



NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Competition Manual

A) Intro and Purpose

The North Central Florida Photography Club encourages all of its members to engage in their passion of photography. One of the vehicles for that passion is competition and critique.

B) Eligibility to Compete

Any member-in-good-standing of the North Central Florida Photography Club is eligible to compete in the Club Competitions. Dues are paid on an annual basis and paid dues for the current year makes a member eligible to compete. A new member may enter prints in the competition at the meeting when they join and pay their dues.

All images must originate as a photograph and must be the work of the submitting member. All elements of the image and all post-processing work must be the submitters work.

C) Photographer Skill Levels

Members are divided into three different levels of competition. Competitors at the highest level of competition are called the “A” Class shooters. A can stand for Advanced skill level. The “B” Class competitors are immediately below the A Class. B is the middle level of competition. “Novice” Class competition is designed for new photographers with limited equipment and skills. With one exception the A competitors only compete

against other A's, the B's against other B's and the Novice Shooters only against other Novice Shooters. The one exception is when competing in the Creative Category and will be discussed later.

A member may start competing at any level they choose and they may advance themselves to the next level at any time during the year, however the only way to move to a lower competition level than your current level is to ask the Competition Director to petition the Board of Directors for the change. The Club will advance photographers to the next level of competition at the end of the year in which a specified number of points have been earned.

Points will be awarded during the competition year. After the "End of Year" Competition, the year's points will be tallied and posted. Points are awarded as follows: 4 pts for a First Place,
3 pts for Second Place,
2 pt for Third Place, and
1 pt for each Honorable Mention.

B Shooters will be advanced to the A Class at the end of the year in which they have accumulated 35 points, if they have not already moved up. A Novice Shooter will be advanced to the B Class at the end of the year in which they have accumulated 35 points, if they have not already moved up.

The Board also has the option of requesting or requiring that a member compete in a higher class due to their experience level.

D) Competition Categories

Color prints and monochrome prints will be separate competitions for A and B shooters.

There will be 2 competition categories for Class A which are Color A and Monochrome A.

There will be 2 competition categories for Class B which are Color B and Monochrome B.

Novice Category will be one category with color and monochrome prints combined. If the category becomes large enough to warrant separating color and monochrome it will be done at the discretion of the Competition Director.

The sixth category is called Creative. This is a single category that is open to A, B and Novice shooters. All creative entries will compete together, regardless of the submitters level.

E) Definitions and Rules for each category

Color A and Color B Competitions will involve color prints. Software post processing is allowed to be used in the preparation of the images. Only photorealistic images are allowed in these categories.

Monochrome A and Monochrome B Competitions will involve black and white prints (grayscale) or prints that are shades of a single hue or color, such as sepia. Traditional toned/tinted prints often appear as three colors. The three colors would be defined as black, white, and a single hue such as sepia at various lightness levels. Software post processing is allowed to be used in the preparation of the images. Only photorealistic images are allowed in these categories.

Novice Category will involve both color and monochrome prints, unless split by the Competition Director. The intent of this category is to have a competition and critique with limited use of post processing software for beginner photographers. The only computer manipulation allowed in this category will be conversion to monochrome, cropping and resizing. In-camera processing, creative settings, as well as filters placed on a lens will be acceptable.

Creative Category will be for artistically enhanced images. The method of enhancing is wide open and anything goes here. An explanation on the back of the print regarding how the image was made is now optional.

F) Topics and Schedules

Some of the competitions will have assigned topics and others will be open topics. The club will maintain, on the club website, a schedule or calendar, indicating which monthly meetings will include competitions and what, if any, the assigned topic and its parameters will be. The Competition Director will have the final word on whether an image meets the topic definition.

G) Number of Entries and Price per Entry

Class A photographers may enter up to 2 images in Color A, 2 images in Monochrome A and 2 images in the Creative category. They may enter up to 6 images in a competition but no more than 2 in each category.

Class B Photographers may enter up to 2 images in Color B, 2 images in Monochrome B and 2 images in the Creative category. They may enter up to 6 images in a competition but no more than 2 in each category.

A Novice Photographer may enter up to four images in the Novice category and they may enter up to 2 images in the Creative category.

To cover the costs of the ribbons and to help defray the rent of the meeting hall each A and B Competitor will submit \$1 with each image entered. Novice competitors will submit \$1 for each image entered in Novice category and \$1 for each Creative entry.

H) Preparation and Presentation of Competition Entries

Print size for Color A, Color B, Monochrome A, Monochrome B and Creative will be no smaller than 8" X 10" and will be no larger than 16" X 20". For Novice the minimum print size is 5" X 7" and the maximum print size is 11" X 14".

Entries will be mounted as follows:

A **board** is defined as matte board, foam core, gator board, Masonite, etc. Any reasonably smooth material that is less than ¼” thick may be used. The board shall be either 16x20 or 15x20 for Class A, B and Creative. Novice boards shall be 11x14. Any cut out matte used on the front shall have the same outside dimensions as the board.

** It should be noted that if you intend to compete in the F3C (Florida Camera Club Council) competitions, the F3C requires that all prints be mounted on a 16x20 board. No other size is allowed in F3C.*

The two mounting options are:

Option A: Print affixed to a single board. Mount consists of one board and one photographic print. The print must be affixed to the board by glue, double sided tape, dry mount tissue, or a similar secure method.

Option B: Sandwich style. Board, one print and cut out board or matte. The board, print and matte cutout must be affixed together as a unit so that it cannot come apart during handling.

No other options are allowed. Artistic mattes are only accepted in Creative.

If an entry is falling apart, not properly backed, or becomes detached it will be removed from the competition. There will be no plastic coverings, glass, or frames over the entry. No previous ribbons, hangers, wires, fasteners, or anything else that could possibly damage or scratch another entry will be allowed. The only thing allowed on the back of the print is the entry form, and the optional descriptive information for Creative category.

The entry forms are available on the Club website. They can be filled in on the website and then printed, or printed blank and hand written. The entry form must be filled out and attached to the entry before it is presented at the competition table. No preparation may be done at the competition table. The entry form must be securely affixed to the back of the entry so that it is in the upper left corner, as viewed from the back. Please use a length of plastic tape along the top and bottom edge of the entry form. The location of the entry form will determine the orientation that will be presented for judging. This is the only form of identification that may be on the image. Printed names or signatures on the image or mattes will not be accepted.

I) Entering an Image

All images must be ready for entry before being brought to the competition table. Payment of the entry fee must be made when the images are presented at the competition table. The cut off time for a 7:00 meeting will be 6:45. The Competition Table may extend that time as they see fit and will announce a last call for entries before closing. If a member makes arrangements for someone else to drop off their entries there must also be a plan for reclaiming the images after the competition. All entries must be picked up at the end of the meeting. Entries not picked up at the end of the meeting will be disposed of at the discretion of the Competition Director.

When an image wins a ribbon it becomes eligible for the “End of Year” Competition. A ribbon winning entry may not enter another monthly competition, only the “End of Year” Competition. If an entry does not win a ribbon, it may be reentered for a second, and third competition and then must be retired if it has not won a ribbon.

J) Judging

The Judges Director is responsible for contacting and scheduling judges for the competitions. There may be one or more judges at the competitions. At the discretion of the Competition Director and the Judges Director there may be different configurations to the judging panel. Some options could include (but are not limited to); an invited judge plus a club member, a panel of club members or a single club member judging. If an invited judge does not make it to the competition the two directors will decide how to proceed and may ask club members to judge.

K) Judging criteria

Our competitions will be judged on elements of Technical Quality, Impact and Composition. This is a standard judging method often referred to as TIC.

Technical elements include (but are not limited to); lighting, focus, use of depth-of-field, exposure, color or tonal contrast, appropriate backgrounds, lack of distracting elements and the presentation of the image in print.

Impact elements include (but are not limited to); A strong first impression, the pictures ability to command the viewers attention, emotion, sensory stimulation, a new imaginative approach, and whether the subject matter is made more interesting by the photographer.

Composition elements include (but are not limited to): the placement of the subject matter, dynamic symmetry, rhythm or repetition, definition and strength to the center of interest, balance, simplicity, framing, texture, and pattern.

L) Scores

The judge(s) will assign a numerical score from 1 to 9 in each of the three judging categories. The values of the scores can be interpreted as below or the judge may apply his own method.

- 1 to 5 Below Average
- 6 Average
- 7 Above Average
- 8 Superior
- 9 Outstanding

M) Ribbons and Points

Ribbons will be awarded in each category based upon the number of entrants.

A category with 2 to 6 entries from at least 2 competitors will have one First Place award. A category with 7 to 11 entries will have a First, Second and Third Place award. A category with 12-15 entries will have A First, Second, Third and one Honorable mention Award. A category with 16 or more entries will have a First, Second, Third and two Honorable Mention awards. Additional awards can be presented at the discretion of the Competition Director. The additional awards may be based on number of entries or for encouragement in Novice.

Points will be assigned as described earlier. Annual point totals will be posted after the “End of Year” Competition and any members moving up a category will be recognized.

Score sheets will be scanned and posted on the Club website.

N) Critique

Whenever possible the judge will be asked to offer critiques and suggestions for improvement after all of the judging is completed. All members should remember that judging is subjective and the judges will be presenting their opinion. Please take what the judge says as a friendly critique and do not challenge the judge. When time permits, the floor may also be open for comments from members, and to ask the photographers about their vision and technique. Special time and effort should be devoted to the Novice entries.

O) End of Year Competition

The End of Year Competition is open to all images that have won ribbons during the year. This competition is the “Best of the Best”. It will take place during the December meeting. There will be no charge to the members during this competition. All previous ribbons must be removed, so as to not damage other prints. The original entry form should be left on the print in the upper left corner.

If the member has moved up to a higher class during the competition year, all ribboned images must be entered in the higher class and must meet the appropriate size requirements. This may require remounting or even reprinting the image.

We will always strive to have three experienced judges to judge this competition.

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These rules may occasionally be reviewed and updated. Changes will be announced at meetings and on the website and on the Club yahoo group.

Future updates may include a digital file competition, an online competition, and possible refinement to the Novice category. Check for updates.