Knowle Camera Club

General Competition Rules and Conditions of Entry

Issued on 9 May 2023

Introduction

This document should be read in conjunction with the Competition Guidelines for the relevant season, which gives rules and guidelines for the specific competitions being held in that season.

This document gives general rules on eligibility and advises you how to prepare and enter your images for Club competitions.

1. How to determine if your image is eligible for a competition

You can enter any image into a Club competition as long as you own the copyright. i.e. you took the image.

There is no restriction on the capture date of an image – ie the date it was taken – unless specifically instructed otherwise for a particular competition (for example, the Shoot Out).

You may crop, edit, or apply any other post-processing to your image, unless specifically instructed otherwise for a particular competition (for example, nature/wildlife competitions). However, all image content must be your own work; a substitute sky, for example, is acceptable as long as you took the photograph of the sky. Stock photography or another person's work cannot be incorporated into your image.

The use of AI (artificial intelligence) tools to improve the technical quality of your image - for instance noise reduction or sharpening - is allowed, but AI cannot be used to generate content within your image.

Once you enter an image into a Club competition for the first time, the following rules apply regarding entering it again:

- If the image was awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze standard, or was Highly Commended, you cannot enter it into another Club competition in the same season other than the Rose Bowl.

- If the image was NOT awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze standard, and was not Highly Commended, you can enter it once more into another Club competition in the same season, as well as the Rose Bowl.

- You cannot enter that image into any Club competition in a subsequent season.

You may take a series of very similar images or process an image in more than one way. If there is any debate about whether two of your images should be regarded as the same image for the purpose of the above rules, a decision will be made by the Competition Secretary, after appropriate consultation with you, and that decision will be final. The Competition Secretary will subsequently report the circumstances to the Committee, so that the rules can be kept under appropriate review for future competitions.

2. How competitions are judged

All competitions will be judged by an outside judge on the night, unless otherwise stated.

The judge will be asked to give some entries one of the following four awards, based on image quality: Gold, Silver, Bronze or Highly Commended. More than one entry may receive each of these awards, at the judge's discretion.

The judge will be advised that we normally expect around one third of entries to receive an award as above, but he/she has discretion to vary this upwards or downwards based on

his/her view of the quality of the entries. The proportion of prints and PDIs receiving an award may also differ.

The judge will also be asked to identify the following: best print; best PDI; and the overall winner, which will be awarded the trophy for the competition.

NB The trophy remains the property of the Club. The overall winner may keep it at their home until two weeks prior to the night of the same or equivalent competition in the following season, when he or she should return the trophy to the Competition Secretary in a clean state. In the event of a tie, each winner will hold the trophy for 6 months.

3. Storing, displaying and using images by the Club

By default, digital images received as competition entries or as part of other normal Club activity, including for the uses set out below, will be stored on the Club's computer and/or on Committee members' own computers and email accounts.

The Club may display these images on the Club's website, Facebook and Instagram pages and other social media from time to time and may use them for inter-Club competitions.

If you wish to restrict the extent to which your images are stored or used as above, you must inform the Club Secretary in writing or by email of the restrictions you wish to apply. These restrictions will be deemed to be ongoing unless or until you rescind them in writing or by email to the Club Secretary.

Following receipt of your instructions, the Club Secretary shall:

- keep appropriate records on behalf of the Club;
- inform all Committee members of the restrictions you have imposed; and
- oversee and monitor the arrangements necessary to apply them, liaising with other Committee members as required, including carrying out random checks of the club's computer from time to time.

If, having made such a request, you wish to check the club's computer, you may do so on any Club night provided that this does not disrupt the evening's proceedings.

4. How to submit your entries

The Competition Guidelines state the number of entries you are allowed for each competition.

The Competition Secretary will advise all members from time to time about the deadlines for receiving entries, which may be different for prints and digital images. He or she may at their discretion advise alternative arrangements and timescales, with appropriate advance notice.

The club currently uses the PhotoComp online entry system. Before entering a competition for the first time, the Competition Secretary will need to liaise with you so that your details can be set up on PhotoComp.

Once the Competition Secretary announces that a competition is open for entries, you may enter your images at this link:

http://www.photocompentries.net/?org=Knowle

You should choose a title for each entry and enter this in the relevant box in PhotoComp. There is no requirement for your uploaded files to have any particular filename.

If you are entering one or more Prints, you also need to advise of your Print entries using PhotoComp, which will require you to upload a JPG version of each Print entry. The rules for entering digital images also apply to that JPG version.

Please note that, if a competition attracts too high a number of entries, the Competition Secretary may determine that all of the fourth (ie last) entries on PhotoComp will be removed. You should bear this in mind when entering your images on PhotoComp in a certain order.

5. How to prepare prints for entry into club competitions

Unless otherwise advised, your prints should be mounted on a board which has a size not exceeding 20" x 16" (50cm X 40cm). The mount may be of any colour.

The Competition Secretary will not accept any mount with "Sticky Velcro", any other fasteners or sticky residue on the back, due to the risk of damaging other people's prints.

The print you display within the mount board may be any size or shape.

On the top of the *back* of the mount you must write the title of the image, and your name.

NB During the transporting and handling of prints, every care will be taken to prevent any deterioration of their condition. The Competition Secretary will transport prints in a suitable storage box. Prints will be handled with care during competition nights; however, the Club cannot be held responsible for any accidental damage.

6. How to prepare digital images for entry into club competitions

This rule 6 applies to both PDI entries and JPG versions of Print entries entered into PhotoComp.

You must enter your image in JPEG (*.jpg) format. Make sure you save a JPEG at the maximum quality setting.

Image size

**Your image needs to fit within a rectangle 1600 pixels wide by 1200 pixels high**.

Therefore, the maximum area of an image in landscape format is greater than for an image in portrait format:

- The **maximum** size of a *landscape* image is the whole of the outer rectangle below.

  Initially a width of 1600 pixels (or less) should be chosen. However if the image is fairly square, the height may then exceed 1200 pixels. If so, the image needs to be shrunk so that the height is reduced to 1200 pixels.

- The **maximum** size of a *portrait* image is represented by the inner rectangle below, which is a square.

  A height of 1200 pixels should be chosen. The width of the image will then, by definition, be less than 1200 pixels.

1200 pixels

1200 pixels

1600 pixels
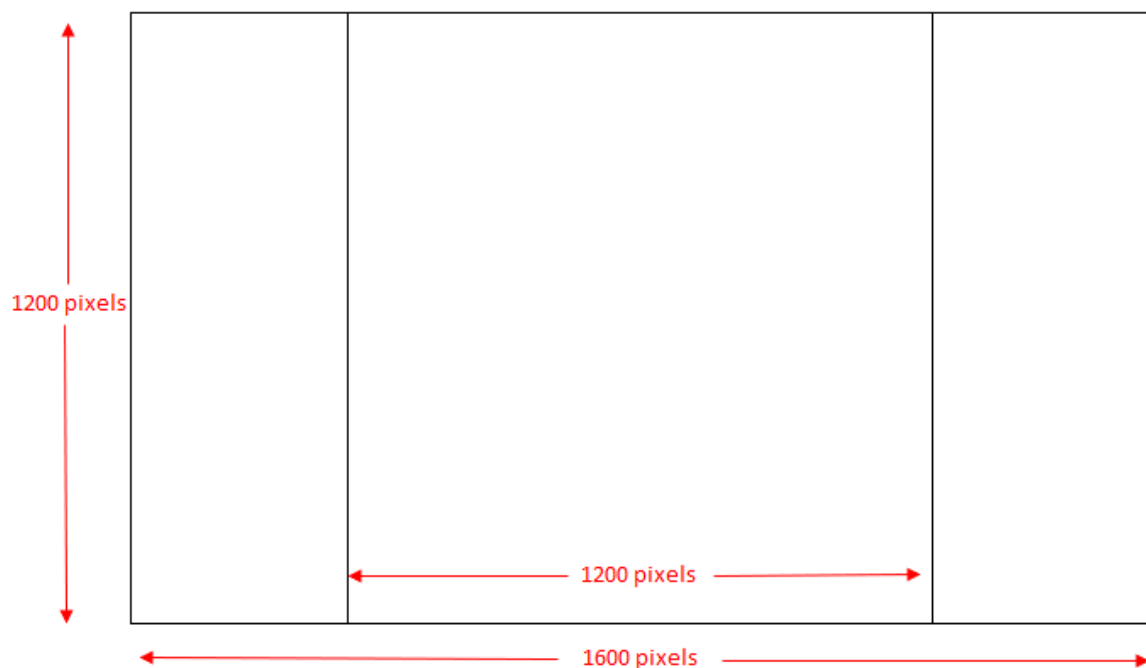
The Appendix gives an example of how to undertake these steps, using Adobe Photoshop Elements.
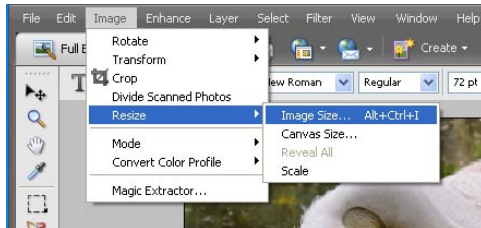
APPENDIX

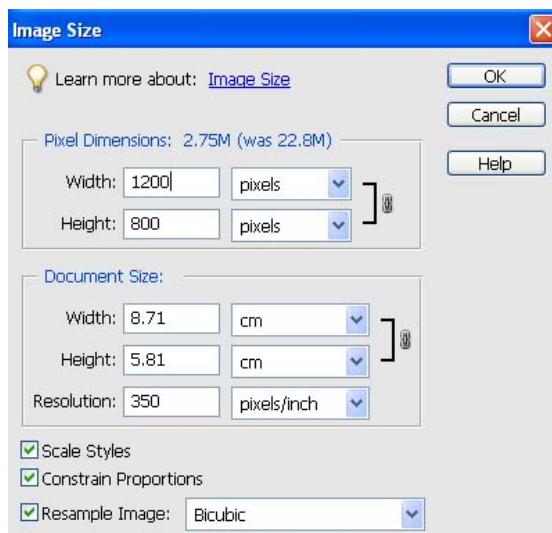*How to adjust image size using Adobe Photoshop Elements*

Step 1
Edit or crop your image to your satisfaction.

If you wish to add a thin border around the image, do so at this stage before proceeding to step 2.

Step 2
Left click on "Image" in the top menu. On the drop-down menu, left click on "Resize" and then left click on "Image Size".

Step 3
In the Image Size dialog box, you need to adjust the top part of the box marked Pixel Dimensions. The part marked Document Size is not relevant for this purpose and should be ignored.

Tick the boxes marked Constrain Proportions and Resample Image, and to the right ensure Bicubic is showing (select if necessary by left clicking on the downward arrow).

Step 4
This step depends on whether your image is in landscape or portrait format.

If your image is in landscape format:

- change the width pixel dimension to 1600 (or less if you prefer)
- if the height pixel dimension is then less than 1200, click OK. If the height pixel dimension is greater than 1200 then change it to 1200. (The width pixel dimension will now become less than 1600.)

If your image is in portrait format:

- change the height pixel dimension to 1200
- Check that the width pixel dimension is less than 1200, and click OK.

Step 5   *(optional)*
If you wish, you can extend the final canvas size of the image to 1600 by 1200 pixels, by

filling any unused space. You can choose any colour but black is preferable and this is assumed below.

On the Toolbar, ensure that the foreground and background colours are set to the default of black and white boxes (a) and then click on the curved arrow (b) to reverse the options.
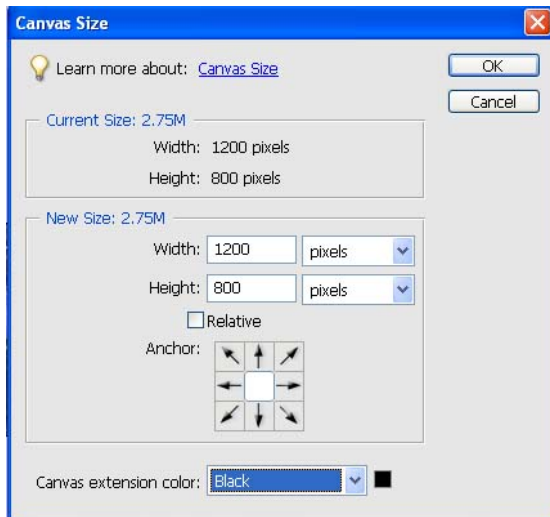
Left click on Image on the top menu, as before. Then left click on Resize, finally left click on Canvas Size. Change the pixels dimension to 1600 wide and 1200 high.

Next ensure that the "Relative" box is **not** ticked. In the box "Canvas Extension Colour" select black from the drop-down menu. Finally click OK.

Step 6   *(optional)*
It is probably worth sharpening the image at this stage.

How to prepare the triptych image for a "three of a kind" or triptych competition:

Step 1
Set background

Step 2
Click File – New - Blank File
Preset Custom width and height as required
Resolution 300 pixels/inch
Set background contents to background colour

Step 3
Using the Move tool, drag and drop images into place in the order required, using grid if necessary

Step 4
Click Layer – Flatten image

Step 5
Resize image to the maximum of 1600 wide by 1200 pixels high

Step 6
Save as image d of the set as described above.