

Overview

The club board of directors will plan a schedule of events including competitions and publish a schedule early in the calendar year. Typically, there will be a minimum of 5 internal competitions per year. External inter club competitions and rules will be announced separately. Each competition will consist of three sub categories, one open and two themed. The themes will be provided on the [club web site](#). Relevance to the theme will be considered in judging an image.

Who May Compete

Any Member of the Cape Cod Art Center may compete in Camera Club competitions. However, you must also be a member of the camera club and you will need to request an account on the camera club web site to receive our email updates and upload images to our competitions. This is separate web site and process from Art Center competitions that are not run by the camera club.

Competition Levels

In each competition format and category, members will compete in four levels:

Bronze

Silver

Gold

Platinum

Members will be placed in levels based on their cumulative points earned in club competitions (see below).

New Members

The purpose of the levels is to facilitate fair competition among members with similar skill levels. By default, new members will be placed in the Bronze level. If the new member has competed in another club and has achieved a level above the entry level for that club, the Competition Chair may place them in the Silver category and award them the minimum points for that level.

If they do not have a standing in another camera club, the competition chair will have the right to request a portfolio review consisting of no less than 5 prints that are representative of the quality of their work before they will be placed in the Silver category.

Competition Judges

There will be a single outside judge for each competition. The judge will be one listed in the NECCC and PSA rosters, or a photographer, photojournalist, artist, or other non-club member knowledgeable in the field of photography or painting. The competition Chair will review the

club's competition formats, categories and scoring with the judge in advance of the competition.

If a judge fails to appear on competition night, a member of the Gold or Platinum class who does not have an image entered in that competition will be selected by the competition chair. If there are no candidates who don't have an entry, then multiple judges may be selected so that no one judge reviews a category where they have an entry.

Scoring

Each image will be judged on a score of 5 to 10 points, 10 being best. In the case of ties, the judge will resolve them by ranking the images with the same score for the purpose of making awards.

Competition Awards

Awards will be given for first, second and third place, plus honorable mentions based on the score, plus the ranking for ties. Ribbons will be given to winners. Each level and category combination will be judged separately, except as noted below, for a maximum of 12 competitions (four levels times three categories).

The number of awards will be based on the number of entries with a minimum of 5 entries in each level/category combination. The number of awards will be selected from the table below:

Number of Entries	Awards
< 5	Combine Levels ¹
5	1 st , 1HM
6-8	1 st , 2 nd , 1HM
9-11	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 1HM
12-17	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 2HM
18-23	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 3HM
24-29	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4HM
30-35	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 5HM
>36	Add one HM per 6 entries

Note 1: In the case of less than 5 entries in a level/category combination, the levels will be overridden and the entries combined into an adjacent competition level with the same category. For example, if bronze/open has 1-4 entries, those images will be combined with the silver/open group. Similarly, 1-4 entries in platinum/open would be combined with gold/open.

In the case of silver or gold having only 1-4 images, those entries will be combined with the adjacent level that has the fewest entries for that category. For example, if in the

open category bronze has 10 entries, silver has 3 and gold has 20, the 3 silver/open entries would be combined with the bronze/open entries. However, for the open category with 20 bronze, 3 silver and gold 10, the 3 silver/open entries would be combined with gold/open. This would apply similarly for other categories or the gold level.

Points will be awarded for each ribbon as follows: first 5 points, second 3 points, third 2 points and honorable mention 1 point. Members will be placed in levels based on their cumulative points earned in club competitions per the table below:

Level	Points
Bronze	0-24
Silver	25-49
Gold	50-89
Platinum	>= 90

Advancing to the Next Level

A member will advance to the next higher level when they have achieved points equal to or greater than the minimum for the next level. For example, when a Bronze member achieves 25 or more points, they will advance to the Silver level for future competitions. Similarly, Silver and Gold members will advance at 50 and 90 points or more respectively.

Competition Formats

There are two formats, Digital (projected images) and Prints. The web site will identify which categories/themes are in which format. There can be no watermark or signature on images submitted to club competitions. Do not include your name or other identifying information in the title of the image.

Digital Image Preparation and Submission

All images submitted to a competition need to have a digital version uploaded to the club web site. This includes print images. Instructions for uploading are on the web site. Digital images shall be in jpeg format with a size that is normally a maximum of 1400 pixels wide and a maximum of 1050 pixels high, however, the competition limit on the upload page for each competition can change this size. The limits on the upload page are the controlling dimensions if they differ from this document. For best image quality, it is recommended that you size your images to be within the competition limit. If you do not, this is what will happen:

- If the image is over the maximum system size it will get reduced to the maximum size when it is stored on the server. The current maximum size is identified on the upload

page.

- If the image is smaller than the system maximum, it will be saved on the server in the size that you upload.
- If the image on the server is over the competition size at the time of the competition, the Image Competition Manager program will resize the image so that it is within the competition limits when it is displayed for judging. It will not change the size on the server.

The cutoff date for submission of the digital files will be identified on the web site and the software will preclude you from uploading after the closing date. While the competition is open, you can replace or remove an image in the competition. When uploading your image, the web site will take off the .jpg extension and use the file name as the default title. You can override this in the upload process, however, it is requested that when you export for upload that you make the file name be just the title for your image. Do not include your name, competition name, date, or any other information in the file name, just the title with the .jpg extension.

Print Preparation and Submission

For print competitions, in addition to uploading a digital version, you will also need to bring a print on the night of the competition. If you do not bring a print to the competition, the digital version you uploaded will be removed from the competition and will not be judged. Judging and scoring will be based on the physical print, not the digital image. The print and the digital image uploaded must be from the same master. Once the digital version is uploaded to the competition, you **cannot** substitute a different print on the night of the competition. You can however, delete or replace the digital version right up until the closing time for the competition.

Prints for competitions may be submitted in one of the following sizes.

Note aspect ratio is the ratio of the long dimension to the short dimension. For example a 35 mm negative which is 24 mm by 35 mm has an aspect ratio of approximately 3 to 2 or 1.5. Since this is less than 2, it is not considered a panorama. A printed image of 8 inches by 16 inches has an aspect ratio of 2 to 1 which would be considered a panorama for our competitions.

Non panorama (less than 2 to 1 aspect ratio):

16 x 20 inch (outside dimensions) mat with rectangular image no less than 10 inches on the longest dimension and no less than 6 inches on the shortest dimension.

Panorama (equal to or greater than 2 to 1 aspect ratio):

16 x 20 inch (outside dimensions) mat with the image no less than 16 inches on the long dimension and no less than 4 inches on the short dimension.

13 x 22 inch (outside dimensions) mat with the image no less than 18 inches on the long dimension and no less than 4.5 inches on the short dimension. *Note this size mat can not be utilized in the tri-club competitions.*

We have endeavored to allow the members some latitude for panoramic images. However, recognizing that many members only have 13 x 19 inch printers, the 13 x 22 inch mat was selected allowing an 18 inch print size. Sometimes large prints are perceived to have more impact than a smaller print, regardless of the merits of the image. To keep the competitions fair, the maximum mat size of 13 x 22 was selected, based on the lowest common denominator of 13 x 19 inch for what are considered photographic quality printers.

White mats are highly recommended over colored mats. Clear plastic sleeves over the matted image must be removed for judging. All prints must be matted with a backing board and the image securely mounted to avoid misalignment during judging. The image and mat shall not be signed in any way on the face of the matted image, i.e. no watermarks or signatures. The matting and presentation of the image will be considered in the scoring.

The web site software includes a label printing utility for printed images. There are instructions on the web site for printing labels. Print the label from the system and if using plain paper, cut the label down to size and attach with tape. There is an option to use Avery labels if you prefer, but they are not required. Place the label on the lower right hand corner of the back of the print when the print is orientated in the proper position for viewing. If you change your image during the time the competition is open, make sure that the label matches the final image you submitted.

The print, with its label attached, should be brought on the night of the competition at least 15 minutes before the meeting start time for check in.

Number of Entries

For each competition, a member may submit a maximum of three entries, however, no more than two in any category. Entries in both digital and print formats will be counted for this purpose.

Ineligible Entries

Entries which have won third place or better in previous competitions of this club during the current or any prior competition year, regardless of the format or category, shall be ineligible for resubmission in a subsequent club competition. If there is a question on resubmitting a derivative image that has been substantially changed, the member must review this with the competition chairman prior to the night of the judging.

Image Submission Guidelines

The content of your image should meet the following:

Sky replacements, textures and other forms of compositing may be allowed in certain categories. However, in all cases all elements, must be your own work. Non-photographic elements like drawings are not allowed. When textures are permitted, they must be based on an image captured by the maker.

Check the Category Guidelines document on the web site for more information on current

year categories.

Photographs of another person's artwork – statues, paintings, floral arrangements, etc. - are not allowed. Art work may appear in your image as part of a scene, but it cannot be the subject.

Contact the competition chair if you have questions about your image.

Copyright Protection

As part of the routine operation of the club, members submit their images to the Club in print or digital format for competitions, both at the Club and the inter-club level, as well as for display to the public, both physically and on the web site. Images submitted to the Club typically contain a copyright that belongs to the maker of the image. It is the responsibility of the maker to protect their copyright. It is also the responsibility of the maker to obtain any necessary permissions or releases from third parties, e.g. subjects or property owners, before submitting an image to the Club for any form of public display. Unless the maker specifies otherwise, images may be retained by the Club for further use or display, such as the Club web site, inter-club competitions or public exhibitions.