



2026 Underwater Photography Competition

ENTRY PROCESS

This guide takes you through the steps to submit your photo and video entries. If you get stuck at any point, email the relevant contact given in the **Questions** section at the bottom of this guide.

Entries will be accepted from **1st May** until midnight **14th May 2026**.

Before you start

1. **Check your membership** — only financial members of Nautilus Scuba Club can enter. (Note that you will also need to renew your membership for 2026/27, after 1st July and prior to the Awards Night on 11th July to be eligible for any awards/prizes.)
2. **Read the [Conditions of Entry](#)** — these cover eligibility, image preparation rules, categories, and equipment restrictions.
3. **Prepare your images** — follow the [Photo Preparation and Sizing Guideline](#) for file specifications and print readiness.
4. **For video entries** — upload your video to YouTube before registering, following the [Video Preparation and Upload Guide](#).

Step 1 — Register and pay the entry fee

Go to the [Photo Competition Registration Form](#).

You'll need to log in using your Nautilus Scuba Club (Wild Apricot) membership details — use the same email address you used when renewing or applying for your membership. If you can't remember your password, use the **Forgot Password** link on the login form.

Once logged in, click **Register**. Your personal details will be prefilled from your membership profile. Then just click through the forms, review your details and add information for:

- Your camera, housing, and strobe/lighting setup (used for your photographer profile)
- A short bio or photography background (optional)

Complete the payment. The **\$50 entry fee** is paid online by credit card (juniors enter free — no payment required).

Once complete you will be forwarded to the entry portal.

Step 2 — Upload your bio photo

Click the circular avatar in the welcome section and upload a photo of yourself (head-and-shoulders is ideal). This appears alongside your photographer profile — it doesn't need to be underwater and doesn't count as a competition entry.

You can replace or remove it at any time before entries close.



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Step 3 — Upload your photos

Click the upload area to pick your prepared JPEG files for upload, or **drag and drop** your files here. You can upload multiple photos at once. Specific file names are not required.

Each photo will:

1. Upload directly to secure online storage
2. Be processed automatically (thumbnail, full-size preview, EXIF/metadata extraction)
3. Appear in the **Unassigned photos** pool at the top of the page

Your camera type (DSLR/Mirrorless, Compact, or Smartphone/Action Camera) is auto detected from the photo's EXIF data. You can override this in the photo's details if needed.

Step 4 — Assign photos to categories

Click the + slot on a category section, then pick a photo from the unassigned pool (or you can upload straight into the category). Each category has a maximum number of entries — the slots show how many you have left.

The portal system enforces category equipment restrictions and entry limits and will show a warning if an entry is ineligible. See the [Conditions of Entry](#) for full details on which camera types are allowed in each category.

Important: each image may only be entered into one category. Do not submit near-identical images across categories (e.g. from the same sequence).

Step 5 — Fill in the details for each photo

Click the **Edit** button to add details for each photo (clicking the thumbnail will open the full-size preview). Complete:

- **Description** (max 60 characters) — main subject and/or behaviour
- **Location** (max 30 characters) — reef name for Great Barrier Reef entries; general location for overseas or non-GBR domestic locations
- **Camera / Housing / Strobes or lights** (max 60 characters) — free-form text describing your setup
- **Camera type** — confirm the auto-detected value, or correct it if needed

The **Edit** button will change to **Add Details** when some data has been added but further details are still required.

This information may be displayed alongside your image at the exhibition. See the [Conditions of Entry](#) for the rule on not including anything that identifies you as the



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photographer. Changes will auto-save as you type — the indicator at the top-right of the window shows the save status.

Step 6 — Add your video entry

If you're entering the Video category:

1. Paste your YouTube URL into the Video category section.
2. Fill in the description, location, and gear fields as you would for a photo.

You can update the URL any time before entries close.

Step 7 — Review your entry

Before entries close, use the **issues/Entry Health** banner towards the top of the portal to check for issues:

- **Errors** (red) — will block the entry from being judged. Fix these before 14th May.
- **Warnings** (yellow) — aren't blockers but are worth reviewing (e.g. image under 2,800px, very dark image that may print poorly).

A green "Submitted" banner appears once entries are closed — you'll see a read-only view of your entry from then on.

Questions?

- **Competition Details or Rules clarifications** — photocomp@nautilus-scuba.net
- **Entry portal issues** — vp@nautilus-scuba.net
- **Membership Status** — clubmembership@nautilus-scuba.net
- **General questions** — president@nautilus-scuba.net

Good luck and enjoy the 2026 competition!