



Yorkshire Photographic Union

2026 Annual Competition and Exhibition

Rules and Conditions of entry for Prints and Projected Digital Images

Exhibition Calendar

▪ Open for entries	7 th Dec 2025
▪ Closing date for online entries, both Prints and PDIs	19 th Feb 2026 @ 23:55
▪ Hand-in day for prints	21 st Feb 2026 - Carleton Community Centre
▪ Assembly Day and Presentation of Awards	9 th May 2026 10:30 – Dewsbury Town Hall
▪ Exhibition Opens	9 th May 2026 12:30 – Dewsbury Council Chambers
▪ Exhibition Closes	21 st May 2026 20:30

Overview

- This event is open to all members of Clubs/Societies/Groups affiliated to the YPU
- There are 10 Print Categories and 9 Projected Digital Images Categories
- Up to 10 Prints and 10 PDIs may be entered per author.
- Young Photographer (aged 21yrs or under) may enter 3 Prints and 3 PDIs into Young Photographer Categories
- All entries must be submitted via the YPU Portal including digital copies of prints
<https://ypuportal.org.uk/portal>
- The image size for uploading is 1600 pixels wide by 1200 pixels high including Portrait formatted images. **Do not** 'pad out' smaller images to 1600 by 1200
- File format should be "Baseline (standard) and sRGB colour space
- Maximum file size 1.9Mb
- Images that are computer/AI generated are not permitted. (See below)
- Print and PDI image titles must not exceed 32 characters
- Misspelt image titles and authors' names will be carried through to the printed catalogue and the Exhibition Presentations.
- The entry Fee – unchanged at £1.50 per image – for Prints and PDIs.

General Rules

1. Author should not enter images that are substantially the same in both Print and PDI categories.
2. Entries Accepted in any previous YPU Annual Exhibition should not be re-entered in any other form, e.g., colour & mono, print or projected digital image. Like or similar images from the same original capture may not be used.
3. Entrants, who are members of more than one Society, must submit all their entry through just one Society, including both Prints and PDIs.
4. The use of copyright-free images is not allowed. The entrant must own the copyright and be entirely the work of the author.
5. Composite images are permitted. Copyright of component images must be owned by the entrant.
6. Individuals' post-nominal letters should be updated on the Portal by club competition secretary.
7. A maximum of three sets of post-nominals are allowed per author. Do not use full stops between letters i.e. FRPS **not** F.R.P.S The generally accepted order is: RPS, PAGB, FIAP, BPE, others.

8. Entries can be uploaded by Club Competition Secretaries or individual *Portal Registered* authors; however, it is strongly suggested that Club Competition Secretaries upload all entries as they are responsible for ensuring all their club's entries are correct.

9. The YPU Executive reserve the right, at its discretion, not to accept any images judged inappropriate.

Print Rules

1. Prints may be home or trade processed, mounted (any form or colour) but not framed.
2. Mounts must be **400 x 500mm ± 2mm** and not exceeding **4mm** in thickness. Oversize and undersize prints will be disqualified.
3. Prints **not** accepted into the Exhibition should be collected on the Assembly Day. Clubs are strongly advised to nominate a club member attending the Assembly to collect their club's print box or, where possible, a neighbouring club member.
4. Prints not collected on Assembly Day will next be available for collection at the November Representatives Meeting **unless** retained for the YPU Folio or entered into PAGB Inter-Federation competition. These retained prints will be available to collect during the following year. Any prints that have been available for collection for over a year will be deemed unwanted and may be disposed of.

Print Labels

1. All prints entered should have an appropriate label fixed to the back upper righthand corner of the mount.
2. The entry software will accept Avery L7165 print labels size, (99.1 x 67.7mm - 8 per A4 sheet) or equivalent.
3. Competition Secretaries are responsible for correctly printing the labels after all prints have been collated. Labels automatically includes an individual identity barcode.

N.B. It will not be possible to process or exhibit any print where the label is missing or illegible.

Print Boxes

1. When packing prints, please collate them in their respective categories.
2. The Club's name should be written on the front and ends of each print box the correct way up.
(Masking tape can easily be written on and removed later.)
3. Print boxes should be brought to and left at the AGM
4. It is the responsibility of the club competition secretary to apply these rules.

Any queries regarding Prints to the Prints Secretary – Andrew Pell – printsec@ypu.org.uk

Any queries regarding PDIs to the PDI Secretary – Richard Littlefair – pdisec@ypu.org.uk.

Payment of Entry Fees

Bank transfers payments are preferable and should be made by **Friday February 20th 2026**.

Cheques are acceptable - made payable to "Yorkshire Photographic Union" with the club's name on the reverse and handed to the YPU Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting on **Saturday February 21st 2026**.

Further details from the YPU Treasurer at: treasurer@ypu.org.uk

Please note: Entries will not be accepted if YPU Club subscriptions have not been paid by the entry closing date, Thursday 19th February 2026

Best Author and Society Awards

The Best Author will be calculated by totalling the points awarded across both prints and PDIs

Clubs are automatically entered into the Best Print Club and Best PDI Club Society Awards if they meet the following criteria:

- a) A minimum of four different authors, and
- b) A minimum of ten different images.
- c) No more than three Prints and three PDIs per author permitted in each Society Award.

For club meeting these criteria, the average of the top ten marked images will be used.

Folio and PAGB Selection

The authors of all entries¹ shall permit their images to be available for selection to represent the YPU in the PAGB Inter-Federation Competition. **Furthermore, the author will not allow any of their images (i.e. Prints or PDIs) to represent any other Federation in that calendar year as per PAGB Rule 4.**

Any image that has previously represented another Federation can't be entered into YPU competition.

A digital version of any print submitted is required for archival, catalogue and PAGB purposes.

The Exhibition organisers will take every reasonable care of entries but neither they nor the YPU can be held responsible for any loss or damage that may occur.

Please note: The 2025 PAGB Inter-Federation Competition is for Prints only.

Entering the YPU Exhibition.

Detailed instructions for entering an image are given on the Portal Competition entry page.

Once the closing date has been reached, neither club officials nor individuals will be able to access the entry page

Member's details are stored from previous entries so should not need re-entering. However, the names and email addresses of new club members will need entering before uploading their images. Email addresses must be unique.

Exhibition Entry Categories:

Prints

Open Colour
Open Monochrome
Architecture & General Record
People, Portrait & Figure Studies
Sport Action
Nature
Creative
Travel
'Scapes
Young Photographer

Projected Digital Images

Open Colour
Open Monochrome
People, Portrait & Figure Studies
Sport Action
Nature
Creative
Travel
'Scapes
Young Photographer

Please note: there are two Open categories – Colour and Mono in both Print and PDIs sections. In all other categories the Colour and Monochrome images are entered together.

Photojournalism images are to be entered in an Open category and not in the Sport Action category.

Mobile 'Phone images can be entered into any appropriate category.

Exhibition Catalogues and Trophies

All entrants will receive a free Exhibition Catalogue.

Clubs are encouraged to enjoy a club evening looking at the Prints and PDIs from the Exhibition. A portfolio of selected Accepted Print entries will be available to view on applications. The full PDI exhibition presentation and all Print digitals will be made available to clubs via Dropbox.

The Dropbox Download links for Competition Secretaries will be available in the “Document” section of the YPU Portal from 31st July 2026

Medals will also be presented to Trophy winners that may be kept in perpetuity. All club or individual Trophies and must be returned on or before the following AGM.

Notes for Entrants

Please stick to the categories as listed on the entry download; it is not possible to swap Prints between categories after the closing day. A silent marker system will be used by the three judges to screen for the top images in each category. The judges will then look through those images to determine the Individual Awards and Certificates. The Society Awards are calculated from the judges’ screening scores.

The Exhibition (both Print and PDIs) will be selected by the judges on the judging day. The images to go to the PAGB Inter-Federation competition will be selected by a different panel of judges on another day to avoid cross-referencing of results.

Architecture and General Record

Entries should be buildings, inanimate objects such as vehicles, machinery, statues or other objets d'art. The emphasis is on a high technical quality image which makes an accurate record of the subject. Artistic interpretation is not acceptable in this class, although direct monochrome conversions are. Digital manipulation should be limited to cropping, sharpening, contrast, colour corrections and correction of converging verticals. Only minor distractions or blemishes may be removed from the image. Any adjustments should not alter the main content of the original photograph. Titles should be factual, simply naming the building, feature or object.

Creative

Images for this category are often highly manipulated and may contain elements from several images which produce a final image that stimulates the imagination of the viewer. The image may be of any subject matter and must display a change in natural colour, form, shape or any combination of these three. All images must be original and may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else. Artwork or computer graphics generated by the entrant may be incorporated but the original photographic content must predominate. Images may not be constructed entirely within a computer. (See AI note below)

Sport/Action

Sport images should capture the intensity, emotions and action of the chosen sport subject. It could be professional or amateur, the focus could be on the sportsperson, the sport environment, the effort extended, the struggle or conflict or the rewards, but a strong narrative must be present. Action images should be of a moving subject or object, which depicts the essence of action, other than sport.

Processing of the captured image, by cropping, exposure adjustment, colour correction, noise minimisation, dodging/burning, HDR and sharpening, is permitted, as is cloning of image defects and minor distractions including overlapping elements.

‘Scapes

A ‘scape image shows a vista. Included, but are not restricted to, landscapes, cityscapes, seascapes, waterscapes and skyscapes. An image may include elements such as a single tree, building or people – they must not dominate but be part of an overall image providing a mood or atmosphere of the environment captured.

Travel

A Photo Travel image expresses the characteristic features or culture of a land as they are found naturally. There are no geographic limitations. Images from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography are not appropriate. Close up pictures of people or objects must include features that provide information about the environment. Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. The only allowable adjustments are removal of dust or digital noise, restoration of the appearance of the original scene, and complete conversion to greyscale monochrome. Other derivations, including infrared, are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural.

Nature (Eligible for PAGB Competition)

Nature means Images where living organisms are the primary subject matter. The story telling value of an Image will normally be weighed more than the pictorial quality.

Nature includes:

- Images taken with subjects in controlled conditions such as zoos, game parks, botanic gardens, aquariums and enclosures where the subjects are dependent on man for food. Scientific bands, tags or collars are permissible.

Nature excludes:

- Images where the subjects are obviously domestic animals or plants.
- Images where an obviously artistic treatment has been applied.

Processing of the captured image, by cropping, exposure adjustment, colour correction, noise minimisation, dodging/burning, HDR, focus stacking and sharpening, is permitted, as is cloning of image defects and minor distractions including overlapping elements.

An Image appearing to meet these criteria will be accepted as Nature.

The Judges will normally assume that any Image presented to them is eligible.

Access to some biological subjects may be restricted. Where that is relevant, then Photographers warrant that they have followed relevant codes of practices and hold any necessary licences.

Portrait, People and Figure Studies

Shall include figure studies, groups of a portrait nature and animal portraits.

Mono or Colour? (Eligible for PAGB Competition)

Monochrome Images include:

- An Image in tones of neutral grey ranging from transparent/white to opaque/black.
- An Image in a single colour:
 - o A Print using a chemical process such as sepia, cyanotype, etc.
 - o A digitally produced Image ‘colorized’ in a single hue.

Young Photographer

Shall be open to all members 21 years or under on the closing date for entries.

Young Photographers may enter up to 3 prints and 3 PDIs in this category. The subject matter is Open.

Young Photographers may also enter other categories as a regular author, but their total number of entries must not exceed the maximum entry of 10 Prints and 10 PDIs.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated images

Images generated *solely* via AI are not permitted. All images or parts of images must be based on Photographic Images taken by the author. The YPU will trust in the integrity of its community 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.

Computer Manipulated Images

Shall be permitted in all categories (with the exception of Nature, Record and Travel Categories) providing the work is based on photographic images taken by the author. All manipulation of the image shall be carried out by the author, or under his or her direct control. This can include cropping, masking, filtration etc., removing unwanted details and blemishes and, in the General Categories, the addition of details taken from other photographic images taken by the author. Computer Clip-Art, internet copyright free images or graphics from any other sources is not permitted.

Copyright

Copyright of all entries is retained by the entrant but entry into YPU Competitions will be taken to signify their willingness to have accepted images shown at the YPU Annual Exhibition, for inclusion in the YPU circulating folios and to represent the YPU in PAGB competitions. Copies will be retained by the YPU for such purposes.

If you have any queries regarding the YPU Exhibition, please contact either the PDI Secretary, Richard Littlefair – pdisec@ypu.org.uk. or the Print Secretary, Andrew Pell – printsec@ypu.org.uk

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