



Digital Competition Manual 2015

A) Intro and Purpose

The Ocala Camera 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 Ocala Camera 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 compete in the competition at the meeting when they join and pay their dues (if they have already submitted their images), as long as they have joined online and made arrangements.

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 submitter's 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 “Open Topic Open Technique” 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.

Points will be awarded during the competition year. After the “End of Year” Competition, the year’s points will be tallied and posted. The “End of Year” competition points will not be included in the tally as these images have already earned points during the year. Points are awarded as follows:

- 4 pts for a First Place,
- 3 pts for Second Place,
- 2 pts 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 70 points, if they have not already moved up.

Novice level is intended to be a transition step for a member to initially begin competition rather than a long term position. Novice shooters will move up to B level at the monthly competition following the month in which they have accumulated 20 points, or after competing in Novice for the eighth time.

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

Anytime someone moves up or down a category during the year; their “End of Year” images will all be judged in the higher category.

D) Competition Categories

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

There will be 2 competition categories for Class, A which are “Color A On Topic” and “Monochrome A On Topic”.

There will be 2 competition categories for Class B, which are “Color B On Topic” and “Monochrome B On Topic”.

“Novice On Topic” Category will be one category with color and monochrome images 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 “Open Topic”. This is a single category that is open to A, B and Novice shooters. All “Open Topic” entries will compete together, regardless of the class (skill level) of the submitting member. The two entries in “Open Topic” can be of any subject matter and do not need to follow the monthly assigned topic.

E) Definitions and Rules for each category

“Color A On Topic” and “Color B On Topic” Competitions will involve color digital images. Software post processing is allowed to be used in the preparation of the images.

“Monochrome A On Topic” and “Monochrome B On Topic” Competitions will involve black and white images (grayscale) or images that are shades of a single hue or color, such as sepia. Traditional toned/tinted images 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.

“Novice on Topic” Category will involve both color and monochrome images, unless split by the Competition Director. The intent of this category is to have a competition and critique (when time allows) for beginner photographers. Software post processing is allowed to be used in the preparation of the images.

“Open Topic” Category is open to all classes with no restrictions. Software post processing is allowed to be used in the preparation of the images.

The Contest Director encourages you to enter your most creative work.

F) Topics and Schedules

Most or all of the competitions will have assigned topics (or themes). 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/theme and its parameters will be. The Competition Director will have the final word on whether an image meets the topic/theme definition.

G) Number of Entries and Price per Entry

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

Class B Photographers may enter 2 images in “Color B On Topic”, 2 images in “Monochrome B On Topic” and 2 images in the “Open Topic” 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 On Topic” category and they may enter 2 images in the “Open Topic” category.

To cover the costs of the ribbons and to help with the projection costs, the competitor will submit \$2 for each image entered in competition.

The images will be submitted in advance of the competition, electronically via online method as directed by the Competition Director. No images will be accepted at the meeting. The competition fee is due prior to the meeting where the images are shown and ribbons awarded. If online payment is available on the website that will be the primary method of payment. If not available, all payments will be due at the meeting or by individual arrangement. The method of payment and current procedures will be spelled out on the competition section of the website.

H) Preparation and Presentation of Competition Entries

A separate document will be maintained on the club website that details the sizing of the images and the acceptable labeling as well as instructions on submitting the image and the time restrictions.

I) Entering an Image

Images presented for judging will be judged on the judges' computer from the entered file. It is important that each competitor follow the preparation (resizing) and submission guide posted on the website. This is enforced for optimal viewing and uniformity. The online image submission will reject any images that are out of tolerances for you to fix and reload.

It is understood that the judge will be judging entries with a color-calibrated monitor and we recommend that you color calibrate your home system so they will not look different on a calibrated monitor.

All images will be submitted and judged prior to the meeting as prescribed. No digital images will be delivered at or during the meeting. A member may make arrangements for someone else to pay for their entries at the meeting.

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 competition and then must be retired if it has not won a ribbon.

The top images throughout the year will be saved for the “End of Year” Competition. Total numbers will dictate how many images can qualify for the final competition. Qualified images will be automatically entered, with no additional fees.

J) Judging

The Judges Director is responsible for contacting and scheduling judges for the competitions. There may be one or more judges judging the competitions. The judge(s) will complete their judging and submit the results to the Competition and Judges Directors. The images will all be shown at the meeting and then the winners will be announced. Images, scores and comments are usually available online at the club gallery on the website.

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, image sharpness, appropriate backgrounds, lack of distracting elements and the presentation of the image.

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. **Adherence to the monthly**

theme will also be included in Impact. If the image does not relate to the assigned topic it shall be strongly downgraded.

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.

Adherence to Topic scoring will be based on the assigned theme or topic as defined and listed on the website.

L) Scores

At the discretion of the Competition Director the judges will be told which scoring method to apply. The images can be judged on a scale of 1-99 based on the Technical, Impact, Composition and adherence to theme levels, added together. Each of the three T I C categories will have an equal 33 points available. Adherence to “Topic” will be included in the Impact score.

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. Scores will be posted on the website gallery.

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, if they are in attendance. We encourage 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) Use of Member Images on the Club Website

BY ENTERING AN IMAGE IN THE CLUB COMPETITIONS YOU ARE GIVING IMPLIED CONSENT FOR THE CLUB TO USE YOUR IMAGES ON THE WEBSITE. If you do not want your image to be used on the website you must specifically get in touch with the club webmaster and inform them as to which images may not be posted.

P) End of Year Competition

The End of Year Competition is for all images that have won top 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.

If the member has moved up to a higher class during the competition year, all ribbon winning images will be entered in the higher class.

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



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