

METRO CAMERA CLUB COMPETITION RULES

All Club members are encouraged to enter competition. Competition is important to all members because it:

- (a) promotes individual participation in Club functions;
- (b) gives recognition to the work of each Club Member;
- (c) accumulates points for Annual Awards;
- (d) contributes to improving photographic skills of all Club Members; and
- (e) enhances the reputation of the Club.

Image Adjustment

Cameras are amazing mechanical and digital inventions with which photographers should strive to make the best exposure and composition possible. These light capturing machines are but the first step in a process of converting the photographer's vision into a finished photograph. Next comes the darkroom. From the earliest days of photography the darkroom has been utilized to make adjustments to the image that expresses the vision of the photographer. Today, the "digital darkroom" makes image adjustments available to the digital photographer just like the traditional wet darkroom does for negative film users. The famous photographer John Sexton said "There is a considerable amount of manipulation in the printmaking from the straight photograph to the finished print. If I do my job correctly that shouldn't be visible at all, it should be transparent."

Category Details

For the traditional Print and Projected Digital Image (PDI) competition category, image adjustments may use any process which results in a realistic looking image. Elements may be added to or removed from the image so long as the changes are not apparent. All elements of the competition image must be from original photographs captured by the contestant. HDR, focus stacking, and panorama stitching fall into this category unless obviously altered as described in the OPEN PDI category.

2. ALTERED REALITY PDI. Starting in 2016 an "Altered Reality PDI" category is created and defined as: "Images for the Open PDI category must be processed in a way where alterations are very obvious. The goal is to start with a contestants' photograph that they then adjust with digital tools to create an image that could not have existed in reality." Both Color and Black and White PDI Images will be judged together in this category. Classes A through AAAA will be in effect with everyone initially starting in Class A and advancing per the normal process.

PRINT & SLIDE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. Print and Slide categories are: (1) black and white print; (2) color print; and (3) color slide. Club Members may enter no more than four (4) entries in each PRINT and/or SLIDE category in any monthly print/slide competition, **no more than** a maximum of eighteen (18) entries per category, per calendar year. Entries in excess of 18 per category, per year, will not be allowed into competition for that calendar year, but may be entered in subsequent years. Of the maximum 18 entries per category, only the 12 highest scores per category will be considered for end-of-year awards, and a Club Member must enter a minimum of 12 photos to be considered for end-of-year awards. (See, paragraph A under Club Awards for additional information on end-of-year awards.)

2. **PRINT REQUIREMENTS:** Prints must measure no smaller than 8"x10" and no larger than 16"x20," and must be **MATTED** or **MOUNTED** on a firm mat or mount no smaller than 8"x10" and no larger than 20"x24", and mountings must stand up on their own without curling, bending or falling over. One properly completed Entry Form should then be attached to the back of each print entered near the top center as the photo is to be presented for judging.

3. **SLIDE REQUIREMENTS:**
Slide mounts must measure 2" x 2" and be properly marked as follows:

MCC PRINT/SLIDE ENTRY FORM							
	COLOR SLIDE	CLASS				SCORE	PHOTO #
	B & W PRINT	A	AA	AAA	AAAA		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COLOR PRINT	○	○	⊗	○		
MY PICTURE							
TITLE OF PHOTO							
NICK				NIKON			
Last Name				First Name			
2-16-16							
Entry Date				Final Rank			

(a) place a dot in the

lower left-hand corner of the slide mount as the slide is to be correctly viewed; then turn the slide upside down. (The dot now appears in the top right CORNER of the mount);

- (b) Print the title to the left of the dot;
- (c) Print your class (A, AA, AAA or AAAA) and the date down the right side of the mount and your name at the bottom of the mount;
- (d) Complete one entry form for each slide submitted for competition.
4. All entries must be properly matted, mounted and have a completed Entry Form affixed and submitted to the Competition Chair no later than 7:00 pm. on competition night. Members must be in attendance during the entire competition in order to keep points earned by the judges. Photos entered by members not in attendance will be pulled from that night's competition, but may be entered in subsequent competitions.
5. Captions, borders, titles or names must not appear within the photo or slide, or appear on the front of the mat or mount for printed photographs.
6. **File Naming for Prints/Slides:** File naming **is the most important element to get your photos entered** in the proper competition and category.

NOTE: ALL DATA FIELDS MUST BE IN UPPER CASE AND SEPARATED BY COMMAS, WITH NO SPACES BEFORE OR AFTER THE COMMAS!!!

For example, a COLOR print entered in Class "A" would be named as follows:

C,A,MY GREAT PICTURE,LASTNAME,FIRSTNAME

For a BLACK & WHITE image entered in Class "AA" it should be named:

B,AA,MY FAVORITE IMAGE,LASTNAME,FIRSTNAME

7. All print/slide entries **MUST** be pre-entered **ONLINE** by using the on-line Entry Form found at: http://www.metrocameraclub.org/pre_entry.html. If a member does not have access to the in-

ternet, pre-entry information may be given to the Competition Chair by telephone or voicemail. All pre-entry data MUST be submitted online or to the Competition Chair by 9:00 pm. on the Friday preceding the print/slide competition. Club Members MUST ENSURE that their entries are entered in the proper Class (A, AA, AAA, or AAAA) and in the proper categories (Black & White Print, Color Print or Color Slide). Also, PLEASE follow up, via email, with the Competition Chair to ensure the server transmitted your print and/or slide entries. ENTRIES HAVE FAILED TO REACH THE COMPETITION CHAIR IN THE PAST THRU THE ONLINE ENTRY SYSTEM. Therefore, it is the entrant's responsibility to contact the Competition Chair and ensure his or her entries were received!

PDI ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. PROJECTED DIGITAL IMAGES. "Projected Digital Image" is defined as an image taken with a digital camera or converted to digital format by scanners or other means and then projected onto a viewing screen. Digital images may be entered as (1) Color PDI, (2) Black & White PDI, or (3) Altered Reality PDI.

Club Members may enter no more than three (3) entries in each PDI category in any monthly competition, resulting in a maximum of eighteen (18) entries allowed per category, per year. Entries in excess of 18 per category, per year, will not be allowed into competition for that calendar year, but may be entered in subsequent years. Of the maximum 18 entries per category, only the 12 highest scores per category will be considered for end-of-year awards, and a Club Member must enter a minimum of 12 photos to be considered for end-of-year awards. (See, paragraph A under Club Awards for additional information on end-of-year awards.)

2. PDI Dimensions: Images shall be no larger than 1920 pixels on the longer side of the image to properly project onto the club's screen. All images should be saved with the sRGB color space for best projection on the club's digital projector.
3. File Type: All images should be saved as JPEG/JPG images, which is the file extension .jpg. NOTE: NO OTHER FILE TYPES WILL BE ACCEPTED!
4. File Naming: File naming **is the most important element to get your photos entered** in the proper competition and category.

NOTE: ALL DATA FIELDS MUST BE IN UPPER CASE AND SEPARATED BY COMMAS WITH NO SPACES BEFORE OR AFTER THE COMMAS!!!

For example, a COLOR image entered in Class "A" would be named as follows:

C,A,MY GREAT PICTURE,LASTNAME,FIRSTNAME.JPG

For a BLACK & WHITE image entered in Class "AA" it should be named as follows:

B,AA,MY BEST IMAGE,LASTNAME,FIRSTNAME.JPG

For an Altered Reality Image entered in Class "A" it should be named as follows:

X,A,MY ALTERED IMAGE,LAST NAME, FIRST NAME

5. PDI Image Submissions MUST be submitted via email to the Competition Chair by 9:00 pm. on the Friday before a Monday competition to: digitalcomp@metrocameraclub.org. If you do not receive a reply email from the Competition Chair confirming receipt of your entries, please follow up with the Competition Chair to ensure your entries were received!

PHOTOGRAPH ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPETITION

Determination of the eligibility of an image to be entered in the Club's competition is the responsibility of the Competition Committee. In the event the Committee determines and rules that an image is not eligible or suitable for consideration in competition, the club member submitting the entry shall be notified immediately and the image removed from competition at that time. The club member may seek relief from the ruling by submitting an appeal, in writing, to the Club President. The Club President shall take the appeal before the executive board at their next meeting for consideration. The club member may attend the meeting to present views on the image. A simple majority of the executive board members present and voting will be sufficient to render a decision on the image. The decision of the executive board is final.

A particular image may be entered only once in Club competition. A print made from a slide or digital image cannot be entered into competition if the slide or digital image has been entered into prior competitions. Conversely, if a print has previously been entered into competition, then the slide or digital image from which the print was made cannot be entered.

Entries are identified to judges and spectators by title only. The entrant's name shall not appear visibly to the judges.

All new competitors begin competitions in Class A and will progress to the next Class level when the Club Member has achieved the following total points in any given calendar year:

Points	Class
000-250	A
251-500	AA
501-750	AAA
751 and above	AAAA

Class levels apply to all categories of competition: black and white prints, color prints, color slides, black and white PDI and color PDI. Class members may progress at different times into different levels. For example, a Club Member may be in Class AA in slides and in Class A in prints, etc.

Competition in every category is judged and scored without regard to the skill of the entrant. Winners, however, are recognized in each class and in each category. Club Members shall remain in their current class (determined by their point standing at the start of each calendar year) for the entire year. Club Members who accumulate enough points in any given competition category will not advance to the Class until the beginning of the following calendar year. Should any member leave the club and return to active membership at a later date, said Club Member may return to the Class in each category they were in when they left the club. Said Club Member will also resume his or her point standings they attained when they left. The Statistician Chair will keep these records and help determine the proper Class for returning Club Members.

SCORING FOR COMPETITION. Three judges score each competition entry on the basis of overall effect while giving consideration to: (a) interest (b) composition and artistic aspects (c) photographic techniques and (d) overall impact. Each judge then rates each entry from 1 to 5 points. An entry could have a cumulative score as low as 3 or as high as 15 points when the three judges' scores are combined. Judges' scores are totaled, recorded and announced.

JUDGING FOR COMPETITION. Judging and scoring of competition entries is an integral part of the Club's program. Judging in itself is a learning experience and is the responsibility of every Club Member. The Competition Chair chooses judges for each competition from Club members who are in Class AA or above. Judges are chosen at the beginning of each calendar year. Judges may not judge their own work, that of a family member, or any photo where they have prior knowledge of a Club Member's particular entry. If any Club Member finds that he or she cannot serve on the competition date assigned by the Competition Chair, then the Club Member must assist the Competition Chair in finding a replacement judge for his or her assignment.

Any Club Member who serves as a judge and therefore misses an opportunity to enter photos in the competition for which he or she judges, may enter the same number of missed entries at a prior or

future competition (of the same type) during that calendar year. For example, if a Club Member judges a PDI competition and misses the opportunity to enter 3 color photos in that PDI competition, he or she may enter the equivalent number of entries (in this case, 3) at any prior or future PDI competition for that calendar year. However, if the Club Member enters the extra photos prior to serving as judge, and then fails to honor his or her judging assignment on the assigned night, the extra photos entered shall be forfeited.

However, always remember: No judges – no competition.

The competition chair will choose judges from the members present. Judges may not judge their own work or that of a family member. Judges who have prior knowledge of another member's entry should be impartial in fairness to other competitors.

Judging Criteria

Photographs shall be judged based on the criteria listed below. Judges must have a thorough understanding of these judging principals and be able to apply them within the very limited time available to view each photograph. When deciding a score, judges must avoid increasing or decreasing the score merely because they do or do not personally care for the subject of the photograph.

- A. SUBJECT.** Is the subject of the photograph apparent or is it lost in a sea of background? Is your eye drawn to the subject or are you asking "why was this picture taken?" The photo is lacking if the subject has to be explained.
- B. FOCUS.** Is the photograph appropriately focused? Sometimes an out of focus shot is what the photographer is trying to do (such as showing movement or blurring all but the main subject), but generally the main subject should be in focus even if the surrounding area is not. Does the selected depth of field work well for the image. Would it look better with a narrower or wider depth of field?
- C. COMPOSITION.** Is there an appropriate feeling of balance in the photograph? Is the picture too heavy on one side or the other? Are there extraneous areas or "clutter" in the photo that are not adding to the overall effect? Is it free from merging lines and distracting light? Does your eye move easily around the image from subject to secondary subjects in a visual path or are there elements that cause your eye to make abrupt stops? Would following the "Rule of Thirds" improve it?
- D. IMPACT.** Does the photo have freshness, spontaneity and originality? Are there interesting elements, such as perspective, dramatic angles, leading lines, colors, textures, shapes, light, etc? Does the shot stand out from the ordinary?
- E. LIGHTING.** Lighting is perhaps the most important element in a photograph. Has the direction and the quality of the light helped or hindered? Is the exposure correct or are there over exposed highlights or areas so dark you can't make out details that should be visible?

F. MOOD. Are there identifiable elements in the photograph that set a mood? What mood does the photograph evoke? How does the shot makes you feel? Considering the photograph on both a technical and emotional level is valid.