



# SPEYSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

## COMPETITION RULES SEASON 2025 - 2026

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Our competitions are a great way to improve your photography. They encourage you to take new photos and share them with the **Speyside Photography Group** for judging and constructive feedback. Participating in these competitions is a rewarding experience, and the judges' comments can offer valuable insight into how others see your work—even if they're occasionally frustrating. We encourage all members to get involved and submit their images!

### 1. General Competition Rules

#### A. Competition Image Entries

1. An image whether complete, part of or digitally manipulated cannot ever be entered in the same competition more than once.
2. An image cannot be entered in more than one club competition in the same season.
3. All images submitted into competitions must be the author's own work.
4. Details of the competitions and entry dates are listed in the SPG Syllabus and on the group website.
5. All competition entries must be submitted online via the SPG PhotoEntry website by the closing date of the competition which will always be on a group meeting night unless otherwise stated in the Syllabus. Website URL: <https://speysidephotographygroup.co.uk/spg-competition-entry/>
6. Competition entries will be submitted to the judge as soon as possible after the closing date of the competition.
7. Judges will be advised of the competition rules and asked to make constructive comments on the images entered.
8. Competition entries will be awarded a score out of 20, minimum being 12, and the judge will select entries for 1st, 2nd and 3rd.
9. Digital Images or Prints entered in Group Competitions may be entered in external or inter-club competitions, displayed on the Group Website, Facebook page or in Printed Group publications unless the author of the image has requested otherwise.
10. Projected Digital Images and scanned or digital images of Prints entered in competitions will be displayed on the projector on the evening competition results are presented.
11. Any image that does not comply with the competition rules will be disqualified from entry. The online SPG PhotoEntry site will check images as they are uploaded and advise of any errors in the image format. (If in doubt ask a member of the committee for advice).
12. Images taken during SPG training events are not eligible for group competitions.

## 2. Group League Competitions

A. The league will run over five individual rounds throughout the season.

1. There will be three Projected Digital Image rounds and two Print rounds.
2. For each digital competition there will be a maximum of two entries per round. Each round will have a different theme and they will be listed in the 2025- 2026 Syllabus.
3. For each print competition there will be a maximum of three entries per round. Each round will have a set theme and will be listed in the 2025- 2026 Syllabus.
4. Scores will be accumulated for the Projected Digital Images League and the Prints League. A cup will be awarded for the winner of each league.
5. In the event of a tie for the highest total points, placing in the individual rounds will be calculated to determine the winner. Points will be awarded as follows: - Round Winner - 3 points, Runner Up - 2 points and Third Place – 1 point.

## 3. Projected Digital Image Competition

A. All projected digital images must be submitted in the following format;

1. File Type – jpeg
2. Colour Space – sRGB
3. Colour Depth – 8 bits/channel
4. Maximum File Size – 1600 pixels x 1200 pixels, 2Mb.
5. For landscape images the longest side (horizontal side) should be a maximum of 1600 pixels.
6. For portrait images the longest site (vertical side) should be a maximum of 1200 pixels

B. Projected Digital Image Submission

1. Digital Images must be submitted online via the SPG PhotoEntry website before midnight on the closing date of the competition as listed in the group programme for the season.
2. If a group member has any problems with uploading the images via the SPG Photo Entry website they should get in touch with the competition secretary by email to [competitions@speysidephotographygroup.co.uk](mailto:competitions@speysidephotographygroup.co.uk) a minimum of 5 days before the closing date of the competition so that assistance can be provided.
3. Filename – Images must be given a title when uploading to the SPG PhotoEntry website.
4. Images must not display the authors name, watermark, logo or membership number.

## 4. Printed Image Competition

### A. All printed images must be submitted in the following format

1. Prints must be presented on card mounts that are no larger than 400mm x 500mm and the print can be any size within the mount. However, it is suggested that the longest edge of the print be no less than 250mm.
2. Prints can be flat mounted with or without borders by sticking to mounting card, or window mounted.

### B. Print Submission

1. Prints must be submitted to the competition secretary before 9pm on the closing date of the competition as listed in the programme.
2. Digital copies of the images must be submitted online via the SPG Photo Entry website. See section 3A for details on image size and section 3B for details on submitting an image to PhotoEntry.
3. If a group member has any problems with uploading the images via the SPG Photo Entry website they should get in touch with the competition secretary by email to [competitions@speysidephotographygroup.co.uk](mailto:competitions@speysidephotographygroup.co.uk) a minimum of 5 days before the closing date of the competition so that assistance can be provided.
4. Prints must be labelled on the back of the image in the following format, membership number\_image title, e.g., **130\_Elgin Cathedral**.
5. The prints must not display the authors name, watermark or logo.

## 5. Development League Competition

### A. The Development League is the perfect starting point for new photographers. Our goal is to encourage you to enter your work into competitions and get constructive feedback that will help you grow.

1. The Development League competition will comprise of three rounds during the season.
2. The competition will be judged by one or more experienced members of the club.
3. Any previous winners of the Development League, or anyone who has been placed first, second, or third in any previous seasons SPG Digital or Print League competitions, is not eligible to participate.

### B. All Development League digital images must be submitted in the following format;

1. See section 3A for details on image format and size.

### C. Development League Digital Image Submission

1. See section 3B for details on submitting an image to PhotoEntry.

## 6. Studio 8 Competition

A. This is a digital image only competition which is sponsored by Lenny Smith - Grand Master, FSWPP and SPG President. For the Studio 8 competition for 2025 - 2026 season Lenny has decided to make it "Design an Album Cover"

1. An album cover with a title in square format
2. See section 3A for details on image format
3. Maximum File Size – 1200 pixels x 1200 pixels, 2Mb

## 7. Photographer of The Year Competition

- A. The winner will be awarded to the photographer who has accumulated the most points scored over both digital and print group league competitions in the season (This excludes points awarded in the Small Print Competition). Where there is a tie then the number of first, second and third places will be taken into account and points will be awarded as follows, 1st – 3 points, 2nd – 2 points and 3rd -1 point.

## 8. SPG AI Guidelines

Speyside Photography Group remains committed to the principle that photographs should be the original work of the creator(s), so entirely generated images, or images with material elements entirely generated by AI will not be permitted for exhibitions or competitions. What constitutes material in this context is a grey area, and is something that Speyside Photography Group will continue to explore with its creative community.

### A. Guidelines

1. Speyside Photography Group will accept the use of algorithmic processing in-camera or in post-processing software, which supports digital photography for exhibitions and competitions on the condition that photographers are clear and open where such tools have been used. Speyside Photography Group will trust in the integrity of its members but in certain circumstances may request further evidence in the form of RAW files or EXIF data, accepting that such evidence may itself not be definitive.
2. These principles and guidelines are effective for the 2025 - 2026 season only and do not constitute a final, fixed position; they will evolve as AI capabilities change and understanding increases.