

Coastal Camera Club Competition Rules

May 2020

Section 1: General

- A. The Competition Committee of no less than three members is responsible for conducting club competitions, and developing, interpreting, and enforcing the Competition Rules of the Coastal Camera Club (CCC).
- B. The Club President appoints the Competition Chairperson. For the 2019-2020 Program Year, Marta Nammack is the Chairperson and may be contacted via eMail at mnammack@gmail.com.
- C. Monthly Competitions will be held from September through April. A Final Competition of the Year will be held the second Wednesday in May.
- D. Members in good standing may enter CCC competitions.
- E. The Competition Committee will place members into one of three groups (B, A, or Masters) for competitions. New club members will be placed in Group B unless additional information (e.g., professional photographers, PSA, acceptance in juried exhibits, other recognition and awards, and/or portfolio review) indicates placement in Group A or Masters Group. The usual progression is Group B to Group A to Masters Group.
 - 1. Progression to the next group will be determined at the completion of the competition year based upon the member having demonstrated the ability to compete at a more advanced level. In making this determination, factors such as average scores and number of entries will be considered.
 - 2. A member who has entered at least fifty percent (50%) of the scheduled competitions in any one year and has not placed (First, Second, or Third) in any of the competitions entered may request a return to their previous group.
- F. Competition Types:
 - 1. PROJECTED DIGITAL COMPETITIONS are competitions where the digital image submitted by the member is scored using the projection of that image. No prints are used in scoring.
 - 2. PRINT COMPETITIONS are competitions where a member submits a print that is scored after viewing in a light box. Anyone submitting a print for competition must also submit a digital image in order for members to view the digital image on our projection screen. The judges score only the print, not the projected image.
 - 3. DIGITAL IMAGES refers to the jpeg images that must be supplied for both types of competitions no later than 11:59 pm EST on the Wednesday of the week prior to the scheduled competition.
- G. The competition schedule for the entire program is published on the CCC website at least one month prior to the start of the competition program.
- H. Each month a member may submit up to two images, with no more than one image per category for that month.
- I. A print or digital image that has placed in CCC competition may not be re-entered in a monthly competition. A print or digital image that has NOT won an award may be re-entered in other competitions.

Section 2: Competition Categories and Restrictions

A. General Rules:

1. For all categories, the final result must begin with an original image or series of images that were captured by the maker either digitally or on film.
2. No elements may be added to images in the Assigned Pictorial, Open Nature, Open Color, and Open Mono categories. See Section 2.B.2 for more details on what can and cannot be done in the Open Nature category.
3. Images entered must be the sole work of the submitting member, with one exception for the Anything Goes category (see Section 2.B.6). Commercially available textures, backgrounds, vector objects, and clip art (e.g., Topaz, Alien Skin, Snapseed, Smart Photo Editor) that have been purchased, borrowed from another photographer, and/or downloaded from the internet are considered elements that have not been originally created by the submitting member and, therefore, are disallowed in every category except Anything Goes.
4. HDR and focus stacking are allowed in all categories.
5. There are no time limitations in any category as to when the photograph was shot.

B. Competition Categories:

There are five (5) Competition Categories available each month (see Competition Schedule as published on the CCC website for specific categories):

1. **Assigned Pictorial (Color or Monochromatic):** An Assigned Pictorial image expresses the “TOPIC” of the month (e.g., Lighthouses, Fences, and Landscapes).
2. **Nature (Color or Monochromatic):** Nature Photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict the natural environment as seen through the camera. Although the category has no assigned topics, the strict rules of the Nature category apply. Human elements shall NOT be present in the image. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals, however, are permissible.

I. Allowed Techniques:

- a) Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content and without altering the content of the original scene
- b) Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches
- c) Cropping
- d) Color images can be converted to grey-scale monochrome
- e) HDR and focus stacking
- f) Stitched images
- g) All allowed adjustments must appear natural

II. Not Allowed:

- a) Techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements
- b) Textures or substituted backgrounds

3. **Open Color:** The photograph is not monochromatic.
4. **Open Mono:** The photograph is monochromatic, having only tones or shades of one color. Toning is allowed (e.g., black and white, sepia), but the image must be on a scale of one color. For example, a photograph toned blue may not have black or white in it.
5. **Creative:** In this category, the image(s) contains an extra element(s) intentionally used to change the image from its original state. It is an extension of conventional photography into creative art. Its purpose is to stimulate creative thoughts and encourage experimentation with new ideas going beyond a simple photograph. The element(s) in a Creative image are recognizable, but in an unusual way. Computer enhancements, darkroom enhancements, trick or special lenses, in-camera manipulation, image processing software (e.g., Photoshop, Lightroom), and any recognized or experimental photographic process can be used in this category to produce an image that displays imaginative skill and originality of thought. However, all changes made to the original image(s) **MUST** be done by the maker (e.g., any incorporated textures, backgrounds, or presets must be produced by the photographer).
6. **Anything Goes:** In this category, anything goes (except that the image must originate from an image captured by the photographer, as stated in Section 2.A.1 for all categories). An image entered into this category can be abstract photographic art (e.g., splashes of color, or extreme closeups, etc.) that may or may not be recognizable or have an immediate association with the object world. It can incorporate recognizable elements with added textures, backgrounds, presets, painterly effects, etc. The photographer can create his or her own textures, backgrounds, presets, and painterly effects, or may use textures, backgrounds, presets, or painterly effects, etc., included in any commercially available software program(s). This is the only category where the photographer can incorporate an element(s) that is not his or her own work.

Section 3: Digital and Print Submissions

- A. Print and matting requirements for images submitted in PRINT COMPETITIONS are as follows:
1. All print entries **MUST** be single **MATTED**. Un-matted entries will **NOT** be accepted, nor will double (or more) mats, nor will dry mounted prints.
 2. The matted print must be mounted on smooth rigid backing material, such as foam board.
 3. The print, mat and backing board must be secured to prevent slippage.
 4. Maximum mat dimension on any one side is 20”.
 5. Allowable mat colors are white, off-white/ecru, and black.
 6. Single mats with standard cutout shapes, including oval and round are allowed.
 7. Framed images or images with glass fronts are not allowed.
 8. No signatures, copyright symbols, or watermarks on the image or mat are allowed.
 9. Submitted prints must have a completed CCC label (available on the CCC website) attached to its back (upper left hand side).
- B. Digital images must be submitted in both types of competition and **MUST** conform to the following requirements:

1. Size of longest side: maximum of 1400 pixels
 2. Color Space: sRGB
 3. File Format: JPEG
 4. Submission deadline of digital images for all competitions: not later than 11:59 pm EST on the Wednesday of the week prior to the scheduled competition.
- C. Borders are allowed, except in the Nature Category, unless it is necessary to use a thin white border to separate the background of a dark image from the competition software background. It is strongly recommended that a thin white line border be used in all categories to distinguish the boundaries of an image with a substantially dark background from the black background of the competition software.
- D. Image Review:
1. A panel of Competition Committee members will review the images uploaded to monthly contests within 36 hours after the contest closes and report to the Committee Chairperson any possible non-conformance with a category rule for further research by the Committee Chairperson or his/her designee.
 2. Members found to have non-conforming images will be given until the Monday prior to the competition date to withdraw the image, replace it with a conforming image, or enter the image in an appropriate category if available. The image may be used in a future competition provided it meets the category requirements.

Section 4: Scoring and Judging of Competitions

- A. When appropriate and feasible, an electronic scoring system using keypads will be used for competition, and scores of the individual judges, as well as the total score, will be shown during competition.
- B. There will be three judges for monthly competitions, comprised of two or three member judges and up to one non-member judge.
- C. In case of ties when two or more images receive identical scores, duplicate awards (multiple first through third place) will be assigned, except for the Year End Competition, in which case ties for first place will be broken.
- D. Three non-member judges will judge the Year End Competition.
- E. The following minimum points will be used when determining placement, regardless of the number of entries submitted for a category:
- | 1st Place | 2nd Place | 3rd Place |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 210 points | 180 points | 160 points |
- F. Members who are judging will not submit images in that month's competition.
- G. Members who volunteer in the print studio will be assigned in a manner so as not to judge prints in competitions that include prints they assisted in printing.
- H. Judges will not be told or shown the identity of the photographer. If the judge is positive he or she knows the photographer of an entry he or she is judging, the judge should score the entry 0. In that case, the other two scores will be averaged for the third score.

- I. Judges will comment on images that placed first, second and/or third during the competition and/or on photographs that provide a valuable learning experience.

Section 5: Grievances

- A. Any competition related grievances, such as for procedural issues or an image believed to be inappropriate for the category, **MUST** be made to the Competition Committee Chairperson within seven days after the competition.
- B. During the investigative phase, the Competition Chairperson or her/his designee (in the case of an extended absence) will review the grievance and, if another member is involved, that member will be given an opportunity to respond.
- C. During the decision phase, the Competition Committee will review the grievance, responses and other relevant documents and then decide on the matter. The Competition Committee Chairperson will report back to the member initiating the grievance and other members, if any, who were impacted in the case of score/award changes.
- D. Except in unusual circumstances, grievances will be resolved within two weeks from the date the grievance is received.
- E. The decision of the Competition Committee is final. No further grievance can be filed during the competition year with regard to the challenged image unless new information becomes known that was not known at the time of the original challenge.
- F. Grievances are not permitted against member judges or outside judges.
- G. The Competition Committee has the mission and authority to conduct a competition following CCC rules and may try to resolve complaints informally before it reaches the final stage of the grievance process.
- H. Due to the potentially sensitive and confidential nature of grievances, and to protect the identity of members submitting the grievance and involved directly or peripherally, all communications regarding the grievance **MUST** be channeled through the Competition Committee Chairperson or her/his designee.
- I. A report of all grievances filed and actions taken will be made by the Competition Chairperson at the next monthly Board of Directors meeting following the competition.
- J. The Competition Chairperson will report a summary of the grievance and the resolution to members in the next E-newsletter.

Section 6: Year End Awards and Recognition

- A. The Year End Competition will be comprised of all First Place images from the eight monthly competitions, organized by Digital and Print Groups (B, A, and Masters) and Category (Assigned Pictorial, Nature, Open Color, Open Mono and Creative/Abstract). Awards will be given for First, Second and Third Place.
- B. Any ties will be broken.
- C. In a closed scoring session after the general meeting, two “Photographs of the Year” (one print and one digital) will be determined from among the First Place category winners of the B, A, and Masters Groups by the three judges.

- D. In addition to the above awards, the Competition Committee will determine three “Photographers of the Year,” one each from B, A, and Masters Groups, based entirely on total accumulated points of images having placed (First, Second, or Third) in all monthly competitions for the program year. In order to offset any disadvantage to a member who served as a judge for a monthly competition and was therefore not able to compete, the average of the judge’s total accumulated points during the year will be multiplied by the proportion of images in which the member placed, and that number will be added to the judge’s total accumulated points for images that placed.¹
- E. Photographers will receive a “Versatile Photographer” award if they have placed first in at least one category, and first, second or third in each of the other categories.
- F. Other awards may be made at the discretion of the Competition Committee.
- G. Awards will be announced at the annual Awards Banquet.

Section 7. Exclusion from Competition

A person may be precluded from entering competitions, for all or some period, if he or she violates the competition rules in a manner that goes to the integrity of the process. The decision to recommend that a person be precluded from competing will be made by a majority vote of the Competition Committee and presented to the Board of Directors for final decision.

¹ If the judge regularly submits two entries per competition, this number will be added twice to arrive at an estimate of the accumulated points the member would have earned had he or she entered the competition. Example: A member enters two images in each of seven competitions and judges one competition (and therefore cannot submit two images that night). This member has a total accumulated point value for images that placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd of 1800. The average of points received for the 14 submitted images is 230. Of the 14 images entered during monthly competitions, 7 placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd (50%). So, the estimate of the accumulated points the member would have earned equals $1800 + (0.5)(230)(2)$, which equals 2030.