2)

15 These amended Competitions Rules were adopted by the HPG Committee on 15 April 2020 to take effect on that date.

Signed   **Date 10 October 2022**

Harry Bryant — President

HASTINGS photography GROUP

See appendices below:

Appendix 1
Quick Reference Competition Rules Chart.

HPG Competition Rules and Guidelines 2023

	Maximum Entries	Maximum Entries for Digital Image of the Year	Maximum/Minimum Image Size Pixels	Maximum File Size & Format	Closing day for uploading image to website	Image Title Naming
Digital Competitions	2 Digital Images Per Category.	3 Digital Images Per Category.	Width: 1920 pixels Height: 1200 pixels Square: 1200 x 1200 pixels Minimum image size: 1024 x768 pixels	2Mb in JPEG format sRGB	5:00PM third Wednesday of the Month — unless with prior arrangement with Competition Steward Late entries are not accepted	Title image with no more than 35 characters. **Note:** Filename must contain only letters, numbers and spaces No symbols or punctuation marks
	Maximum Entries	**Max Entries for Print of the Year Competition**	**Maximum Print and Mount Sizes Shapes and Dimensions. Mount Thickness**		**Closing day for Submission of Print/s**	**Print Label and Title**
Print Competitions	2 Prints per Category	3 Prints per Category	• Print shall be mounted. • Mount shall be 500mm by 400mm (20" by 16") in vertical or horizontal format and can be any shape. • Print can be any size or shape which fits within mount • Maximum mount thickness 3mm, unless otherwise approved by the Print Steward		Please follow instructions of the Competition Stewards for each competition as shown in news-letter and website regarding:: • **Closing day** for submitting your mounted prints • **Uploading** images to website prior to competition • **Late Entries** are not accepted	Affix Label to the top left on back of mount with: • **Author's name.** • **Print Title** • **Print Category** Printed label sheets available from the website

a	Category awards in digital or print competitions shall be either: **Credit**, or the highest award of **Distinction**	d	A **digital image** or **print** re-entered under (c) above may use the same title, and it may earn a higher award.
b	Entries receiving a **Credit** or **Distinction** cannot be entered again in a monthly competition	e	Any digital images or prints which have been entered in monthly competitions in the current competition year may be entered in the Digital Image or Print of the Year competitions.
c	Entries receiving a **Rejected, Entry** or an **Acceptance** may be edited and re-entered to be re-appraised by a different judge in one subsequent monthly competition	f	Aggregate Point scores for digital images and prints: Rejected 0 — Entry 1 — Acceptance 2 — Credit 3 — Distinction 4 Certificates issued for 'top in category' and 'top image of the competition'.

Appendix 2

The following information is reprinted with the express permission of the author Roy Killen. http://www.roykillen.com/

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

The definition emphasises the story telling value of images.

The definition specifies that the "story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality". The term 'pictorial quality' usually refers to the result of the photographer using techniques (of capture or processing) that transform an image from a straight documentary record to something more expressive.

Therefore:

The definition allows only certain types of monochrome images.

The FIAP monochrome definition allows images of any single tone (not just those with various shades of grey) and this definition previous applied to Nature images under the

IAP Nature definition. However, the new FIAP/PSA/RPS Nature definition does not use this liberal definition of monochrome.

The definition places no restrictions on capture techniques.

The definition makes no mention of camera techniques or techniques such as the use of remotely or automatically triggered cameras.

Report prepared by Roy Killen EFIAP MPSA MAPS for the Australian Photographic Society Inc

NATURE DEFINITION CHECKLIST

The new Nature definition will be used from 1st January 2015, and some competitions will have both a Nature and a Wildlife section. While it is permissible to enter Wildlife images in the Nature section, there are additional requirements for images entered in the Wildlife section. When deciding whether a particular image meets the requirements of the Nature and/or Wildlife definitions you need to consider the following factors.

	ALLOWED	**NOT ALLOWED**
NATURE	Anything to do with natural history (the study and description of organisms and natural objects), *except* anthropology or archaeology. Subject matter must be identifiable.	Anything that is classified as anthropology (the study of humans) or archaeology (the study of historic or prehistoric peoples and their cultures)
WILDLIFE	Same as Nature.	Same as Nature.
SPECIFIC SUBJECT MATTER		
	ALLOWED	**NOT ALLOWED**
NATURE	All extant (not extinct) organisms (plants, animals, etc); landscapes, geological formations, and weather phenomena.	Human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, mounted specimens of plants and animals.
WILDLIFE	Animals, birds, insects that are *free and unrestrained* in a natural or adopted environment. Carcasses of extant species	Landscapes and geological formations. Animals, birds, insects, etc. that are in captivity or under controlled conditions. Botanical species under controlled conditions (such as plants growing in a hothouse).
HUMAN ELEMENTS		
	ALLOWED	**NOT ALLOWED**
NATURE	Human elements that are an integral part of the nature story (such as birds nesting on a man-made structure). Scientific bands, tags or collars.	Human elements (such as buildings) that are not part of the nature story being told by the image.

WILDLIFE	Same as Nature.	Same as Nature.
IMAGE ALTERATIONS		
	ALLOWED	**NOT ALLOWED**
NATURE	Cropping. HDR techniques. Focus stacking. Removal of dust spots, digital noise or scratches on film. Subject must be presented honestly.	Anything (such as cloning) that alters the content of the original scene by adding, moving or removing image elements. Stitching together multiple images (e.g. to create a panorama)
WILDLIFE	Same as Nature.	Same as Nature.
IMAGE ADJUSTMENTS		
	ALLOWED	**NOT ALLOWED**
NATURE	Techniques (such as contrast adjustment) that enhance the image without changing the nature story or altering the pictorial content of the original scene. Grey-scale monochrome images.	Adjustments that change the nature story, such as turning a daylight scene into a night scene. Toned monochrome images. Infrared images.
WILDLIFE	Same as Nature.	Same as Nature.

NOTES:

1. Images are expected to be of high technical quality.
2. The story telling value of a photograph must weigh more than the pictorial quality.

HPG Digital Set Subjects for 2023

For more information and typical images please Google the set subject titles

Competition Month & Closing date	Set Subject	Workshop Discuss Demo
JANUARY 18 JAN	**SPORT; CRICKET - FOOTBALL - TENNIS - WATER SPORTS, ETC.** Includes all sports and sporting events, capturing the action and behind the scenes	Separate subject from background, fast shutter speed, continuous shooting mode. OK to use a high ISO setting. Use panning technique. Start shooting during the warm-ups.	Football, Cricket, Finals
FEBRUARY 15 FEB	**INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE** Images from inside buildings, churches, houses, shopping malls, railway stations airports etc. Can be the whole interior or a special point of interest and can include people	Use a tripod. When possible use a flash, try panoramas for ultra-wide shots. Make sure your camera is perfectly level.	
MARCH 15 Mar	**STREET PHOTOGRAPHY** Street photography in public places—not only streets, but parks, beaches, malls and myriad other settings— often but not always, featuring people usually in un-posed or candid situations	Know your camera, pick the right mode and lens, shoot from the hip, take shots at different times, look for shadows, shapes and rainy days.	
APRIL 19 Apr	**ACTION (SHARP AND BLURRED)** Action photography is about capturing subjects in motion. It encompasses sport, speeding vehicles, aircraft, racing events and includes motion blur or sharp suspended movement	Raise your shutter speed, adjust your aperture, use continuous shooting mode, use the centre focal point, switch to shutter priority mode. Use jpg for fast transfer to card.	Watch for local events
MAY 17 May	**HUMOUROUS BEHAVIOUR** Any subject which invokes laughter, happiness, or amusement. Humour can be found in every subject	Try for odd perspective or juxtaposition, funny shop signs or graffiti, catch pets and animals doing funny things, use props to make pets perform, dress children for adult behaviour etc.	
JUNE 21 June	**HI KEY/LOW KEY** High-key lighting reduces the lighting ratio in the scene, meaning there's less contrast between the darker tones and the brighter areas. Low-key lighting has greater contrast between the dark and light areas of image with a majority of the scene in shadow	High Key: Camera, Tripod, white background, fill light, fast wide aperture, low ISO. Low Key: Camera, Tripod, one light source, black background or dark setting. Low ISO, Low f-stop, fast shutter speed.	Work shop
JULY 19 July	**SMOOTH WATER —SLOW SHUTTER SPEED** Includes oceans, beaches, rivers, long exposure of silky waterfalls, running over rocks and even photogenic puddles	Use RAW, manual mode, small aperture, low ISO and shutter speed, use a tripod. Use a Neutral density filter if you have one. Cloudy days are best.	
AUGUST 16 Aug	**THREE OF ANYTHING** Three subjects coming together in a single photograph to create an interesting composition (No Triptychs)	Three similar things, three dissimilar things, three related/unrelated things. Animals, plants, utensils, fruit, vegetables etc. Tell a story.	
SEPTEMBER 20 Sep	**COMPOSITE OF TWO OR MORE IMAGES TO CREATE ONE CONVINCING FINAL IMAGE** Images can be created in camera or Photoshop or other editing software using layers	Use imagination to create an image which combines two or more separate images. Search web for inspiration.	Work shop
OCTOBER 18 Oct	**REFLECTIONS ON WATER, OR MIRROR, WINDOW, WATER DROPS ON GLASS ETC.** Using reflective surfaces for example water or glass to create an artistic effect	Use shiny surfaces and reflections, shoot on rainy days or through water spotted glass, or at night. Capture abstract images, use props e.g. mirrors, sun glasses etc.	
NOVEMBER 15 Nov	**ASTRO PHOTOGRAPHY** Photographing astronomical objects, celestial events, or areas of the night sky	Manual or bulb mode, an aperture of f/2.8 – f/4... daylight or auto. Exposure 15-30 seconds. Use RAW, manual focus., ISO of 400-1600 (or more)	Field Trip

HPG Digital Competition Rules and Guidelines

COMPETITION MONTH

The competition month is the same month images must be uploaded to the website.

Closing date for uploading digital images is 6:00PM on the dates shown in this table.

Late entries not accepted.

Judged results will be presented at following month's digital night.

Maximum entries per competition category = 2

Maximum image size 1200px high x 1920px wide

Minimum image size 768px high x 1024px wide

Maximum upload file size 2MB

Digital image format JPEG sRGB

AGGREGATE POINT SCORES for digital images and prints: →

Certificates issued for 'top in category' and 'top image of the competition'

0 Rejected
1 Entry
2 Acceptance
3 Credit
4 Distinction

CATEGORY AWARDS shall be **Credit**, or highest award of **Distinction** — these images cannot be entered again in a monthly competition

Entries receiving a **Rejected, Entry** or an **Acceptance** may be edited and re-entered to be re-appraised by a different judge in one subsequent monthly competition

Any digital images or prints which have been entered in monthly competitions in the current competition year may be entered in the Digital Image or Print of the Year competitions.