

SPF PDI League – Projection Notes for Co-ordinators – 7th Oct 2009

Connection Between Computer and Projector

DVI/HDMI is preferred, although analog VGA is adequate.

Projector Settings

Is the projector's colour space set to sRGB and are any other specially required settings correct?

Are any settings required to be reset?

Any sharpening must be off or zeroed.

Setting at low power mode may be advantageous in small venues.

Native Resolution

No resizing in the projector must occur. The projector and computer must be set to the projector's native resolution.

Colour Quality & Bit Depth

Projection computer's display settings: Maximum: 32-bit.

Old equipment may not be adequate.

Calibration

Try not to leave until the evening; verify that it has worked with a range of known good images – and using the software that you will be using for the competition.

Not absolutely essential providing you can demonstrate good test images.

Projector Tuning

Try to do as little as possible but enough to ensure the highlights, shadows and overall colour balance is to the judge's satisfaction.

Enlisting female members of the club may be advantageous to assess colour and tonal range.

Test Images

Familiarise yourself with the test images to understand what the images are testing and why.

Do they show the all the edges and corners of the projected image, a good range of highlights with detectable detail and the same for shadows, an accurate grey range, a good range of known colours, accurate focussing/sharpness?

Fine lines that could show Moiré patterns when digitally-keystone adjustment is used should be included.

The test image must show the all the edges of the image – some external graphics modes trim either the external display, the computer display or both.

The judge should be shown these images to satisfy themselves that the display is adequate for a fair competition. Compromise between the judge and the competing clubs may be appropriate.

Rectangular Image and Keystone Adjustment

Any digital keystone adjustment will affect the image as this is effectively a resizing operation. Moiré effects should become apparent in appropriate test images if this technique has been used. Its use cannot be recommended.

Optical keystone adjustment is acceptable.

If only digital-keystone adjustment is available this should be set to zero in both directions and the projector should be placed perpendicular to the screen to ensure a rectangular image without adjustment.

Aspect Ratio

Projectors with 4:3 are expected; 16:9 or other proportions are adequate provided there is no resizing and the 4:3 central portion of the projected image occupies the whole of the screen and the software does not resize the image.

Resizing

No resizing in the projector, graphics or projection software must occur – one pixel in the image must be represented as one pixel on the screen. Is it possible to show the actual resolution on the screen? Proof that the native resolution has been used must be available.

Single Display

The judge must only be able to see the externally projected image and not be able to assess colour or tonal range on any other device.

Anti-Virus and Power Management

All anti-virus, screen-saver, power management and other nagging software settings must be set to OFF so that no pop-ups or other unwanted interruptions occur.

Photo Comp Software

It is preferable to use specialist competition image viewing software. It is arguable whether general viewing software such as Adobe Lightroom or Bridge are acceptable.

As all images should be provided as sRGB, colour management is not expected to be handled by the software especially as handling different colour spaces could give an unfair advantage or disadvantage.

The computer used must be fast enough to read and show all the images without perceptible delay.

It is expected that the images are obtained and tested with the software a few days in advance of the competition so that last minute adjustments are unnecessary.

In the software: resizing must be off; images smaller than the native resolution can be shown as is but must not be upscaled.

There appears to be a wide variety of software in use – this will undoubtedly lead to inconsistency.

File Formats

Preferably both TIFF and JPG are able to be used.

The native resolution of the projector is the default maximum image dimensions to be communicated to the other clubs.

Image Handling

The host club must not alter in any way the content of another club's image although filenames may be modified by the host club to suit the projection software.

Titles & Image Numbers

Titles and image numbers must not be shown prior to any score being given.

After the score has been given the number can be announced and/or displayed on the screen.

Randomisation

The images should be shown in a truly random order. This cannot be assumed to be done by any other sorting mechanism.

Use of the image file creation/modification time, filename or any other pseudo-random method is totally unacceptable.

Although manual randomisation is used for the print competition the projection software should be able to do this automatically.

Background Colour

This must be black.

Images less than full size must all be shown with a consistent black background. There should be no difference between cropped images and those where the edges of the image have been extended.

If general viewing software is used the background colour may not be black by default.

Run-through

Each image must be shown for an equal amount of time. Suggestion is 4 or 5 seconds. It should be possible to do this with the software and not manually.

There is no requirement to have a minor pause between images although some may consider this preferable.

Holding Back Images

The software should be able to hold back images so that the judge can do his final summing up without the projectionist having to fiddle about behind or in front of the scenes.

Scoring

Automatic scoring may be used but, of course, scoring on paper is mandatory and the primary source of evidence to be provided to the league co-ordinator.

Software packages that score from 1 to 20 are not recommended as there is the possibility of miscalculation.

Image Retention

Images may not be retained on the host club's computer and all media returned unless a protest is made by a competing club and an image may need to be examined.

The handling of protests is to be confirmed with Council.

Steve Kirkby – Oct 2009