**RULES FOR THE RAFOS ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION**

**GENERAL RULES**

1. The Royal Air Force Ornithological Society (RAFOS) Art and Photography Competition is organized, managed and judged by the RAFOS Committee. The competition is held annually in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and is open to all members of RAFOS.

2. The Committee will choose the winners during the pre-AGM meeting. Any Committee Member who enters the competition will be debarred from judging any category that he/she has entered. No prize will be awarded if there is only one entry in a category, but here the Committee may use its discretion. If entries in any particular category fall below the required standard the Committee reserves the right not to award a prize. The decisions of the judges will be final.

**ENTRY RULES**

**The Art And Craft Competition.**

3. The Art and Craft Competition will comprise a single prize for the best item of original art or craft work, which may be presented in any medium excluding photographic or digital formats, on a subject of an ornithological nature. All submissions must be the work of the member entering them and must have been produced in the period since the date of the previous AGM Up to **2** entries will be accepted from any member. For reasons of practicality, entries must be of a size and weight that allows judging and display at the AGM venue. The onus is on the member submitting entries to make suitable arrangements for their collection or return. All entries are sent at the entrant’s risk and the Committee regrets that it cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage howsoever caused.

**The Photography Competition.**

4. The Photography Competition categories are as follows:

a. Best UK Image.

b. Best Overseas Image.

c. Best Entry by a Novice.

Prizes will be awarded for the winner of each category. A competitor may enter a maximum of **2** images in each category and the category/categories entered must be specified for each image, as any single photograph may be entered for more than one category. See paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 below for descriptions of the categories.

5. Only images of live wild bird(s) in their natural habitat are eligible for entry. Legal requirements of the country where the photograph was taken must be complied with to ensure the protection of the subject species. A copy of the appropriate licence (to photograph a Schedule 1 bird at its nest in England for example[[1]](#footnote-1)) must accompany the photograph.

6. All submissions must have been taken by the member entering them and must have been produced in the period since the date of the previous AGM. Images that have previously been entered into a RAFOS competition are ineligible for entry. All submissions must be delivered by 1130 hours on the day of the competition to the place of the AGM, or beforehand to the RAFOS Secretary. The winners will be announced during the AGM, and entries will be displayed during the day.

7. The entrant must be the sole author and copyright owner of each image. Copyright will remain with the member, but a condition of entry is that the member accepts that the Committee reserves the right of reproduction and exhibition in all Society media, of any entries, without payment or fee.

8. Any costs incurred in entering the competition, **including the return** of photographs will be borne by the entrant, and **any postal return** should be covered by the provision (to the RAFOS Secretary) of the appropriate stamped and addressed packaging materials. All entries are sent at the entrant’s risk and the Committee regrets that it cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage howsoever caused.

**Categories Of The Photography Competition**

9. Best UK Image. Entries for the Best UK Image category must have been taken in the UK including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man but not including any UK Overseas Territory.

10. Best Overseas Image. Entries for the Best Overseas Image category must have been taken in any territory other than those in paragraph 9 above.

11. Best Entry by a Novice. A novice is defined as an individual who has not won any RAFOS photographic competition previously.

12. Image Presentation Requirements. Entries in any category may be wet film or digital prints no smaller than 6” x 4” and no larger than 10” x 8”. Prints may be mounted or not, but the judging will only be on the quality and artistic merit of the content. No glass mounts are to be used as they can break. No manipulation of the image is permitted. However, cropping and any standard processing, such as adjustment to contrast, colour correction and sharpening, in line with the production of a quality print, is allowable. The original negative or digital image is to be available for inspection if required. Digital prints generated from transparencies are not allowed and any digital image should be presented as a “straight-from-the-camera” picture ie a Digitally Presented Image. Any other manipulation, such as the removal of objects or obscuring parts of the subject, is not allowed. The decision of the Committee will be final with regard to whether a digitally presented image meets the required entry standard.

**SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES**

13. Entrants should affix their name and address on each print, and each entry, for the interest of other RAF members, should be presented together with a “Statement of Pedigree” that details the provenance of the image including where it was taken and the means and method by which it was obtained. This statement will normally contain as many of the following details as possible:

a. Competition category entered.

b. Subject, location, date and time of taking the picture.

c. Photographer.

d. Camera and lens used.

e. Film type and speed (ASA) used (if appropriate).

f. Exposure details, and any other relevant processing information.

14. Any enquiries about the competition should be addressed to the RAFOS Secretary.

6 Aug 18

1. A list of Schedule 1 Birds can be found at <http://www.rspb.org.uk/forprofessionals/policy/wildbirdslaw/birdsandlaw/wca/schedules.aspx>. The requirement for a licence in England (there are separate rules for other countries including Scotland and Wales) can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/bird-licences#kill-take-or-disturb-birds.aspx> . [↑](#footnote-ref-1)