

Galashiels Camera Club Competition Rules (2026)**

1) Members may enter as “Beginners” or as “Standard” (that is combined “Intermediate/Advanced”). Beginners’ images will be included in the main competition, along with those from Standard members and, if sufficient beginners join the club in any season, they will also receive separate “beginner-level” awards.

2) There are two Classes of entry: Projected Images, and Prints. Both Classes include both colour and monochrome images.

3) Digital Projected Images:

A maximum of three DPI may be entered in any one competition.

Digital images should be submitted on CD, DVD, SD card, CF card, or memory stick, marked with the member’s name and membership number. With the agreement of the Competition Secretary, they may also be submitted by **email**.

Please ensure emailed DPIs are sent to the Internal competition secretary **only**. If no acknowledgement of receipt is received within 24 hrs please enquire.

Digital images must be prepared in JPG format, with maximum pixel dimensions of 1600 horizontally and 1200 vertically. Images should be submitted in sRGB colour space. Any images submitted not resized as above will be resized by the club.

Digital image file names must be as follows: the entrant’s membership number (2 digits) followed by a single blank, then the title as on the entry form, and finally “.jpg” (e.g. “06 Borrowdale Sunrise.jpg”), no longer than 50 characters in total.

Beginners may submit image files straight from the camera (full size as jpg) and the filename format will not be enforced. Image files will be adjusted to suit by the club.

Digitised Colour slides are acceptable, resized to 1600 x 1200 px, as DPI submissions. (If you need help copying slides to Digital format, contact the Competition secretary)

4) Prints:

Prints **must be mounted** *, with a maximum mount size of 16" x 20" (40 cm x 50 cm), with the author’s membership number and image Title on the back of the mount. The minimum size of the print area is 6" x 4" (15 cm x 10 cm).

5) A maximum of three Prints may be entered in any one competition

6) Images may be entered in only one Class, once during the year and again in the Annual competition. Entries into inter-club battles and the Agricultural Competition do not count.

7) Images must be wholly the work of the author and be no more than three years old at the start (Opening Night) of the season during which the competition is held. Minor components of a composite image may be older, but no main component. The three-year rule will apply from the start of the 2017-18 season.

8) Entries, together with a completed Entry Form, must be submitted by the announced hand-in date, usually at least two or three weeks before the competition, unless explicitly agreed otherwise by the Competition Secretary

9) Before any entry can be accepted, the member submitting must have paid their subscription.

10) The judge does not have to award any prize if in his or her opinion the standard does not warrant it.

11) In each “monthly” competition, the following points, plus beginner-level if appropriate, will be awarded in both classes:

1st, 2nd, 3rd, Commended(s) – points toward the end of year trophies: 5, 3, 2, 1.

All reasonable care will be taken to safeguard entries, but the club does not accept responsibility for damage or loss.

Images and AI Generated content

Images entered must be entirely the work of the photographer. Composite Images are permitted provided all component images meet this requirement.

For the avoidance of doubt, use of images from any source including, but not limited to, royalty free image banks, textures and clipart are not permitted.

The use of AI software is allowed provided all images used have been taken by you, and only your own photographs are used in the processing. No modifications are allowed based on AI generated text input or generated using images or elements not taken by the photographer. RAW files or jpegs (incl. neighbouring jpegs) may be requested if there is any doubt of the eligibility of the entry.

There are no restrictions on using software that is called ‘AI’ such as Photoshop or Lightroom we have all been using these programs and ‘AI’ tools for years within previous versions of Photoshop etc. This is because AI (or AI Assisted) uses existing image content only when processing the image.

We wish to ensure that all parts of the finished photograph have been taken by the author. We therefore do not allow those ‘AI’ features that ‘Generate’ content using other people’s imagery or text prompts. This is because AI Generate (or Generative AI) has human-like intelligence, and imports new content into the image, so some or all of the pixels in the image will no longer have been taken by the author.

Key features in Photoshop or Lightroom to avoid that ‘generate’ content include - Generate Image’, Generative Fill’, ‘Generative Expand’, ‘Generative Remove’, and Text Prompts or Effects. There isn't an overall switch to disable all ‘AI Generate’ features in Lightroom or Photoshop, it is handled on a tool-by-tool basis.

This does not mean that a tool such as the Remove tool cannot be used. In both Lightroom and Photoshop, the remove tool has an option to untick ‘Generative AI’ or turn off ‘Generative AI’ in Photoshop (on the options bar). If ‘Generative AI’ is turned off, the tool still uses the advantages of the new AI Firefly, but it uses it as a Content-Aware removal tool, meaning it is using the information from the photographer’s own picture to replace the area, not imagery from other people’s photographs, so no infringement of our rules.

* Should you require assistance with printing or mounting images please don’t hesitate to ask a member of the committee who will put you in contact with a member who can help.

** Rules now include notes on the use of so called AI tools and functions. Should you require help or clarification with any of the above rules don’t hesitate to ask the club competition secretary, secretary, or chair.