# BPPA Pictures of the Year 2024

*Please read the rules carefully!*
*Refer to this document to help you complete your entry form!*

**Deadline**
Entries must be uploaded by the end of day on January 26, 2025.
Entries must be submitted electronically.
(See Final Preparation of Entry below)

Questions about entry submission status contact:
    BPPA Contest Committee: contest@bppa.net
    You can also refer to the Troubleshooting section at the end of this document.

Questions about rules contact:
    Brian Snyder - photos@briansnyder.com
    Jessica Rinaldi – jessicajrinaldi@gmail.com

**Eligibility**
All entries must have been made by full, student or life members in good standing. All upcoming year dues will be paid with your contest entry. For a new member of the BPPA to be eligible for the contest, they must pay or have paid their current 2024 dues ($60.00 for full, active members) the contest entry fee, and the 2025 dues ($60.00 for full, active members). Questions about your eligibility, email info@bppa.net

**Entries**
All contest entries must be submitted as digital entries. Single entries must have been taken or first published between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024.

A story is an essay, a sequence of photographs or a collection of photographs with a narrative. In this sense, a story can be photographed in a matter of hours at one event or during a single day or over a longer period of time throughout the year. A picture story may contain images taken in previous years IF the images have not previously been entered in this contest. While pre-2024 images are acceptable in a story, they should be an integral part of the story. The essential goal is to review and honor work made or published in the past year, 2024. Please respect the spirit of the competition.

Entries do not have to have been published. Previously entered images are not eligible. Photographs manipulated electronically or otherwise to alter content are not allowed, and images deemed excessively manipulated beyond professional parameters will be disqualified. Images created/generated using AI are NOT allowed.

Multiple exposure photographs, infrared photographs, and video frame grabs will not be permitted. All images must have been made in a single exposure.

Images may be entered in two photographic modes: color or black & white. For color images, the goal is to replicate what the human eye experiences. Routine image correction for color toning, white balance, and exposure is acceptable. Flagrantly de-saturated or over-saturated images may be disqualified. Black & white images should display a full gray scale range from deep-shadow blacks to highlight whites.

Photos from mobile-device cameras are eligible. However, the use of software capture filters (e.g.: Hipstamatic, CameraBag, Instagram) that artificially alter the integrity of the scene with excessive tonal aberrations, textures, vignette, or other artistic abstractions will be disqualified.

Diptychs, triptychs, etc. are not eligible. Film edges will be allowed if the original photograph was shot on film (negative or transparency) or Polaroid and the border is the true nature of the medium.

Each photograph may be entered in one singles category only, although individual still images from a picture story may also be entered in a single image category. Each file entered and uploaded should only contain one image. No titles, words, or borders (except as described in the previous paragraph) are allowed on images.

*Respect the spirit of the competition.* The photographs entered should be editorial and journalistic in nature. Pictures taken at restricted events, that is, events where **only** photographers commissioned by those organizing the event (for example governments, political parties, sports teams or corporations) have access, <u>may</u> not be accepted, at the discretion of the contest committee. Please keep this in mind while selecting your entries.

The BPPA contest committee reserves the right to disqualify images deemed excessively manipulated beyond professional parameters, and to request original files or negatives of images that have been placed in the contest to verify their authenticity.

**Entry Fees**
There will be a fee of $5.00 per entry. Each single image or picture story counts as a single entry. There is no limit to the number of entries you can submit. The contest entry payment is made via PayPal on the online entry submission form and must be made for your entry to be eligible.

**Annual Dues**
The Annual dues of $60.00 for the upcoming year (2025) will be paid with your entry. The dues will be automatically calculated and will be reflected in the total amount due at the bottom of your entry form. Annual dues for the contest year (2024) also must be paid in full. Please check with info@bppa.net to make certain your dues are up to date. If you entered the contest last year, you are up to date on your dues.

# BPPA Pictures of the Year 2024

## Categories

**01      Spot News** - Photograph of an unscheduled event for which no advance planning was possible.

**02      General News** - Photograph from a news event for which planning was possible or that explores issues or news of the day distinct from breaking news (Spot News).

**03      Feature** - A found situation with strong human interest.

**04      Sports Action -** Photographs showing participation in a game or athletic event on the field of play. This category seeks to honor photographs of peak action from sporting competitions. Photographs of jubilation, dejection, and reaction should be entered in the Sports Feature category (05).

**05      Sports Feature -** A feature photograph that is sports-related, including reaction; this category should include photographs that show emotion, celebration, jubilation, dejection and reaction among athletes and fans, from sports at any level. Peak action photographs should be entered in the Sports Action category (04).

**06      Portrait / Personality** - A photograph that captures an aspect of the subject's character.

**07      Pictorial** - A photograph that exploits the graphic or aesthetic qualities of the subject with an emphasis on composition.

**08      Animal / Environment** - A photograph of animals (wild or domestic), their natural world, and/or the conditions of their existence in the environments they inhabit - including the effect of human activity on animals and the environment.

**09      Politics** – A photograph depicting politicians, political campaigns, political parties, their partisan issues and their constituencies in political action and/or expression.

**10      News Picture Story** - A collection of photos with a single theme that fits the description of the Spot News or General News categories. Maximum of 12 images.

**11      Feature Picture Story** - A collection of photos with a single theme that fits the description of the Feature category. A standalone sports related picture story may be entered here. (If entered here, it may not be included in a Sports Portfolio entry.) Maximum of 12 images.

**12      Politics Picture Story** - A collection of photos with a single theme that fits the description of the Politics category. Maximum of 12 images. *NOTE: In the event that the minimum requirements of 15 entries and five entrants is not met, any Politics Picture Stories will be judged with the News Picture Stories.*

**13      Sports Portfolio –** A portfolio of images that fit the description of the Sports Action (04) or Sports Feature (05) category. The portfolio may contain a maximum of 12 entries, and MUST contain images from at least 3 different sports. Since the Olympics is one event, it will be considered one sport for the purpose of this category - meaning that in order to meet the criteria of this category, single photographs from two other sports that were not made during the Olympics would be required. The same logic would apply to other single sporting events with multiple disciplines. One of the entries may be (but is not required to be) a sports picture story containing up to 12 images, while the rest of the entries will be single images. If there is a story, single images should be sequenced before the story in the portfolio. The story may only be entered once in this contest, either in this category OR the Feature Picture Story category (11). A story is not required and, remember, EDITING COUNTS. *(Tip: A sequence of photographs from an event like the Olympics might be entered as a story in this category, with single photographs from other sports/events in the portfolio as well.)*

**Preparing Entries**

Recommended Software: Camera Bits has provided the BPPA with temporary use of its photo editing and captioning software, Photo Mechanic. BPPA Members can download the latest version of Photo Mechanic at the following link:

Camera Bits Photo Mechanic Download page:
http://www.camerabits.com/try-photo-mechanic-for-free/

If you already use Photo Mechanic to caption your images, and you have the latest version, you can download the XMP Caption Template file for filling in your required fields. Fields that are blank must remain blank. Replace the text in the other fields with the appropriate information.

This template will also work with Adobe Photoshop for your captioning process if you prefer to use Photoshop.

Download XMP Caption Template here:
2024 Caption Template Link

**Entry Forms**

The entry forms for the contest can be filled out and payment made at the following link:
BPPA Pictures of the Year 2024 Entry Link

**Image Sizing Recommendations**
It is recommended that each entry be 300 dpi with the longest dimension 12 inches. Save and compress each file as an RGB JPEG at level 10, baseline standard. Image orientation must appear in normal viewing position; images will not be rotated or flipped. Note: Images that have been sized for other contests, such as the World Press Photo, POYi (Pictures of the Year International) or NPPA's Best of Photojournalism, are acceptable.

**Photographer Code**
Create your unique photographer code, which will be used to identify your images. Every photographer must make up code made up of five **letters**, all lower case. Do not spell words or use your initials, as hiding your name and organization is part of the goal.

**File names for single picture entries**
The filenames for entries are made up of the two-digit category number, photographer's code, and number of photos in that category. Use hyphens to separate the sections of the filename. All entries must end in .jpg, and you must use leading zeros for the first nine categories as well as for the number of photos entered.
Example: 03-abcde-07.jpg. In this format '03' is the feature category, 'abcde' is the photographer code, and '07' makes this the seventh image entered in features by this photographer.

**File names for picture stories**
For a picture story, filenames will follow the same rules but add sequential letters for each story within that category and a number to indicate the image's sequence within the story. For example: 11-abcde-A-02.jpg. In this format '11' is the Feature Picture Story category, 'abcde' is the photographer code, 'A' is the first photo story entered by this photographer in this category, and '02' represents the second image in the story. Each picture story must have a plain, black image with the title of the story in white letters as the first 'image' of the story to serve as a separator during the judging process (does not count toward the 12 image maximum). This title slide must also follow the naming convention and will always be picture 01 of

the sequence. For example the title slide would be 11-abcde-A-01.jpg. [Click here to download title image templates (do not change the font or font size from the template).](#) A story synopsis (maximum of 4 sentences) should be included in the IPTC caption field of the title slide.

[Click here to see an example of a properly prepared story](#).

**Additional instruction for Sports Portfolio entries**
If entering a sports portfolio you must have a title slide as the first image of the portfolio – [Click here to download title image templates (do not change the font or font size from the template)..](#) If entering a story within your sports portfolio, you must have a plain black image with the title of the story in white letters as the first 'image' of the story to serve as a separator during the judging process (neither title image counts toward the maximum number of images). This blank image must also follow the naming convention. For example, the story title slide would be 13-abcde-12.jpg, counting the first title slide for sports portfolio, and if there are 11 singles followed by a story.

[Click here to see an example of a properly prepared Sports Portfolio](#)

**Captions and IPTC information**
Captions must be completed in IPTC file info on each entry, and must follow this format exactly or your images may be entered into the categories incorrectly. Please use the [Caption Template](#) to make certain to follow the required format. If you are not familiar with editing IPTC file info fields, please contact [contest@bppa.net](mailto:contest@bppa.net) and we can help you.

**Caption Field** – Please be concise. Your name or organization should **NOT** be included, as this information could be displayed on screen during the judging. If the image is part of a picture story then a story synopsis (4 sentence maximum) MUST be included with the title slide of the picture story. For example: SYNOPSIS: This is the story synopsis. It can be four sentences long. Please include relevant information to help judges understand the series of images in the story. This is the last sentence of the synopsis. Captions should be concise, direct and clear. *(Tip: Judges often lose interest in overly long captions. Brevity is often a virtue.)*
**Headline Field** – Title of the photo or title of picture story.
**Author/Photographer Field** – Photographer Code
**Category Field** – Contest category number followed by category name:
01 - Spot News
02 - General News
03 - Feature
04 - Sports Action
05 - Sports Feature
06 - Portrait/Personality
07 - Pictorial
08 - Animal / Environment
09 - Politics
10 - News Picture Story
11 - Feature Picture Story
12 - Politics Picture Story
13 - Sports Portfolio
**Source Field** – your 10 digit mobile phone number.

All other fields should be left empty.

**Portfolio - Photographer of the Year –** A portfolio will determine the BPPA Photographer of the Year. In order to showcase the breadth of work done by news photographers over a year, a portfolio must EITHER contain photographs from at least 4 different single image categories and at least two stories OR photographs from at least 6 different single image categories and at least one story. A story may be from categories 10, 11, 12, or 13. POY Portfolios may contain no more than 15 entries and no more than 50 images. Picture stories (categories 10, 11, 12 and 13) are considered one entry and may contain no more than 12 images per story, except in the case of Sports Portfolio. If a Sports Portfolio (category 13) is included, follow the category rules (meaning the maximum number of images in the Sports Portfolio entry is 23 images – 11 singles and one 12 image sports picture story). *Remember the portfolio is limited to 50 total images and 15 entries.* Use a title image at the start of each picture story or sports portfolio, in your portfolio. This title image must also follow the naming convention, and use this template format. Click here to download title image templates (do not change the font or font size from the template). All other rules apply, including captioning and rules on manipulation. Again, please note: EDITING COUNTS.

\*\*PLEASE NOTE THE DIFFERENCE IN FILE NAMING CONVENTION FOR PORTFOLIO: Filenames should follow the convention '14-abcde-02.jpg', where '14' is the category for portfolio, the photographer's code is 'abcde' and '02' is the second image in the portfolio. While the category (01 – Spot News, thru 13 – Sports Portfolio) MUST be included in the 'category' IPTC field, it does not appear in the filename. The photographer will be responsible for the sequencing of the images and stories in their portfolio, but should present their single images before the story or stories.

While the photographer is responsible for the sequencing of the images and stories in their portfolio, single images must appear before stories. Stories should begin with a title slide - these do not count toward the maximum number of images in the story or the portfolio. Click here to see an example. *(Tip: The best portfolios are often greater than the sum of their parts.)*

==\*\*PLEASE NOTE THE CATEGORY FIELD REQUIREMENT:==
The category field should correspond with the appropriate category for that individual image or story. For example, if the image is a feature, then the category should be 03, not 14. Remember a portfolio must EITHER contain photographs from at least 4 different single image categories and at least two stories OR photographs from at least 6 different single image categories and at least one story.


**Best In Show** – Judges will select the Best In Show out of all of the first place winners in all categories (including portfolio).

### Judging

All entries will be judged by three working photojournalists from outside this region. The judging process is open to the public, either in person or online, and BPPA members are especially encouraged to attend. However, no comments, questions, or remarks of any kind will be allowed during the judging. Viewers may only enter and leave the room between categories.

Judges will determine 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards in each category. Honorable mentions will be awarded at the judges' discretion, with a suggested maximum of 2 honorable mentions for each category. Entries in each category will be judged in random order. Photographer of the Year portfolios will be judged last.

Categories will be judged so long as there is a minimum of 15 entries and five entrants in the category. The number of places awarded for any category not meeting the minimum requirements is at the discretion of the judges. Entries will be judged in the category in which they are entered.

**Judging Dates are February 11th, 12th and 13th 2025 at Emerson College.**
**Additional information on judging will be available at www.bppa.net**

Complete your entry [here](#), by filing out all required fields, uploading a head shot, uploading your images, and paying your entry fee and your annual dues of $60.00

After submitting your entry, you will receive a PDF copy of your entry to review. There will be a review period after entries are submitted during which any mistakes can be addressed and corrected. Please take the time to review your entry! In order for the contest to run properly, information must be correct, if incorrect after the review period, images may be disqualified.  **The review period concludes at the end of the day on January 30th, 2025.**

**BPPA Pictures of the Year 2024**
**Singles / Stories & Sports Portfolio Entry Check list**

- All entries taken or first published during the calendar year 2024 (except where noted).

- Include a recent headshot: *FirstName_LastName.jpg, 3x3 inches at 300dpi.*

- Recommended size of each entry is 300 dpi (pixels/inch), 12 inches on the long dimension.

- Use the unique code you created to follow the File Naming conventions:
  *category-photographers code-image number in category.jpg (01-abcde-02.jpg)* for singles or
  *category-photographers code-story letter-image number in category.jpg (10-abcde-A-03.jpg)*

- Photo stories should have a title slide at the start of the story. Story summary (max 4 sentences) goes in the caption field of the title slide.

- Sports Portfolio have a title slide at the start of the portfolio and for the story (if entered).

- Use this link to download the title slide templates: [Template Link](Template Link)

- IPTC Fields are filled out correctly:
  <u>Caption:</u> Clear and precise. For story categories, include a story synopsis (maximum of 4 sentences) with the TITLE image.
  <u>Headline</u>: Title of Photo.
  <u>Author/Photographer</u>: Your Photographer code. LETTERS ONLY
  <u>Category</u>: Contest Category number and name - ie "01 - Spot News"
  <u>Source</u>: your 10 digit phone number (numbers only)

- All other fields left blank.

- A sports story can either be entered in the feature picture story category OR as part of a sports portfolio, but not both.

**BPPA Pictures of the Year 2024**
**Photographer of the Year Portfolio Entry Check list**

- Follow File Name convention: *14-photographers code-image number in portfolio.jpg*

- Singles appear in the portfolio before the stories.

- Photo stories have a title slide at the beginning of the story. Story summary (max 4 sentences) goes in the caption field of the title slide.

- Use this link to download the title slide templates: [Template Link](Template Link)

- Maximum 15 entries and 50 images.

- IPTC Fields are filled out correctly:
  <u>Caption:</u> Clear and precise. For story categories, include a story synopsis (maximum of 4 sentences) with the TITLE image.
  <u>Headline</u>: Title of Photo.
  <u>Author/Photographer</u>: Your Photographer code. LETTERS ONLY
  <u>Category</u>: Contest Category number and name - ie "01 - Spot News"
  <u>Source</u>: your 10 digit phone number (numbers only)

**Electronic Submission of Entry:**

- Jpg files only, NO ZIP Files NO Folders

- Include your headshot jpg as well.

**TROUBLESHOOTING**

- Links not working? Copy and paste them into your browser address bar.

- Folder of images won't upload? Do NOT upload a folder of your images, upload the jpeg files only.

- Error Messages on Entry form? Follow the red highlighted fields to make necessary corrections.