# Nautilus Scuba Club Photo Competition Rules

**CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**                                                    **29th March, 2025**

**OVERVIEW**

**Financial Member entries will be accepted from 1st May, closing date 13th May 2025 Midnight.  No entries will be accepted after this date.**

All images and video clips must have been taken between May 1st 2023 and May 13th 2025.

All images must have been captured in natural water: ocean or lake.  No pool, aquarium or other controlled environments.

Any image with content or behaviour deemed to be caused by human intervention will not be accepted.  (i.e. Shark feeds, puffed pufferfish, shark cage, inked octopus/cephalopods, moved nudibranch etc.)

Images previously entered in a previous Nautilus Underwater Photography competition, or have won a prize in any other competition, are not permitted.

This is a club competition, aimed at hobby and enthusiast photographers, it is not open for entries from professional photographers.

**IMAGE PREPARATION**
This is not a Photoshop competition. There may be a request for the original file to ensure the image represents the reality of what was captured.

**Permitted**
Colour balance, brightness, contrast, sharpening and noise reduction (including standard AI-assisted noise-reduction tools), backscatter removal.
Cropping is permitted, but note that excessive cropping will result in poor quality prints for the exhibition. Images that have been excessively cropped to create a macro shot will not be accepted.

**Not-permitted**
Generative AI (this is defined as producing artefacts that did not exist in the original photo, including background replacement), composite images (in-camera or post-processing), cloning, artificial lighting effects.  Excessive blurring or darkening of background. Watermarks. Removal of bubbles, fish, divers, ropes etc.

Metadata (EXIF information) is to remain embedded in your image file; if the photographer's name appears in that metadata, it should be removed.  Please remove any star or number rating.

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**ENTRY PROCESS**
Refer to the Entry Process document for a guide on how to submit your entries.
This year we are using an online platform for entry and upload.
You must be a financial member.

Entrance fee of $50 per person is paid by credit card during the online entry process. The fee is the same whether one image is uploaded or all eligible categories are entered. There is no entry fee for Juniors.

**FILE SPECIFICATIONS**
Refer to the Photo Preparation & Sizing Guideline document for more detailed information.
All images will be printed at A3 size.  For optimal quality please send your images at:
Resolution:	minimum of 240 dpi (dots/pixels per inch) up to 300 dpi
Size:		at least 3960 pixels on longest edge
Format:		jpeg/jpg (at 90% quality if given the option in your editing software)

**Please prepare your images for printing**. As a guide and final check, view the image with your monitor/screen brightness reduced (to say 50%), to get an idea of how it will look when printed. In general, the image may need to be made slightly "brighter" than for simple viewing on a monitor or screen, otherwise it may be darker than expected when printed.

There is a maximum of 3 image entries for each photo category, with the exception of the portfolio categories which have 5 images per entry and Black and White which has 1.

A photo can only be entered into one competition category. Please do not submit near identical images into other categories (e.g. photos taken as part of a sequence of capture).

Image files must have the initials of the entrant and image category as their title (see Entry Process document for further file naming details).

If possible, please include a short descriptor with each image, for example the common name of the main subject and the location. Do not include any information that may identify the photographer. It is hoped that these descriptions can be included with the image at the Exhibition, for public interest. The number of characters will be limited by the entry system.

**JUDGING**
Judging of images will be blind (photographer unknown) and performed by professional photographers who are not club members. Judge's decisions are final.
For each category the Judges will select a Winner, Runner-up, and they may also nominate images as Highly Commended.

In the event that entries exceed the capacity of the Exhibition venue (estimated at 550 images), the Judges may be requested to shortlist images to be displayed at the exhibition.

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The winning entries will be announced at the Awards night on 2nd August at the Tanks Arts Centre.

There will be a club "Members Choice Award". Each financial Club Member will be able to place one vote for their favourite entry at the Exhibition. The Award will be given to the entry with the most votes received.

Entrants agree that their submitted images may be used by the Nautilus Scuba Club and prize sponsors for promotional purposes.

## CAMERA CATEGORIES

Compact cameras – "point and shoot" cameras with non-interchangeable lens (wet lenses are allowed). Examples are Olympus TG series, Sony RX100 etc. Smartphone/Action cameras can also be used, for example iPhone and Go Pro.

dSLR/Mirrorless – full or cropped sensor cameras with interchangeable lenses, including mirrorless micro 4/3 cameras.

For the camera specific categories of Portfolio, Macro and Wide Angle, you can only enter either the dSLR/Mirrorless or Compact category.
For the "Open" categories, entries can include images taken with any camera type.

## CATEGORIES

**WIDE ANGLE Cat 1: dSLR/Mirrorless**
**WIDE ANGLE Cat 2: Compact**
Entrants can submit up to 3 images in their camera category.
Any image that shows a wider angle of view than the human eye (35mm focal length).
Over/under photos are not permitted in this category (please submit in Portfolio category).

**MACRO Cat 1: dSLR/Mirrorless**
**MACRO Cat 2: Compact**
Entrants can submit up to 3 images in their camera category.
Any image that shows a smaller angle of view than the human eye. As a guideline, macro subjects are generally smaller than 6 inches (15cm) across.
Images should not be excessively cropped to simulate a macro shot.

**PORTRAIT - Open**
Entrants can submit up to 3 images.
A portrait shot usually focuses on one subject.  It could be a full body shot, or for example, just focusing on the head/face, or perhaps one subject against a backdrop of many, but the main subject should occupy the majority of the frame.

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**BEHAVIOUR - Open**
Entrants can submit up to 3 images.
Any image that shows natural behaviour of an underwater animal.

**THE BEAUTY OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF - Open**
Entrants can submit up to 3 images.
Images in this category should reflect the beauty of the Great Barrier Reef.  All areas of the Great Barrier Reef will be accepted as well as the Coral Sea Reefs including Flinders, Holmes, Flora, Bougainville and Osprey.

**VIDEO - Open**
Entrants can submit 1 entry, which can be taken with any camera system.
A video of up to 3 minutes.  Can be edited with music and/or voice over. May include clips filmed above water, e.g. with a drone, or on a boat etc., but must have majority (70%) of content filmed below water. Any soundtrack used must be free of copyrighted material. Refer to the Video Entry Guide for further information on how to enter this category.

**BLACK AND WHITE - Open**
Entrants can submit 1 image.
Any underwater style. Use this category to accentuate light and shadows. Images can be shot in black and white in camera or processed from original colour images.

**COMPACT CAMERA PORTFOLIO**
This category can only be entered by Compact cameras.
Entrants should submit 5 images that demonstrate a range of skills such as macro, portrait, wide angle, over and under images, and artistic styles, including technical difficulty of lighting, rarity of subject.

**SLR CAMERA PORTFOLIO**
This category can only be entered by dSLR/Mirrorless cameras.
Entrants should enter 5 images that demonstrate a range of skills such as macro, portrait, wide angle, over and under images, and artistic styles, including technical difficulty of lighting, rarity of subject.

**SMARTPHONE/ACTION CAMERA**
This category can only be entered by Smartphone/Action Cameras and is aimed at showcasing the ever-improving capabilities of this camera type.
Entrants can submit up to 3 images of any style.
(Note - Smartphone/Action cameras can also be used in other categories and are considered part of the Compact camera family. This category is aimed at photographers that have not also entered images using dSLR/mirrorless or other compact systems.)

**Images that, in the Judges view, do not meet the criteria of the Category that they have been entered in, will not be judged.**

Photo Comp Rules V2.3 19042025