



RULES FOR SCPF PRINT AND DIGITAL IMAGE LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

General Rules

1. All images submitted to a SCPF league competition must comply with the SCPF general rules, which apply for the SCPF print and digital image league, exhibition, and championships.

The League Competition

2. There are two independent leagues: prints (PR) and digital images (DI) and clubs will be separated into divisions within those leagues. At the end of each season some clubs will be promoted or relegated between divisions.
3. Each club may enter eight images in either print league or digital image league or both. The nominated prints and digital images must be used throughout the entire competition without any alteration.
4. The council reserves the right to change the league fixtures window dates. Any change will be posted on the website and all clubs notified directly.
5. All entries must be uploaded using the uploader on the SCPF website and finalised by the closing date. No alterations are permitted after the closing date each year (30 September).
6. A maximum of four images may be submitted from one club member, but no more than two in either the digital image or print league.
7. All competing clubs shall organise a league fixture for digital images (this maybe via Zoom or other suitable online meeting software or at a physical location) and/or prints by hosting the event themselves or arranging with other clubs to host the event instead. The hosting club shall invite the competing clubs to their event. Although not mandatory, it is recommended that competing clubs make every effort to attend.
8. Clubs shall inform the SCPF league secretary of the date, judge and venue [i.e. club or Zoom] of their hosting event. Any club notifying the SCPF league secretary of a date or judge which clashes with a judge or fixture date already notified to the secretary will need to change either the date or judge as necessary. The dates or judge notified to the league secretary first will always stand unless agreed between clubs. The date and venue of each fixture will be published on the SCPF website.

9. On completion of the fixtures and the results being known, two clubs will be promoted, and two clubs relegated from each division to make up the following season's divisions, unless a re-organisation of divisions is necessary in which case the numbers may vary. The top two clubs in the highest division and bottom two clubs in the lowest division will always remain in their respective divisions.
10. At the end of the season the SCPF council may vary the number of divisions within each league and equalise the number of clubs in each division depending on the number of clubs participating or for any other reason as they see fit.
11. All clubs should notify the SCPF league secretary by the end of June if they wish to join or leave the league competitions for the following season.

League General Rules

12. The DI league season runs from the 1st of November until the 31st of March the following year. Fixtures must take place in this window. Special arrangements are required for the print competition. (See rules 22 & 23)
13. All relevant forms and information shall be maintained and circulated by the SCPF league secretary e.g., copies of score sheets and compilation of results.
14. Any protest must be sent in an email from an official of a competing club to the SCPF league secretary within 3 days of the fixture. The SCPF league secretary will notify all clubs involved and suspend the results pending investigation by the SCPF council. Future rounds must continue until the remedial process has been concluded. All concerned parties will be informed of the result of any investigation.
15. In the case of a draw in a round, the hosting competition secretary will conduct a count back to determine the position of every club in that round. (Most 10s, then most 9.5s etc.). If after countback there is still a tie, the total available points for the relevant positions will be divided equally between the clubs.
16. For divisions with 8 clubs or fewer, the points allocation of completed fixtures is the club with highest aggregate score, 8 points, the club with next highest score, 7 points, then 6, and so on. If a division has more than 8 clubs the highest score will equal the number of clubs, the club with the next highest score one point less and so on.
17. The winner of each division shall be the club scoring the highest aggregate number of points.

18. In the event of a tie after completion of all rounds, the league secretary will conduct a full count back e.g., highest number of 10s, then 9.5s, and 9s etc. to decide final positions. If the scores and countback remain equal, then the winner will be decided by a toss of a coin.
19. By entering any image to the leagues, photographers are deemed to have authorised the federation to retain the image and the associated photographer's details in the SCPF's records.

Digital Image Rules

20. For all digital image (DI) competitions whether held at the club or using a video conference software such as Zoom, the host club must send a randomized set of 1600 x 1200-pixel images that have had the SCPF image number and the author's name removed. They must be sent to the judge at least one week in advance of the fixture, using WeTransfer, Dropbox, or other application. The order of showing these images should be identified to the judge

Print Rules

21. Print mounts must be 50cm x 40cm (+/- 0.2cm). The size of the mounts shall be checked by the host club at the first print round. All prints are to be measured and any concerns must be notified to the league secretary for a decision. After the first round no further challenges on dimensions shall be accepted. The first host club must also check that Velcro or any fixings that could cause damage to other competitors' prints have been removed.
22. Prints must be labelled with the league labels, downloaded from the SCPF website, which show the season, image number, club name, title, and author.
23. Print competitions shall be arranged for a date after the SCPF Reps. meeting held in the early part of November. This enables prints from competing clubs to be collected from the club representatives by the first hosting club in each division.
24. No digital image of the print should be sent to the judge ahead of the event. All prints will be judged, as seen, on the night.
25. The final print fixture should be arranged to take place a week before the championships held at the end of March to allow prints to either be collected by the clubs concerned or delivered to the championships, by the club hosting the final division's fixture in a season.

26. A representative of the next hosting club is responsible for collecting all prints from the club that hosted the preceding round. There will be some instances where hosting clubs can not attend, but they are responsible for collecting prints and should make contact with the club and agree how the images will be collected.
27. Where a club fails without reasonable cause to comply with this procedure, the council may, depending on circumstances, impose additional points deduction up to a maximum of eight points for each disrupted match.

Host Club Responsibilities

28. Each host club must fix the date and book the judge for their fixtures. They must notify the SCPF league secretary by email of their dates, their venues and judges before the competition fixture window begins
29. Any postponements must be notified to the SCPF league secretary as soon as possible. All rearranged fixtures must be notified to the SCPF league secretary at least 7 days prior to the fixture being held. All rearranged matches must occur before the end of the season's fixture window.
30. The host club must nominate a scorer and email a scanned copy of the score sheet(s) in PDF format to the SCPF league secretary. The score sheet(s) must be completed with the name of the Judge, the name of the scorer, and an official of the host club such as Chair or secretary, present at the time of the match, within 3 days of the fixture.
- Alternatively, a copy of the spreadsheet provided by the SCPF may be emailed to the SCPF league secretary with names of scorers and verifiers shown.
31. The league secretary shall verify the results, distribute an electronic copy of the completed score sheet to all the competing clubs in that division and update the website with the allocated points.
32. The host club's competition secretary is responsible for deleting other clubs' images from their computer immediately after the fixture. No league rounds may be recorded.
33. In all cases the host club's competition secretary will be responsible for ensuring images are shown correctly and all equipment has been calibrated. The SCPF test image sent with the images must be shown and checked by the judge prior to starting to show the images.

34. Any contact change for the competition secretary must be notified to the SCPF League Secretary.

Appointment of Judges

35. Level 1 judges must not be appointed for League matches.
36. Matches in divisions 1 to 3 should be assessed by Level 3 or approved Level 2* judges without reference to the judging advisory committee. All other Level 2 Judges may only be appointed to these matches by prior agreement with the Judging Advisor and/or a member of the judging advisory committee before the judge is contacted.
37. Matches in divisions 4 and below should be assessed by judges selected from the SCPF Level 3, Level 2* or Level 2 listings wherever possible.
38. Judges may be selected from other Federations provided they are accredited at that Federation's equivalent levels and details of their Federation and accreditation are provided to the league secretary.
39. When booking a judge from another federation the club must make clear that the marking scheme contained in the SCPF Judging Guidelines must be used and attach a copy of the guidelines when confirming the booking.
40. Clubs may at any time request guidance from the Judging Advisor or judging advisory committee who may, if necessary, apply discretion on behalf of the SCPF council regarding the suitability of judges for league matches.

Judges and Judging

41. Judges may judge several fixtures during the league season. However, they may not judge more than once within the same division.
42. The judge must not be a member of any of the competing clubs within the division they are judging.
43. All images in a division are to be judged at each fixture.
44. Prints and DIs shall be displayed for judging in a true random order. (The use of the PAGB method of display sequence is not allowed as there are only up to eight clubs for. Each match.)
45. For print fixtures the club must allow the judge to see all prints prior to judging. If possible, display all prints simultaneously.

46. For print fixtures where the digital image is also shown arrangements must be made so that the judge cannot be distracted by the screen. Judges should be reminded to appraise and score the print only.
47. For DI competitions a run through of all DIs prior to judging is recommended. DIs must not be altered by the host club, except for the filename which may be required by the competition software.
48. Titles must be read out and/or displayed prior to each image being judged.
49. The SCPF image number and the score must be read out and/or displayed after each image has been judged.
50. The judge has the final say whether the standard of DI showing or print lighting is acceptable. The judge may make allowances for viewing characteristics when marking. If it is not possible for the judge to be satisfied with the arrangements, the fixture must be postponed or cancelled.

Marking Scheme

51. For SCPF League matches, hosting clubs must ensure that judges use the latest SCPF Judging Guidance.

DI Competitions held using Zoom

52. Digital images must be assessed in advance with marks and commentary delivered live by the judge during the Zoom meeting. (See rule 20)
53. Notification of the fixture must be sent to all clubs in the division, to the judge and the league secretary at least one week in advance of the meeting to allow members of competing clubs the chance to attend. Links required to attend the meeting must be sent at least 48 hours beforehand to all interested parties, using the BCC facility on emails.
54. The host club shall run the competition using their usual software and displaying the digital images in the same order as previously sent to the judge.
55. Titles are to be read out and/or displayed prior to each image being judged.
56. The SCPF image number and the score must be read out and/or displayed after each image has been judged.
57. The host club shall arrange for at least one other competing club to attend the meeting via Zoom, or other online meeting software, to keep a record of the

scores and verify the results.

58.The competition must not be recorded.

59.The host club must nominate a scorer and email a scanned copy of the score sheet(s) in PDF format to the SCPF league secretary. The score sheet(s) must be completed with the name of the Judge, the name of the scorer, and the name and club of at least one other club representative present at the time of the match, who has checked and verified the scores and results within 7 days of the fixture.

60.Alternatively, a copy of the spreadsheet provided by the SCPF may be emailed to the SCPF league secretary with names of scorers and verifiers shown.

Finals Day

61.Finals Day is to be a celebration of the best imagery within the SCPF league. All entrants and club members are invited to attend.

62.A print and DI from each participating club, with the highest cumulative score from the division rounds, are eligible to compete for the individual awards to be judged at Final's Day. In the event of an equal score, all images with that score, will be eligible. This is done in conjunction with the league secretary.

63.It is the responsibility of each club to ensure their member's print(s) is/are presented at Finals Day for the individual awards. DIs are obtained from original submissions.

64.Any print submitted on Finals Day must be the same mounted and labelled print used during the league rounds.

65.The SCPF will be responsible for booking the venue and judge for Finals Day.

66.Certificates shall be presented to the winning clubs in each division. Certificates will also be presented for the best overall individual print and individual DI together with any Highly Commended entries.

67. Any winners' certificates not collected on Finals Day will be given to a person representing the winning club on the day or emailed as a pdf later to the relevant club secretary.