



Photographer of the Year competition (POTY)

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Thinking about entering the Photographer of the Year (POTY) competition but don't quite remember how it all works? The following questions and answers might be just what you are looking for.

Q: What are the details and rules about the POTY competition ?

You may enter two photos per round (i.e. per club evening), unless specified for 'special' rounds. To take part in this competition, you do not need to enter every round. Prints from negatives, slides or digital images must be presented in a passe-partout or mounted on card as detailed below:

- Enlargement size: maximum photo size of 30 cm x 45 cm, excluding passe-partout
- Passe-partout size: any size (mounting on card is also possible)
- Passe-partout colour: any colour

This is so all entries can be handled and numbered without damage. Please remember to write your name on the back of your passe-partout as this will save time after judging. Your photo needs to be presented with a title. This should be on the front-side, ideally written on a yellow post-it note.

Photos that are not presented correctly will not be accepted for entry.

If you wish to enter a round of the competition but you are unable to attend that specific night, you can either bring your photos to an earlier meeting so someone can store them away, or ask another member to take them for you.

IMPORTANT: By entering your photo into the competition and when being one of the top five scoring photos, you agree to provide a high quality digital copy of your photo for the POTY Book and allow said picture to be published and distributed (with credit) in the yearly POTY Book and on the website.

Q: Who judges the POTY photos ?

The judging will take place during the breaks of each meeting by IMAGES members. Members will be given a ranking sheet. With the POTY theme in mind, you have to decide which are your top five photos and then rank them from 1 to 5 (**1 being your first choice and 5 being your 5th choice**). You may **not** vote for your own photos. If you do so and are caught, you will be disqualified. After judging, the POTY organizer will add up the scores and announce the results at the end of the meeting.

Points for top 5 photos are:

First =	10 Points
Second =	8 Points
Third =	6 Points
Fourth =	4 Points
Fifth =	2 Points

Q: How to judge the POTY photos ?

Below you find some criteria for judging the POTY photos:

- Does the photo fits the POTY theme of the month
- How unique and original is the photo
- What is the creativity?
- Judge the photo technical aspects; focus, exposure, lighting, depth of field, use of flash, etc.
- Does the photo have a "Wow! Factor"

Q: Where can I see who won each round of the POTY ?

The top 5 results will be posted on the website whereby the ranking (place 1 to 5), photographer and photo title will be made public. The complete scoring (i.e. the entire ranking, number of points for all participants) will be verbally mentioned at the end of each club evening so that all participants can check their own score and compare this with the scores of the other club members.

The website posting will be done as quickly as possible, please remember we are all volunteers and sometimes other things have to take priority. One way to help us speed up the process is to ensure, that if you have come in 1st – 5th place, that you send a digital copy of your photo (jpg format and approx. size 1-2 Mb) as quickly as possible to the POTY organizer.

Q: How do I present my photos for the POTY competition ?

There is no minimum size for prints being entered in the POTY. The maximum size is 30 cm x 45 cm, excluding passe-partout. Shops such as Kruidvat, Albert Heijn, Blokker and Dixons sometimes have special offers for enlargements. It's a good idea to have your best prints enlarged when the size you want is on offer; otherwise you will have to pay a lot more. For digital work, many of our members use HAFO in the Wagenstraat in The Hague.

Prints should be framed in a passe-partout or, may be mounted on card. You may choose any colour of passe-partout but black, (off) white and cream suit most photos and can therefore be used again and again. They are also most readily available in the shops. You can buy passe-partouts, ready cut in various sizes, at camera shops or at other shops such as Hema, V&D and Artific. You can buy double sided mounting boards in 10 reversible colours, e.g. grey/black, white/cream, in packs of ten from Jessops in the UK (branches in almost every town). Ready cut passe-partouts have four sides of equal width so that you can use them for horizontal or vertical photos. However, if you cut your own, the lower edge should always be deeper as this looks much better when displayed.

If you want to cut your own passe-partout, you can buy card in various colours from Artific. You can cut it in half or in quarters using their cutter. This is free but must be done at the time of buying, after you have paid. You will then need a Maped cutter or a Logan cutter. The Logan can be used by lefthanders but is more expensive. You can also have your passe-partout cut to the exact size you require at Artific or a picture framing shop. Try to work out the size of the window that fits your (cropped) print before you go to the shop. A 40 cm x 50cm passe-partout costs approx. €11.

There are various methods of mounting. For mounting on card you can use 'Pritt Stick', '3M Spray Mount', double-sided tape, photo tape or corner mounts. For mounting in a passe-partout, you can use masking tape or any other sticky tape.



Q: Where can I find the POTY themes for each meeting ?

The themes for each POTY round (monthly club evening) are listed on the website, see <http://imagesphotoclub.com/category/poty/>

Q: What do I do with my photo at the meetings ?

When you arrive at the meeting, you need to handover your entry to POTY organizer (a member of the IMAGES committee), who will register your photo. Please make sure that you arrive at the meeting with ample time to hand-in and register your entry. It can be quite busy, so we recommend no later than 19:30.

Q: For the POTY competition, are we expected to take the photographs during the month in question or can we dredge up some of our best shots from years gone by ?

The POTY is meant to tickle your creativity. Therefore you get the most out of it when you shoot something new. You can of course already shoot now for a future POTY if an opportunity comes by. Some members carry the list of topics in their photo-bag. However, if you have something suitable in your archive and use it, no one will pay you a visit with a baseball bat aimed at your knees. But it doesn't help you grow as a photographer.

Q: Is there also a Photograph of the year competition ?

All monthly number one POTY photos in one club year will enter a special competition. At the AGM in June, all monthly POTY winning photographs (total of 9 photos) will enter this special competition and members can vote for the photograph of the year.

Q: What if I have another question not answered here ?

Contact IMAGES chair or the POTY organizer.

