

GUIDELINES - PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR (POTY) COMPETITION 2018/2019 SEASON

With the approval of the Committee the POTY competition will be held over five rounds throughout the forthcoming season. There will be two rounds of print competitions (Rounds 2 and 4) with the remaining three rounds all consisting of digital images.

The maximum number of images that a member may enter in each round will be three. However, only the two highest scores (eligible scores) obtained will count towards each member's total POTY score for the season. In addition, if the total number of entries in a round exceeds sixty (60) the Competition Secretary has the approval to ask each member who has submitted three (3) entries to withdraw one (1) of their choice. If for any reason in these circumstances a member is not available, then the Competition Secretary shall withdraw the last image received using the submission protocol on the NDPS website.

Each round will be judged by an invited judge(s). The name of the judge(s) will be confirmed by the Competition Secretary and published on the NDPS website as soon as possible. However, if due to any circumstances the invited judge(s) is unavailable the Competition Secretary will decide alternative arrangements for that round having taken into consideration the current NDPS Competition Rules and Conditions of Entry (Competition Rules).

All scores will be published approximately 7 days after each round to allow sufficient time to validate the individual scores and will be displayed at the next available NDPS meeting. Only after all round scores have been validated will they be used to determine the overall annual winner of POTY in accordance with the current NDPS Competition Rules. The overall winner of POTY will be announced as soon as possible prior to the Annual Awards Evening.

For the avoidance, of doubt unless specifically amended within these guidelines the current NDPS Competition Rules and Conditions of Entry also apply. Submission of any entry implies understanding and acceptance (by the Member) of the Competition Rules. Any queries should be directed in the first instance to the Competition Secretary.

General comments regarding scoring for POTY during 2018/2019 Season

All Images entered will be scored out of 10 in increments of half a point. Judges will be advised that they should award more than one image maximum points if other images merit such recognition.

In each round the judge(s) will be asked to select an outright winner together with a runner up, first runner up and, reserve (first, second, third and, fourth place).

For each round of POTY the judge(s) will be asked to look at each image with five criteria in mind before awarding their score:

- 1) Originality
- 2) Technical excellence
- 3) Composition
- 4) Artistic merit

5) Overall impact

Members should note that judges are empowered to mark down any image that does not interpret the category guidelines appropriately or if in their mind an image has been excessively manipulated/processed to alter its authenticity. Therefore, an otherwise 'perfect' image that completely fails to interpret the category guidelines will be unlikely to gain the total marks available.

POTY rounds summarised

Detailed guideline for each of the five rounds that will be judged commencing at 7:30pm on the following dates is provided below:

Round 1: Tuesday 25th September 2018 (Digital). Theme 'Monochrome Open' with no restriction on subject matter. Monochrome images are limited to normal black and white or greyscale tones. Toning may be employed to create an overall cast such as Sepia Toning over the whole image. No other colour is to be introduced in any part of the image.

Round 2: Tuesday 23rd October 2018 (Print). Theme 'Motion'. The challenge in this round is to communicate motion - a dog running, a train thundering down the tracks, or trees that are blowing in the wind are all example of images that capture motion.

Round 3: Tuesday 4th December 2018 (Digital). Theme 'Images taken from either a high or low point of view'. Point of view in photography simply means the position from which the camera sees the scene. Are you looking down on the subject (high) or are you looking up at the subject (low). The challenge this round is to use these techniques to make your images stand out.

Round 4: Tuesday 19th February 2019 (Print). Theme 'After dark' which for the purposes of this round is simply defined as the period of time between sunset and sunrise.

Round 5: Tuesday 23rd April 2019 (Digital). Theme 'Creative Eye'. This is a deliberately broad subject to allow the maximum freedom to be creative.

Annual Awards Evening

The trophy awarded to the Photographer of the Year will be awarded at the Annual Awards Evening will be held on Tuesday 11th June 2018.