

ARDS Camera Club Competition Rules

For the purpose of all competitions Ards CC have adopted the NIPA definition of groupings i.e. Advanced and Novice.

On joining the club, the group into which new members fit will be discussed with them by the Competition Secretary or Chair. If necessary, they may be asked to provide 5 images to help the committee decide into which group they fit, taking the NIPA definition into account. This is not usually necessary.

Novice Definition Introduction

1. A 'Novice' is someone who does not meet the criteria set out below under 'The Competition Rules (as adopted from NIPA)'.
2. Details of club members 'Starred' images can be found on the NIPA website. This will be updated following each Interclub Competition Round
3. For the images that go through to the NIPA Adjudications, it is the club's responsibility to determine if their member qualifies as a 'Novice'.

In-Club League

Ards CC also runs an in-club league with points being added for placings etc in each round. These points go towards end of year awards. It becomes clearer as the year progresses.

- Each entry 1 point
- 1st place 8 points
- 2nd place 6 points
- 3rd place 5 points
- 4th place 4 points
- Highly Commended 3 points
- Commended 2 points

Novice definition (as adopted from NIPA)

A person will no longer be considered a 'Novice' when they:

a. Have obtained 2 'starred' entries – not necessarily in the same year, in any NIPA affiliated Competition. For the purposes of this definition, a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in any NIPA Competition or Exhibition. (please see annex D in the NIPA rules for all NIPA affiliated annual Competitions).

NB. If you are unsure, please speak to the Competition Secretary for clarification.

b. Obtained a third level academic photographic qualification.

c. Obtain a Distinction from a National or International Photographic body.

d. Obtained 2 acceptances in Salons, Open Exhibition, or the PAGB Inter-Federation Annual Print & PDI Competition.

e. The member offers their Photographic Services, training or skills development for remuneration.

At any time, in relation to any Competition, the Competition Secretary, in consultation with the Club Committee may review the standard of an entrant's photography.

As Ards CC adhere to the NIPA rules for competitions, please read these rules before progressing any further. See

<https://www.nipphoto.co.uk/files/ugd/1acce835eb885f0db435c98cb3ae3686cbd43.pdf>

With all this in mind, the Ards CC Competition rules are as follows:

- Only current paid-up members may enter either Club or NIPA led competitions.
- All entries must adhere to the published closing dates, naming convention and size. These will be published well in advance of each competition run by the Club. All deadlines must be adhered to but may be waived for special circumstances. If this applies, please contact the Competition Secretary.
- All entries must contain entrants Name/ title of print or PDI/entrants section i.e. Novice or Advanced.
E.g. Marlene Hazlehurst_Scrabo_Advanced
- The Committee may reject any entry they consider unsuitable for competition, although this is very rare.

Again, ask the Competition Secretary for advice if necessary.

- In each of the 5 inter-club rounds members may enter up to 3 images in each of the 3 sections i.e. Colour print, Mono Print & PDI (PDIs may be either colour or mono).
- All prints must be mounted and the mount must be no larger than 40x30cm. Any colour of mount is acceptable.
- PDIs must be no larger than 1600px (wide) x 1200px (height). NB a very small PDI whilst admissible will not show your image at its best and should be avoided.
- NIPA have informed clubs that they will be stricter on the sizing of Mounts and PDIs from now on, so please take care that you adhere to the NIPA rules (link above).
- The same naming convention applies to both Prints & PDIs.
- Prints and mounts can be either trade or home processed.
- A print or PDI may be entered into a club competition a maximum of 3 times but only twice in any one year. However, a print or PDI that was placed in a previous competition i.e. 1st - 4th may not be entered again in any subsequent competition. Commended or Highly Commended may be re-entered.
- Each entrant is responsible for placing their prints in the appropriate tray on the night of the competition e.g. Colour Advanced versus Colour Novice
- Projected Digital Images (PDIs) must be entered via 'We Transfer', email or on a memory stick by the closing date.

- PDIs must
 - Be in Jpeg format and sRGB colour space
 - Maximum 1600pixel wide & 1200pixel high
 - They must adhere to the naming convention explained above
- Closing dates for PDIs & Prints should strictly be adhered to.
- When a Novice receives 2 starred images, they immediately become an Advanced member for all competition.
- For the purposes of the Ards Annual Exhibition only, if a Novice becomes Advanced as a result of Rounds 1 & 2 of the NIPA Interclub Competitions, they should enter the Ards Annual Exhibition as Advanced. If a member achieves advanced status in rounds 4 & 5 or indeed the NIPA Novice Competition, they may enter the Ards Annual Exhibition as a Novice. This is purely because most of their work that year will have been as a Novice.
- In connection to our in-club competition table, points are not transferable from Novice to Advanced sections. This would be unfair to our Advanced members.
- **If you have any queries around any competition please contact the Competition Secretary, Marlene Hazlehurst by email on compsecardscameraclub@gmail.com**
- As of this club year i.e. 2025_26 we are introducing a critique evening before each competition. Anyone wishing to avail themselves of this can bring a print or PDI along for advice from Advanced members. All comments will be given in a positive, helpful manner and while this is voluntary, we would encourage as many members as possible to make use of this service.
- An entry form must be completed for club records in each round otherwise you will not receive the points you are due. These forms will be available on the night and on the website.
- Leave yourself plenty of time before each competition, as time passes very quickly.