

WCPF AV Competition Rules – Saturday 18th April 2026

The “Short” Competition: for individual or joint entry of AVs of no more than 4 minutes in length.

The “Long” Competition: for individual or joint entry of AVs of between 4 and a maximum of 12 minutes.

The “Photo Harmony” Competition: for individual or joint entry of qualifying sequences, not exceeding 6 minutes in length.

Awards

1. The **Coote Challenge Cup** will be awarded to the winner of the “Short” Competition.
2. The **Presidents Salver** will be awarded to the winner of the “Long” Competition.
3. The **Photo Harmony Trophy** will be awarded for the best Photo Harmony Sequence.
4. The **M.A.D. Trophy** will be awarded for the audience popular vote.
5. The **Judges Special Award Trophy** will be awarded for, in the judge’s opinion, a particularly good example of an AV technique – eg, it could be awarded for best sound, best script, best dissolves, best photography etc at the discretion of the judge/s.

A number of Certificates will also be awarded for highly placed sequences, as determined by the judge. The 2026 event will be held at Woodbury Village Hall. Postcode EX5 1LX, starting at 10:00am.

The competition is open to all members of clubs affiliated to the Western Counties Photographic Federation. All entrants are limited to **a total of two sequences, with a combined length of no more than 15 minutes**. A single co-contributor is allowed, but they must be listed, belong to a WCPF Club, and are limited to participation in 2 sequences overall. **Sequences must not have been shown in any previous WCPF Competition.**

Definition of an Audio Visual: An AV production, submitted for a WCPF competition, should predominantly consist of a sequence of still photographic images, the majority of such images being the original work of the entrant, together with an accompanying synchronised sound track. The use of third-party images, animated graphics, video clips or other visual material, whilst not excluded, should be limited and should be appropriate to the production. The PAGB guideline currently states that *“An Audio Visual production submitted for a PAGB Award should predominantly consist of sequences of still photographic images, most of which are the original work of the applicant, together with an accompanying synchronised sound track. The use of third-party images, animated graphics, video clips or other visual material, whilst not excluded, should be limited and should be appropriate to the production. Applications with more than an aggregate of 25% of third-party images, graphics and video, in photographs or duration, are very unlikely to be successful.”*

Please see below for PAGB guidance applicable to the **Photo Harmony Trophy**.

Technical requirements: Please submit each entry as an MP4 file. Irrespective upon which software you are using, and the resolution of your images, please ensure that they will project to ‘fit the screen’. A digital projector with a resolution of 1920px x 1080px, a computer, (Windows platform), and sound system will be provided by the organisers.

Pre-selection: If the predicted running time of the entries exceeds the available time of the competition, the organisers reserve the right to pre-select. The organisers reserve the right to refuse entry to sequences that they may consider, in their absolute discretion, to be undesirable, unsuitable, or incorrectly programmed for projection at the event.

Copyrights and Responsibility: In accordance with established copyright regulations, Sequences presented at the Competition should be free of all rights of ownership, artistic or otherwise, which others may hold. By participating in the Competition authors of audio visual sequences indemnify the organisers against all and any action which may be taken against them by owners of copyrights. The organisers will accept no responsibility in the case of dispute or litigation.

Artificial Intelligence

In accordance with the PAGB ruling, AI generative imagery is not allowed. AI voices however can be used.

Methods of Entry: Entries must reach Ian Bateman by 1st March 2026, preferably electronically via www.wetransfer.com (or similar), to av.wcpf@gmail.com Alternatively they can be posted to Ian Bateman at 22 Phillipps Ave, Exmouth, Devon EX8 3HZ. Tel. No. 01395 901028. Please mark the envelope "WCPF AV 2026 Competition".

Please email a confirmation to av.wcpf@gmail.com when you have sent your entry, whether electronically or by post. Confirmation of receipt will be sent by email only.

Condition of Entry: The submission of an entry implies the acceptance of these Rules and permission for the Sequence(s) to be shown in public at this competition only.

Entry Cost is £10.00 for one sequence and £16 for two. Payment details are on the Entry Form.

The following is an extract from the PAGB INFORMATION LEAFLET 4, Issue 11 Sept 2021, giving Notes for Guidance to applicants for Awards for Photographic Merit in Audio Visual (APMAV).

PHOTO HARMONY should demonstrate skill in the production and visual progression of still photographs linked to sound. No script or commentary with a specific beginning, middle and ending are required but the images must flow well in a pleasing progression, not just in a random manner. The emphasis is on visual harmony in colour, tone or graphic design. The aim is not to display a collection of individually excellent photographs, but rather a sequence of good pictures which blend well with each other and with a suitable soundtrack. Good technique is essential, and it is expected that the sound and the pictures will start and finish together and that the original ending of the music is preserved, rather than an arbitrary fade out..

For WCPF Entry

In order to differentiate between Categories, AVs with spoken commentary will not be included in the Photo Harmony Category. Captions, movement, and sound effects will not exclude the sequence, but if they are considered to detract from the visual and overall harmony within the sequence concerned, then it will score lower than others of equal photographic merit. Video clips are not allowed in a Photo Harmony sequence.

If you have any queries, please contact Ian Bateman at av.wcpf@gmail.com