

Section 1: There shall be a monthly competition at the regular monthly club meeting from July through May of each year.

Section 2: Each Regular Monthly competition categories shall be:

- a. Color Print – Open and Theme
- b. Extended Photography – Open and Theme
- c. Black & White/Monochrome– Open and Theme
- d. Projected Extended – Open and Theme
- e. Projected Color Open – Open and Theme
- f. Projected – Special Category

Section 3: Regular Monthly Competition Rules:

a. Entries in all print categories, except the Extended Photography category, must be on photographic, ink jet or laser paper. Canvas and metal substrates must be entered into the Extended categories. Images entered in Color Print, Black and White/Monochrome images, Projected Color Open and Projected – Special Category, may be altered or enhanced if they do not depart from realism. The following rules shall apply to images being entered in all categories except Extended and Projected Extended – Open and Theme.

(1) Cropping of the image is allowed.

(2) Tools such as levels, curves, dodge, burn, brightness, sharpening and contrast may be used as long as the image does not depart from realism.

(3) Color enhancements such as color balance, hue, and saturation may be used as long as the image does not depart from realism.

(4) Additions and deletions of subject matter are prohibited.

(5) The use of the clone tool or other similar tools will be limited to removing dust and scratches. Additions and deletions of subject matter are prohibited.

(6) A conversion of a color image to black and white image or a monochrome image may be entered Black and White/Monochrome. The Black and White/Monochrome category may include Black and White/monochrome digital files originating from non-visible light capture such as infrared sensitive cameras. In both cases, further post-processing is limited to (3.a) above.

7) In-camera processing for images entered in Color Print and Black and White/Monochrome may not exceed that as outlined in (3.a.1-6).

b. Entries in the Extended Photography and Projected Extended categories may be of any photographic process. These entries include digital effects or darkroom processes beyond what is outlined in (3.a) above, color prints originating from non-visible light capture such as infrared photography and any other photographic techniques beyond a basic digital or film product. Maximum dimension of print entries may not exceed 16" high x 24" wide including any matting, in order to fit in the light box. Print entries in this category may be mounted and/or framed in any fashion. However, the frame cannot be the sole reason for entering a print into the Extended category. Images which satisfy (3.a) above for entry in Color, Projected Color Open, Projected – Special Category or Black and White/Monochrome may not be entered in the Extended Photography or Projected Extended categories.

c. All entries must be solely the creativity and work of the exhibitor with regard to inspiration, composition, technical setup, and shooting.

- d. Entries may be either processed and printed by the photographer or commercially processed and printed.
- e. All print entries must have the name of exhibitor and a title placed on the back in the bottom left-hand corner
- f. Color and Extended print entries must be at least 8" x 10". These prints must be mounted or matted (not framed). Maximum dimension of entries may not exceed 16" high by 24" wide, including any matting, in order to fit in the competition light box.
- g. Black and White/Monochrome entries shall include any monochromatic images if they satisfy (3.a) above.
- h. Projected Special Category will consist of projected digital images based on a photographic specialty such as portraiture, landscape, Black and White/Monochrome or nature. Three specialties will be selected by the board in April, with no expectation or requirement that the specialties change from competition year to competition year. The first specialty will be used for July, October and March, the second in August, November and April, the third in September, January and May. At the discretion of the board, additional special competitions may be assigned for December and February. There will be no theme competition for this category.
- h. Projected images must be in JPEG format, and submitted to Focus Photo Club website by Monday midnight of the week of competition. Maximum file pixel dimensions and entry procedures are to be available on the Focus Photo Club website. Any manipulation is permitted for the Projected Extended – Open Theme category. The categories Projected Color Open – Open and Theme and Projected – Special Category must satisfy (3.a) above. Entrants must sign in and follow other regular rules of competition.
- i. No nude or suggestive materials will be accepted for display or competition. Judgment of acceptability is completely up to the Competition Vice President and, although he/she should confirm his/her decision with another club officer and/or a judge, his/her decision is final.
- j. Once a work has placed First, Second, or Third, it shall not be resubmitted for future monthly competitions.
- k. A work which has not placed First, Second or Third may be put into competition up to a maximum of three times. Such work may be submitted for competition only once in any one club-calendar year.
- m. Each entry should be unique and in-camera dupes or other reproductions in different formats of the same image are not eligible for competition.
- l. Each club member in good standing may enter up to three (3) entries per competition night with no more than one (1) in any one category.
- m. Members shall receive the following points for competition:
 - First Place 9 points
 - Second Place 7 points
 - Third Place 5 points
 - Honorable Mention 3 points
 - For entering 1 point
- n. Points will be accumulated throughout the year for awards to be presented at the Annual Awards Night in June. In the event of a points tie for Photographer of the Year, the ties will be broken by the following tiebreaks, in order of highest to lowest precedence: greatest number of first places, greatest number of second places, greatest number of third places, fewest number of images entered during the competition year. If the tie still remains after these tiebreaks, dual Photographer of the Year awards will be presented.
- o. All entries shall be judged on composition, technical merit and impact.

- p. Each competition evening shall have three judges from among the membership and/or invited guest judges who are highly qualified to judge the photographic work of others. Any active member may be asked to judge if he/she has been a member for six continuing months and did not judge in the previous month.
- q. Judges shall not evaluate their own work or that of members of their family and/or household. They will enter a 0, and an average of the two other scores will be taken and added to the total of the other two judges.
- r. No ties shall be broken.
- s. Honorable Mention(s) shall be given in each category. Ties for Honorable Mention need not be broken. If there are more than two entries tied for Honorable Mention, additional ribbons may be awarded.
- t. If number of entries in any one category exceeds 16 entries, additional Honorable Mentions shall be awarded as one additional Honorable Mention for every additional four entries.
- u. All competitors must be present to enter their own work and must be present to receive their awards. If competitor is not present when awards are given, the award will be forfeited and the next highest entry will receive the award.

Section 4: Novice Category:

- a. A novice photographer is someone who is new to photography. Judgment of novice status is determined by the Competition Vice President. A novice photographer may enter as a novice only during the first two competition years during which they are a member of the club.
- b. Novice entries will be entered any category.
- c. Novice entries will follow the same competition/category rules as outlined in sections (2) and (3) above.
- d. Novice entries do count towards the maximum number of three (3) entries per night.
- e. An extra column will be added to the sign-in sheets where the entrant can check that they are entering "novice."
- f. A blue ribbon will be awarded to the highest scoring image(s) over the entire competition, not by category.
- g. Novice ties are not broken.
- h. Ribbons are worth one (1) point towards novice photographer of the year.
- i. If eligible, members may choose to enter competition as a "novice" photographer but are not required to do so.
- j. Novice prints will be eligible for regular competition awards. Once a novice has accumulated at least 75 points in the regular competition, he/she may finish that competition year in the novice category but will not be eligible as a novice in the following competition year.
- k. In the event of a points tie for Novice of the Year, the ties will be broken by the following tiebreaks, in order of highest to lowest precedence: greatest number of first places in the regular Club competition, greatest number of second places in the regular Club competition, greatest number of third places in the regular Club competition, fewest number of images entered during the competition year. If the tie still remains after these tiebreaks, dual Novice of the Year awards will be presented.

Section 5: Other competitions may be established by decision of the Executive Board.