Competition Groups & Annual Awards

Competition Groups

All members are assigned to one of four groups. This provides members with the opportunity to compete against similar levels of ability and encourages the development of the skills of members. For both Group assignment and Annual Awards, assessment is based on the best 8 entries entered by a member.

The Core groups – membership of a core group requires at least 8 images to be entered in the season (of a possible 12).
Group 1 – Developing photographers.
Group 2 – Intermediate photographers.
Group 3 – More experienced photographers.
Flexi Group – members who want to enter occasionally, without committing to eight images a season. Flexi members can enter competitions, score competitions, receive scores and feedback.

How members move groups
Each Season:

- Group 1 to Group 2: Any member ranking above the Group 2 average moves up.
- Group 2 to Group 3: Up to two members ranked above the Group 3 average move up.
- Groups 2 and 3: Up to two members in each group whose ranking falls below the average of the group beneath, move down.
- *Members can request a move down, but this is not automatic. The Chair has the final say and can make exceptions for personal circumstances.*
- Members of the Flexi Group can ask to join a Core group – but must commit to trying to enter 8 images in the followings season.

New members
New members joining before Christmas may choose Group 1 (by committing to entering 8 images in the season) or the Flexi Group. Those joining after Christmas start in Flexi Group. This gives new members the chance to understand how to enter competitions and build confidence before joining Group 1.

Eight images required for membership of a Core Group:

- We require this because we want to encourage members to enter frequently and statistically, using the best 8 has proven to be a strong indicator of performance across more than 50% of both the print and digital competitions.
- To qualify for the primary annual awards or a move between Groups 1, 2 and 3, members must enter at least 8 images in a season (out of a possible 12)..
- Members entering fewer than 8 images can choose the Flexi Group or commit to entering at least 8 the following season.

Publication of Results:
At the end of the Season, we will publish a document that shows the ranking of all members of core groups within their group and across all groups.

Annual Awards

Each year, at AGM we celebrate the achievement of our members.

A trophy will be awarded to the winner of each Group

For Groups 1,2 and 3

The highest placed 8 images entered by each member will be used to rank the members of the Group and the winner will receive a trophy. The runners up will receive a certificate.

For Flexi Group

The photographer with the highest scoring image of the season, within the group, will receive an award.

'Best of Best" Award

We end each year with a 'Best of Best' competition, where the top 10 images from each of our 6 competitions are scored by a judge and a Trophy is awarded to the winning image / photographer.

All members that enter images from any group are eligible to be entered for this competition.