



NEW ENGLAND CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL, INCORPORATED

Digital Interclub Competition Rules

Photography should be viewed as an art, not a science. That's why it is hard to write competition "rules" dealing with what's allowed and prohibited with any precision. Additionally, digital photography is exploding and keeps moving forward at a remarkable pace. The Co-Directors made their best attempt to allow creative expression as well as make the rules consistent for participating clubs.

Please read the following new rules and regulations carefully. It is important to follow the rules and to make the Competition Directors' job as smooth as possible.

General Rules

1. The Digital Interclub Competition is open to all New England Camera Club Council Member Clubs in good standing (dues must be paid).
2. New: There are **three categories of competition**, Color, Nature and Monochrome. Each club may enter four photographs in Color and/or four photographs in Nature and/or four photographs in Monochrome in each of three competitions. **Please see individual category rules below for further information.**
3. The Color and Nature categories are divided into two classes, A and B. Clubs winning class B in each category for a season will be moved up to Class A for the next season. At present, the Monochrome category of competition will not be split into class distinctions of A and B. Once classes are formed, a club must compete in the same class for the entire season. Clubs may be in Class A for one category of competition and in Class B for the other. New clubs will typically begin competition in Class B, but may request placement in Class A based on their performance in other competitions such as those operated by PSA.

Each class will be judged separately. Judges will be asked to rank the entries against each other in each class rather than against some arbitrary external standard.

Class assignments are the same as the previous season except for clubs that were moved as a result of their showing in the previous season.

4. Each photograph in each of the three categories (color, nature and monochrome) of a single competition must be by a different maker. Also, an individual may compete from only one club in each category for any single competition. In the event that two photographs from one maker are entered in the same category of a single competition, the club will be notified and asked for a replacement image prior to the judging. Clubs must continue to be vigilant about entering multiple images from the same maker. A maker may be represented only once *in each category* (Color, Nature, Mono).
5. The entry form site has also been changed. You will no longer have to pre-register with an email address. Anyone from your club can upload your club's digital interclub entry.
6. The \$15 fee will be collected with the club dues. (See #24 NECCC Annual Club Dues Invoice on the Club Services tab of the NECCC home page.) **Do not send the fee to the directors.**
7. All photographs must have a title (the word *Untitled* is not a title). Note that titles are for identification; titles **may not be read** during the judging. **New: Depending on the number of images submitted, we may have brief critiques by the judges on the images. Titles will be read prior to the critique.**

8. By entering these competitions, you give NECCC permission to reproduce your photographs in connection with the activities and publicity of the Council including display on the NECCC Internet website. You also give NECCC permission to use your photographs in competitions that the Council enters such as the PSA Council Challenge. The copyright, however, remains with the photographer and the photographer will receive credit when his/her photograph is used. If a member of your club objects to this stipulation, please do not enter his/her photographs.
9. New: Only images that have won a 1st, 2nd, 3rd or an Honor Award are **not eligible** to be entered again. Images entered in prior competition **that did not win** any of those awards **are eligible**.
10. A winning image may not be renamed so that it can be entered a second time. A maker is not allowed to enter a second image similar to one already entered regardless of title. In addition, clubs must be vigilant about maker's using unique titles for their images. For instance, let us say an image had been entered as a horizontal image entitled *Scenic* but it did not win an award. The maker decides to revise this image to a vertical and re-enter in the next competition. The image should be retitled to *Scenic 2* or some different title than the originally entered image.
11. Clubs must also be vigilant about makers who may belong to multiple clubs. In any particular competition, a maker may only have images submitted from one club. Please be sure that multi-club participants are not entering images from the other club for that competition. In the event that two photographs from one maker are entered in the same category for the same competition from two different clubs, the Interclub Directors will notify the clubs for a replacement image prior to the competition.
12. Photographs that have been entered into other types of NECCC competitions (such as Print Interclub or Council Challenge) are eligible for entry into the digital image competition, again regardless of score or award that may have been received in the other competition.
13. Capture of all photographs as well as any manipulation **must be performed by the competitor**.

Note that all participants have an obligation to act in an ethical manner when preparing images for use in these competitions. There is a rule that prohibits adding, moving, or deleting an element in the nature category. There is a rule in the color category that states that all elements of a composite image must have been captured by the photographer. There is a rule that a winning photograph may not be renamed so that it can be entered a second time. There is no objective way that we can enforce these rules so we are relying on the honesty of the competitors and the club representatives.

A Note on Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) images: **NECCC follows the PSA Guidelines in that PSA does not allow images to be submitted that contain any elements not created/shot by the submitting photographer. This includes layers, textures, additional elements, AI generated images or components, etc. Nor do they allow watermarks, logos, titles or author's names to appear in the photograph in any way. If a photographer is combining different elements/layers, ALL of these must be from original photographs taken by the photographer themselves. You cannot purchase stock photography, use free images off the internet, trade images with friends nor use any other source than your own, original photographs. PSA takes copyright, infringement, and outside sourcing very seriously and violations can result in photographers being barred from submitting to any PSA competition and may include ramifications for the club they belong to in addition to personal sanctions. Therefore, all images entered in any category must be entirely the work of the maker.**

14. The name of the maker, the name of the club, or the title of the entry may not appear on any photograph as a watermark.

Color Category Restrictions

Keep in mind that NECCC-sponsored Color competitions are intended for **photographers**, not Photoshop (or other editing program) illustrators. We recognize, however, that part of the attraction and fun of digital photography is the ability to alter the pictures captured by the camera, but the emphasis should be on displaying your photographs to best advantage either naturally or after manipulation (even extensive manipulation) for creative effects.

15. **The Color category is open other than to Nature and Monochrome which have their own categories.** That means that all subject types as well as a variety of different techniques (both in camera and computer manipulation) may be entered. However, remember that we have a diverse membership so please be sure that all photographs are in good taste.
16. **NEW:** As we now have a new Monochrome Section, Monochrome is no longer allowed in Color and must be entered into the Monochrome section-Please see below for category explanation. **The only Monochrome images allowed in color would be** a grayscale or multi-colored image modified or giving the impression of having been modified by partial toning, multi toning or by the inclusion of spot coloring as it would not meet the definition of monochrome and is therefore classified as a Color Work.
17. **NEW:** We ask that all **unmodified Nature images be entered into the Nature Section only. Only images that have been modified in any way and no longer meet the PSA Nature definition listed below under the Nature Category requirements may be entered in Color.** As we have a Nature Section and Nature is so strong a subject, we feel it is not fair to the other Color images such as landscapes or portraits to have nature also in the color category. **Nature images should be competing against other Nature images in the Nature Section.**
18. **NEW:** Please note under our new rules only nature images that have been modified in some manner and no longer fit the PSA nature definition may now be entered into the Color Section and if you are entering a nature image in the color section, we ask that you write us a short note in the new Comments field telling us it has been modified and briefly what was modified in the comment box so that we do not need to further contact you regarding its entry.
19. The major part of each image must have been captured by light sensitivity, either digitally or on film. Slides or negatives may be scanned (by the photographer or commercially) for entry into the competition. Once captured or scanned, photographs may be modified using digital image editing programs. A scanner may also be used as a camera to capture photographs of objects placed on the scanner glass.
20. Entries may display a realistic rendition of the subject(s) or be creative, having been manipulated using in camera techniques before scanning or using a digital image editing program. The judges will be asked to judge the photographs for **overall photographic quality and interest**, not the amount of manipulation required to achieve the effect
21. Composite photographs are acceptable in the Color category as long as **all** elements included are the entering photographer's own work. Commercial clip art, commercially available textures, parts of commercial photographic collections, or the work of another photographer may **not** be included. Artwork or computer graphics created by the photographer may be incorporated as long as the **photographic content predominates**.

Keep in mind that adding commercial stock elements such as clouds, lighting, moons, frames, or fractals generated by image editing programs or accessories, is not allowed. However, clouds, frames, or moons photographed or drawn by the photographer may be combined with other photographs. Please refer to the AI statement under #13 above.

In this context, work of the maker means that the work does not include any material copyrighted by others or commercial clip art elements, including borders, graphics, or photographs. Use of filters, such as those in Photoshop or third-party plug-ins such as those by NIK or TOPAZ to create or modify such elements are allowed and is not considered a violation of this ethics statement. However, when using plug-ins such as Topaz Textures any texture applied by the software must be one taken by the photographer; textures supplied with this plug-in are copyrighted by Topaz or other photographers who supplied them.

We recognize that the line between your own digital art and clip art is a gray one in many cases. A good rule to follow is that anything that **changes** an element **you** drew or photographed is allowed, but any action that **adds** an element other than from one of your own photographs, drawings, or digital art probably is not. Note that adding a mat or frame using the image editors drawing capabilities will normally be considered digital art by the maker and, thus, is allowed.

Nature Category Restrictions

22. All photographs must have been captured by light sensitivity, either digitally or on film. Slides or negatives may be scanned (by the photographer or commercially) for entry into the competition. The NECCC Digital Interclub Nature Competition uses the PSA definition of nature that is posted on the PSA Internet site at <https://cdn.ymaws.com/psa-photo.org/resource/resmgr/pdf/divisions/nd/nd-judges-guide.pdf> . Our nature competitions are open nature competitions and entries **do not** have to meet the additional *authentic wildlife* definition that is also posted on the same Internet page.

NEW: Please note under our new rules only nature images that have been modified in some manner and no longer fit the PSA nature definition may now be entered into the Color Section and if you are entering a nature image in the color section, we ask that you write us a short note telling us it has been modified and briefly what was modified in the Comment box so that we do not need to further contact you regarding its entry.

Monochrome Category Restrictions

23. Definition of Monochrome: Monochrome images may NOT contain any color components. An image is considered to be monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no color (i.e. contains only shades of gray which can include pure black and pure white) OR it gives the impression of being a grayscale image that has been toned in one color across the entire image. (For example, by Sepia, red, gold, blue, etc.) **A grayscale or multi-colored image modified or giving the impression of having been modified by partial toning, multi toning or by the inclusion of spot coloring does not meet the definition of monochrome and shall be classified as a Color Work and entered into the Color Section.**
24. Any form of manipulation of the image file by the entrant (burning, dodging, masking, texture screens, digital enhancement, combining of images, etc.) not expressly prohibited elsewhere is considered acceptable.
25. The use of any photography or artwork that is not the original work of the entrant is not allowed. This includes clip-art of any kind, or any artwork (i.e. digital manipulation, airbrushing, coloring, etc.) performed on the image file by anyone other than the competitor. Cloning or healing to remove minor blemishes is permitted, not being considered artwork.

Preparing Images for Entry

26. Photographs must be entered as JPEG images with the .jpg extension using the form at https://www.greaterynnphoto.org/neccc_entry.php There is a separate document available with instructions for using the site if required.
27. The web site contains a form where all required information is entered and buttons allowing you to select the image file for each entry. It is strongly suggested that you place all 4, 8 or 12 images in a single directory before starting the entry process.

28. It is required that all photographs be converted to the sRGB color space. That color space most closely approximates the capability of monitors and projectors to display color and usually results in the best presentation of your image.
29. Photographs will be projected using a projector having 1400 pixels in the horizontal direction and 1050 pixels in the vertical direction. **Photographs must fit within those dimensions.** The software on the entry web site will enforce those dimensions and will notify you if the dimensions are too large, even by a single pixel.

Unless your photograph's proportions are in the exact ratio of 4 to 3, one of these dimensions will be less than the maximum. For example, if you have a vertical photograph, the height will be 1050 pixels, but the width will be significantly less than 1400 pixels. A square photograph will be 1050 pixels by 1050 pixels under these rules. Smaller photographs are acceptable.

30. It is suggested (though not a requirement) that entries be saved with the proper amount of compression so that the **file size does not exceed 800-1000 KB.**

Awards

- **Individual Awards:** Each category in each class will receive one first, second, and third place ribbons. **New:** Ties will be broken at the judging. There will no longer be several first, second or third place ribbons. Honor Award ribbons will be given to 10% of total entries received in each category.
- **Club Awards:** Clubs will receive first, second, third place in each class of each category based on the sum of their 4 scores per competition. Medal Awards will be given at the end of the year to the clubs having the highest cumulative scores for the three competitions for each category in each class at the end of the season.
- **End of Year Individuals and Clubs:** First, second, and third place photographs in each class of the three categories for all three season's competitions will be eligible to compete for an award in the "Color Image of the Year," "Nature Image of the Year" or "Monochrome Image of the Year" competition. In addition, one of the above five image of the year winners will be selected to receive the Daniel Charbonnet Memorial Photograph of the Year award. Eligible entries will be sent to a judge outside of New England for judging.

Additional Information

If you have any questions, please contact the NECCC Digital Interclub Competition Co-directors:

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