

Knowle Camera Club

General Competition Rules and Conditions of Entry

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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

If you are aware that the eligibility of your image may be open to question or debate, you should alert the Competition Secretary BEFORE entering your image into the competition, so that a discussion about the circumstances can take place and a decision made.

Please do so well in advance; the Competition Secretary will not usually look at your entries until after the closing date, and it will not then be possible for you to change your entries.

Ownership

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

Images must be entirely your own work. For a composite image, all component images must meet this requirement. For the avoidance of doubt, use of images from any other source including, but not limited to, royalty free image banks, stock photography and clipart are not permitted. A substitute sky, for example, is acceptable as long as you took the photograph of the sky.

When the image was taken

The capture date of an image – ie the date it was taken – can generally be any date on or after 1 January of the year three years prior to the start of that season. For instance, for competitions in the 2025-26 season, any date on or after 1 January 2022. Some competitions may specify different date(s) (for example, the Shoot Out).

For a composite image, using component images taken on different dates, the date to be used would be the earliest of the dates for all significant elements of the image.

Making changes to your image

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).

The use of AI (artificial intelligence) tools to improve the technical quality of your image - for instance noise reduction or sharpening - is now widespread and is allowed, but AI cannot be used to generate content within your image. You should ensure that your use of AI is in line with the guidance issued by the PAGB in October 2023 and found here:

http://thepagb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/guidance_ai.pdf

When are two images “the same image”?

There are rules below covering whether and when the same image can be entered in more than one club competition. This may lead to questions about whether or not two images should be regarded as “the same image” for the purposes of those rules.

If two images being compared are derived from the same original image in camera, they are “the same image”, irrespective of different editing, post-processing or other treatment.

For example: a different crop, conversion to mono, removal or addition of picture elements, or a different sky are all changes which might significantly alter the look and feel of an image. However, for the purposes of these rules, they are “the same image”.

If two images being compared are derived from different original images in camera, but the original images were taken close together and show essentially the same subject in the same setting, they must be regarded as “the same image”.

Here are some examples of images which ARE “the same image”:

- a) you take a series of wildlife or sports images in Burst Mode, and pick two images from the Burst with small differences in the positioning or body shape of the subject(s).
- b) you take a number of wide angle images of a crowded city plaza over the course of a 30 minute shoot, all from the same or similar viewpoint, and pick two images which are very similar except for people being positioned differently in the scene.

Here are some examples of images which ARE NOT “the same image”:

- a) you take a series of images of a football match from the same vantage point, and pick two images showing different footballers in action.
- b) you revisit the same city plaza on different days, weeks or seasons, taking similar images but which reflect the weather and other conditions on the day in question, and pick two images in which those differences are clear.

The above are however only examples. In practice, given the ease with which large numbers of images can be taken with modern cameras, there will always be grey areas where “the same image” is concerned. 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.

You are primarily responsible for ensuring you do not inadvertently enter the same image more than once, other than where the rules allow this.

Re-entering the same image in more than one club competition

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

- If the image was awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze standard, or was Highly Commended, you cannot enter the same image 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 the same image once more into another Club competition in the same season, as well as the Rose Bowl.
- You cannot enter the same image into any Club competition in a subsequent season, with or without any editing or post-processing.

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 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.

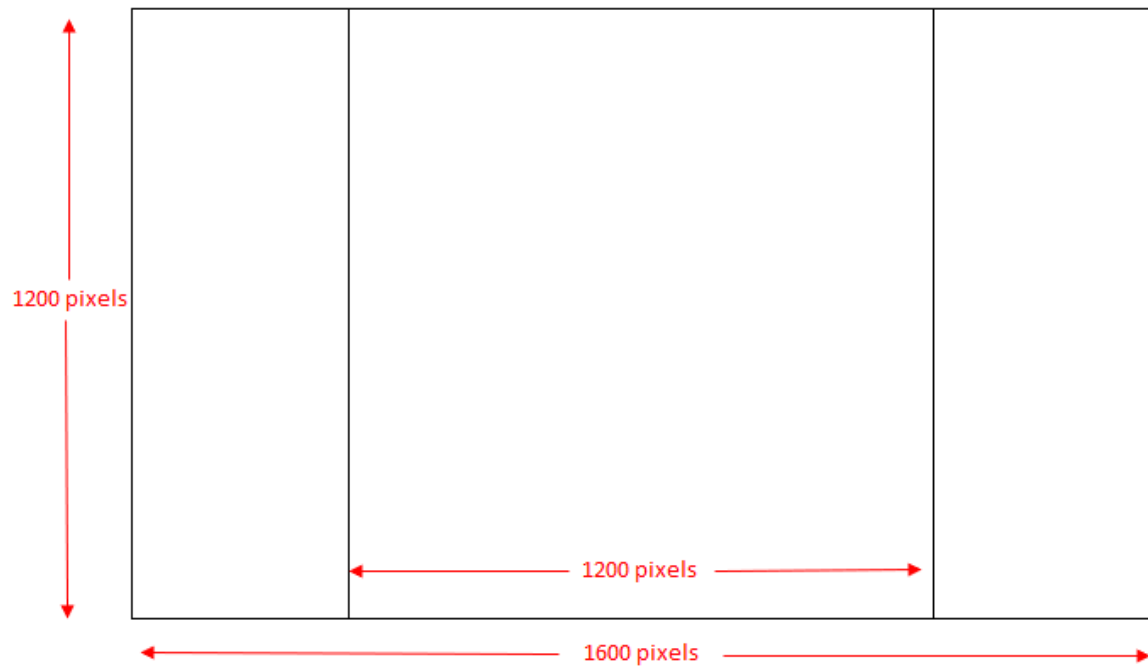
Therefore, the maximum area of an image in landscape format is greater than for an image in portrait format:

- 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.



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

APPENDIX 1

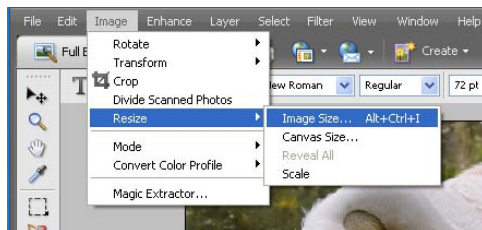
How to adjust image size using Adobe Photoshop Elements

(note: these instructions were written some years ago and may be out of date)

Step 1

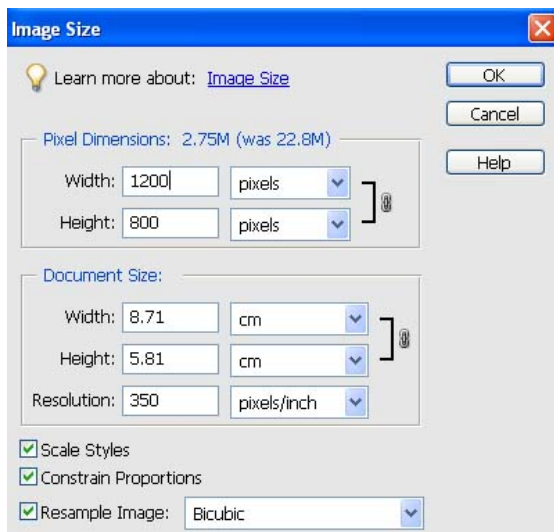
Edit or crop your image to your satisfaction.

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

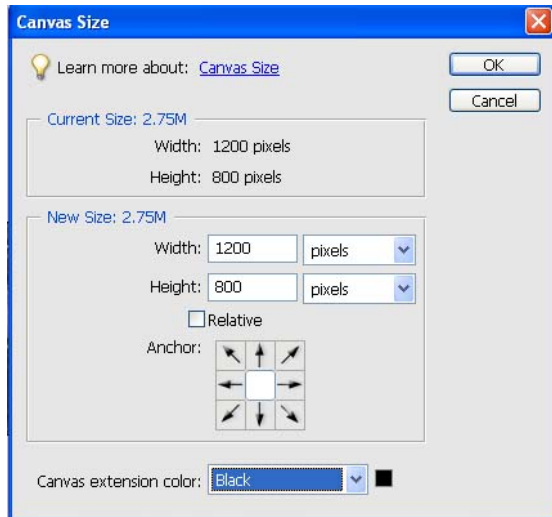
If your image is in portrait format:

- 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

APPENDIX 2

How to add a thin border or keyline in Photoshop CC

Adding a thin border is entirely optional. It can't be done directly in Lightroom CC, without using complicated add-ins. However, it's fairly easy in Photoshop CC. There are a number of different ways to do it and there are plenty of videos available on YouTube setting out these ways. Our recommended video is:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QR_ap53w0k

We recommend using the **second** method shown in this video (starting 2 minutes in), which works by extending the "canvas size", which is similar to the method set out in Appendix 1 for resizing your image.

Two points to note:

- If you want to add a very thin border, try adding 4, 6 or 8 pixels rather than the 50 or 100 he uses in the video demonstration.
- Don't forget that afterwards you may need to resize your image to the competition size of 1600 x 1200 pixels (max).