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# THE CHILTERN ASSOCIATION OF CAMERA CLUBS

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## Complying with Eligibility Important information for Clubs

When Clubs enter external competitions or events, they use the work of their member photographers. In such situations, the following terms apply:

- Event. The scope of a competition within which it is not permitted to resubmit an image. An Event will have its own set of rules.
- Category. Two or more mutually exclusive components of an Event.
- Entrant. This is the Club and not the individual member of the Club.
- Photographer (also Author). This is the member whose Image is used.
- Image. A specific Image by a specific Photographer.
- Title. The identification of an Image.

Each time an Event runs, it has its own rules about eligibility. In addition to rules about quotas or subject matter, these will commonly cover two areas:

- Non-compete. A Photographer cannot be entered by two Entrants.
- Non-repeat. An Image must not have been used in the same Event run previously. Images which are very similar eg, from a series shot by the photographer, may be considered effectively identical and breach the non-repeat rule. Some events may extend the non-repeat rule to the Image in different media (print and projected).

The same principles apply when Federations enter the Photographic Alliance Inter-Federation competitions. Then, the Federation is the Entrant, and it uses the work of individual Club members.

**It is critical that the Entrant, which for this advice means a Club, understands that it is responsible for complying with the eligibility criteria. The individual Photographer is not responsible for compliance, but the Club risks the Photographer's reputation as well as its own if there is any breach of the eligibility rules.**

Clubs must maintain adequate records of all their entries to all external competitions, covering enough years to minimise the risk of repeat entries.

Clubs should impress on their member Photographers the critical importance of consistently linking each Image with its Title, and that the Title must be unique for a particular Image. Distinguishing Images by use of numeric suffixes on a Title may be sufficient to indicate that they are different Images.

There are particular difficulties where a Photographer is a member of two or more Clubs either at the same time or at different times. There is a non-compete risk where two Clubs could enter the same Photographer to the same event. There is a non-repeat risk where an Image is entered by one Club which was previously entered by another Club.

When in doubt, the Club must check with the Photographer, being very clear about the criteria in question. If doubt remains, the only safe course is either not to use the Image, or not to use any Images by the Photographer.

**Message to Clubs: Know your Photographers.**