

2026 DPPF Sports Photography Grants

Category: [Photography](#)

Deadline: May 1, 2026

Website: graphiccompetitions.com



The DPPF Sports Photography Grants, organised by the Doug Pensinger Photography Fund, are designed to support emerging and early-career sports photographers who are building professional careers in sports photography. The program provides financial support, industry recognition, and professional exposure to talented photographers who demonstrate strong visual storytelling through sports imagery. Applicants submit a curated portfolio of 20 sports photographs along with a résumé and professional biography, allowing the judging panel to evaluate both the photographer's creative ability and their career trajectory within the field of sports photojournalism.

The grant program focuses specifically on photographers who are still at the beginning stages of their careers, particularly those with limited paid professional experience in sports photography. Submissions must consist entirely of original work owned by the applicant, and entries must adhere to strict ethical and editorial standards consistent with professional photojournalism practices. Images must represent authentic sports moments without significant digital manipulation, and the use of AI-generated or heavily altered images is prohibited. These guidelines ensure that the competition highlights genuine photographic skill, ethical storytelling, and integrity in sports photography.

Beyond financial assistance, the DPPF Sports Photography Grants also aim to create long-term opportunities for professional development and mentorship within the global sports photography community. Selected photographers gain visibility among industry professionals, editors, and established sports photographers who serve as judges and mentors. Through the grant program and its associated events, the fund helps emerging sports photographers develop their portfolios, expand professional networks, and advance their careers in the competitive world of sports photography and visual journalism.

There is no entry fee.

Eligibility

Open worldwide to emerging or early-career sports photographers with no more than three years of cumulative paid professional sports photography experience.

Prize

Seven photographers receive \$5,000 grants intended for career development along with an expenses-paid trip to the 2026 DPPF Sports Photography Gathering, an event providing portfolio reviews, professional networking, and career guidance. Up to three of those seven primary grant winners may also receive a year-long mentorship with leading industry professionals from the DPPF Advisory Board, while up to three additional applicants may be awarded Development Grants of \$2,500 and the same gathering trip. Grant funds must be used for professional development purposes such as equipment, education, workshops, or travel related to photography careers, and winners must provide receipts documenting the use of funds.
