



Paper Photo Award / Paper Photo Dummy Award 2026 – Terms and conditions

Important information:

This is a translation of the terms and conditions from Polish. In case of doubt, the Polish version shall prevail.

§ 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1 This document set out the terms and conditions for participation in the Paper Photo Award / Paper Photo Dummy Award 2026 Competition (hereinafter referred to as the Competition).

1.2 The Competition is organized by Zamek Sielecki – Sosnowiec Art Center (with its registered office at 2 Zamkowa St., 41-211 Sosnowiec, Poland) – the main organizer of the Paper Photo Festival 2026.

1.3 Participation in the Competition is free of charge.

1.4 The Competition is organized in two categories:

- a) photobook;
- b) dummy.

1.5 The aim of the Competition is to select photobooks and dummies that will be presented at the Paper Photo Award 2026 post-competition exhibition as part of the Paper Photo Festival 2026 in Sosnowiec. In addition, winners of the competition will be selected in each of the two categories, who will receive financial prizes, and five honorable mentions.

1.6 The basic criterion for evaluation in the Competition is how the artistic expression resonates through the book form. The photographs in the project are not evaluated, but rather the photobook as a specific creative expression.

§ 2 TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPETITION

2.1 The term “photobook” (hereinafter referred to as “photobook”) shall be understood as a publication that has been published in paper form and is a separate, original artistic expression in which photography plays a predominant role. The photobook may be published by a publishing house or self-published, provided that the print run is at least 30 copies.

2.2 The term “dummy” (hereinafter referred to as “dummy”) shall be understood as a photography book project that has not yet been published. The dummy should be prepared in paper form. Photobooks published through self-publishing are also eligible for this category of the competition, provided that their total print run did not exceed 30 copies.



2.3 Exhibition catalogs that do not constitute a separate artistic statement from the exhibition, but only accompany the exhibition, as well as scientific and popular science studies (e.g., in the field of history/theory of photography) are excluded from the Competition.

2.4 Photobooks published between January 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, may be submitted to the competition in the “photobook” category. Dummies created after January 1, 2025, may be submitted to the competition in the “dummy” category.

2.5 The competition is open to all. The Organizer invites all photographers to submit their entries.

2.6 Entries in the competition may also be submitted by the publisher of the publication or its designer (provided that they hold the relevant copyrights referred to in §7), however, prizes and distinctions are awarded to the creators of the photobook/dummy.

2.7 Each Participant has the right to submit a maximum of three photobooks and two dummies.

2.8 The competition does not impose any restrictions on the age of participants. In the case of underage participants, the written consent of a legal guardian is required.

2.9 By entering the Competition, each Participant consents to the processing of their personal data by the Organizer for the purposes of organizing the Competition, in accordance with Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No. 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) No. 2016/679 of April 27, 2016, on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (OJ EU L119 of 4.05.2016, p. 1) (hereinafter referred to as GDPR). The data obtained is protected and secured against unauthorized access. By providing their personal data, Participants consent to its processing for the purposes of the competition and for promotional purposes. The Organizer is the administrator of the personal data of the Contest Participants. The Participant has the right to access and correct their data. Contact the data administrator at: ppf@paperphoto.pl.

2.10 Each Participant whose entry is selected by the Jury for the exhibition agrees to present their photobook/dummy at the Paper Photo Award / Paper Photo Dummy Award 2026 exhibition and to publish its reproductions/excerpts in the accompanying and promotional materials of the Paper Photo Festival.

2.11 Each Participant whose submission is selected by the Jury for the exhibition undertakes to cooperate with the Organizer in organizing the exhibition, and in particular to provide at least 5 digital files of appropriate resolution presenting the photobook/dummy.

2.12 Copies of photobooks accepted for the exhibition become the property of the Organizer and co-organizers. The Organizer, together with the co-organizer, may use them for the purpose of promoting photography and include them in the created collections of photography books.



2.13 Copies of dummies accepted for the exhibition become the property of the Organizer and co-organizers if at least 5 copies were produced. The Organizer, together with the co-organizer, may use them to promote photography and include them in photobook collections. If fewer than 5 copies of a dummy were produced, the entrant will receive it back after the post-competition exhibition series concludes, that is, one year after the Paper Photo Festival 2026. The Organizer is not liable for any damage to or loss of mockups displayed during the exhibition.

2.14 Participants whose entries in the “photobook” category are shortlisted and/or receive an honorable mention undertake to deliver a second copy of the book by September 18, 2026, at the latest.

2.14 Copies of photobooks/dummies not accepted for the exhibition will be returned to the Participants, provided that they cover the costs of packaging and shipping. If this condition is not met, they become the property of the Organizer and co-organizers. The Organizer, together with the co-organizer, may use them for the purpose of promoting photography and include them in the photobook collections being created.

§ 3 COMPETITION SCHEDULE

3.1 Competition announcement: July 10, 2026.

3.2 Extended deadline for submissions: **August 25, 2026**. The organizer may decide to extend the deadline.

3.3 Competition Jury meeting: August 28, 2026.

3.4 Notification of participants about acceptance to the exhibition and selection of the shortlist: by September 1, 2026.

3.5 Opening of the exhibition and announcement of the winners: September 18-20, 2026.

3.6 Payment of prizes: by October 30, 2026.

§ 4 SUBMITTING ENTRIES

4.1 Competition entries that do not comply with these rules and regulations will not be considered, and incorrect entries will not be returned to Participants.

4.2 The deadline for submitting entries is August 25, 2026, at 11:59:59 p.m. Central European Time. Entries received after this deadline will not be considered.

4.3 An entry is considered valid if both of the following conditions are met:

- a) the entry form at www.paperphoto.pl has been correctly completed and submitted,
- b) a copy of the photobook/dummy has been delivered to the organizer by mail or in person.

4.4 Applications should be sent to the following address:

Zamek Sielecki, 2 Zamkowa Street, 41-211 Sosnowiec, POLAND (with the note “PPF” on the envelope).



4.5 Copies of photobooks/dummies must be properly secured against damage. The organizer is not responsible for damage/loss of shipments or delays in the delivery of applications.

§ 5 EVALUATION OF COMPETITION ENTRIES

5.1 Entries will be evaluated by a Jury appointed by the Organizer.

5.2 The composition of the Jury shall be made public on the website www.paperphoto.pl.

The Organizer reserves the right to change the composition of the Jury for unforeseen reasons.

5.3 In the event of a conflict of interest concerning any submitted photobook/dummy or its author, a member of the Jury is obliged to inform the other members of the Jury.

5.4 The Jury's decisions are final.

5.5 If the Jury receives information about a Participant's violation of these rules, the Jury may at any time decide to withdraw the photobook/dummy from the exhibition and revoke the award/distinction.

§ 6 AWARDS

6.1 From among the entries in each of the two categories, the Jury will:

6.1.1 Select the photobooks/dummies accepted for the Paper Photo Award / Paper Photo Dummy Award 2026 exhibition;

6.1.2 From among the photobooks/dummies accepted for the Paper Photo Award exhibition, it will select a shortlist consisting of a maximum of 6 photobooks and a maximum of 6 dummies;

6.1.3 From among the photobooks/dummies selected for the shortlist, the Jury will select the winners in each category. They will receive cash prizes in the amount of:

a) in the "photobook" category – PLN 10,000 gross. The winning book will receive the title "Paper Photo Award 2026";

b) in the "dummy" category – PLN 5,000 gross. The winning dummy will receive the title "Paper Photo Dummy Award 2026."

6.1.4 Each member of the Jury may award one honorable mention in each category. An honorable mention does not come with a cash prize.

6.1.5 The Jury may decide to award non-statutory distinctions that do not involve financial prizes.

6.1.6 After consultation with the Jury, the partners (sponsors and patrons) of the Paper Photo Festival may award their own prizes to the Participants of the Paper Photo Award 2025 exhibition.

6.2 The Organizer does not provide for any additional remuneration related to the organization of the exhibition.



6.3 Participants whose submissions are shortlisted will be provided with two nights' accommodation for one person during the festival opening weekend.

6.4 Income from cash prizes won in the Competition (referred to in § 6) is subject to taxation. The tax payer, which will be deducted from the gross amount of the prize, is the Competition Organizer (unless otherwise provided by law).

§ 7 COPYRIGHT AND USE OF WORKS BY THE ORGANIZER

7.1 Participants submitting a photobook/dummy declare that they hold the appropriate copyrights enabling them to participate in the Contest. In particular, the Participant declares that they hold the appropriate copyrights to the photographs and texts comprising the photobook/dummy, the photobook/dummy design, as well as the image rights of the persons featured in the photobook/dummy.

7.2 The Participant declares that the submission is free from third-party claims, and in the event of such claims, they assume all responsibility for their clarification and satisfaction, releasing the Contest Organizer from this responsibility.

7.3 Each Participant whose entry is selected by the Jury for the exhibition grants the Organizer a non-exclusive, royalty-free, geographically unlimited license to use reproductions and excerpts from photobooks/dummy and promotional materials for the photobook/dummy agreed upon with the Organizer for the purpose of implementing and promoting the Paper Photo Festival, as well as other activities promoting photography.

§ 8 RESPONSIBILITY

8.1 By submitting a project to the Competition, each Participant confirms that they bear full responsibility for the content of the submission. The Organizer is not responsible for the content of photobooks/dummies submitted by Participants or for any damage caused by them.

§ 9 FINAL PROVISIONS

9.1 Announcements and information about the Contest will be published on the website www.paperphoto.pl and on the social media accounts of Paper Photo Festival, the Organizer, and the Co-organizers, as well as in traditional and online press.

9.2 All correspondence and questions regarding the competition should be sent by email to: ppf@paperphoto.pl.

9.3 Participants who do not meet any of the requirements set out in these Rules or who provide false information will be excluded from participation in the Competition.

9.4 Participation in the Contest (submission of an Application) is tantamount to acceptance of these Rules and Regulations.



9.5 In matters not covered by these Rules and Regulations, the provisions of the Civil Code and Polish law shall apply.

9.6 Any disputes between Participants and the Organizer shall be settled primarily by amicable means, and if this is not possible, by the court competent for the Organizer's registered office.

9.7 The Organizer reserves the right to amend these Terms and Conditions in special cases, which will be announced on the website www.paperphoto.pl.