

## COMPETITION RULES FOR NBCC – Effective September 2011

Revised 2011-07-02

### ALL COMPETITORS, BY THE ACT OF SUBMITTING IMAGES INTO COMPETITION, ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY HAVE READ AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE LETTER AND THE “SPIRIT” OF THESE RULES:

- Scheduled Competitions.** A competition will be held monthly September through May in each category (see Rule 7) in which at least three entries are submitted. One-third of the entries in each category, rounded to the nearest third and with a maximum of 10, will receive awards: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, with the remaining awards given Honorable Mention. When only one or two entries are submitted in a category, no award will be given, but the judge will be asked to critique the images.
- Eligible Members.** Competitors must be members of the North Bethesda Camera Club with dues paid in full.
- Eligible Entries.** Each image entered into competition must consist solely of photograph(s) captured by the competitor using a camera no earlier than the date specified in the competition assignment.

#### The following examples are **not eligible** for any competition:

- any part of any image created or customized by someone else;
  - any part of any image created outside the allowed date range;
  - image elements not of photographic origin including text, lines or shapes, with one exception: one thin line surrounding the entire image and colored black, white, or neutral gray may be added to images in all categories including Traditional;
  - anything scanned other than the competitor's photographic print or film.
- Processing.** Standard commercial processing and printing may be performed by an outside service. However, all custom processing including manual optimization and any image manipulation must be performed by the competitor. For example, optimization performed by professionals or expert friends could give an unfair advantage, and is prohibited.
  - Number of Entries.** Each competitor may submit up to four (4) total entries in each monthly competition, but no more than two (2) prints and no more than two (2) electronic images. The penalty for violating this rule will be the disqualification (forfeiture of awards and points) of all of that competitor's entries for that month.

- Repeat and Similar Images.** An image may be entered into monthly competitions no more than once per month, no more than three (3) times ever; and never after the image wins any NBCC competition award, including Honorable Mention. A “closely similar image” (one that depicts a similar subject from a similar perspective and under similar circumstances) is considered to be the same image under this rule. For example, photographs with only minor changes in the scene, composition, point of view, lighting, exposure and treatment are treated as the same image for repeated entry purposes. The penalty for violating this rule is disqualification (forfeiture of awards and points) of the original and repeated entries in the current competition year.
- Competition Categories.** Competitions are held in eight categories, consisting of **four groups each with two levels**:

		Print				Electronic Image				
		no more than two (2) entries per month				no more than two (2) entries per month				
GROUP	LEVEL	Traditional Print		Unrestricted Print		Traditional Electronic Image		Unrestricted Electronic Image		
		Novice	or	Advanced	Novice	or	Advanced	Novice	or	Advanced
CATEGORY		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	

- Novice Traditional Print** (Rules 9 & 11)
  - Advanced Traditional Print (Rules 9 & 11)
  - Novice Unrestricted Print (Rules 10 & 11)
  - Advanced Unrestricted Print (Rules 10 & 11)
  - Novice Traditional Electronic Image** (Rules 9 & 12)
  - Advanced Traditional Electronic Image (Rules 9 & 12)
  - Novice Unrestricted Electronic Image (Rules 10 & 12)
  - Advanced Unrestricted Electronic Image (Rules 10 & 12)
- Novice and Advanced Levels.** The four competition groups are each divided into Novice and Advanced levels to foster competition among members of similar capability. The term “Novice” in the names of these categories does not imply beginner status. Instead, the Novice categories are intended for all competitors below the Advanced level. Competitors determine for themselves at which level they will compete within each group, and are encouraged to settle into the appropriate level and remain there for the duration of the competition year. A member may compete at Novice level in one group (such as Traditional Print) and Advanced level in another (such as Unrestricted Electronic Image), **but not at both levels within the same group**. Novice and Advanced winners in each format are combined for the year-end competition. Star Points are earned only for winners in Advanced categories.

9. **Traditional Categories.** Entries in the four Traditional categories must be created by one single exposure in the camera. **Monochrome** infrared captures are permitted. Traditional images must not be manipulated (whether in camera, computer, or darkroom) beyond the allowable adjustments listed below:

- Clone or heal up to 2 percent of the image area, using pixels within the single image to repair minor defects but not to replicate or enhance elements.
- Burning and dodging.
- Brightness, contrast, highlight and shadow detail adjustments.
- Cropping and rotating.
- Color correction (but not significant alteration).
- Color saturation (but not significant alteration).
- Converting a color image entirely to a uniform monochrome (i.e., only one hue), including simulated infrared.
- Perspective and lens correction.
- Sharpening.

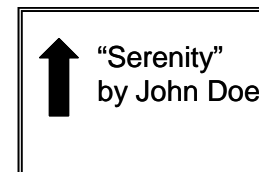
**The following examples are not acceptable in Traditional Images:**

- Combining more than one exposure, even if a single image is generated automatically by the camera from a single press of the shutter release.
- Use of any adjustment process or manipulation not listed above, including “creative” digital filters, blurring, distorting, unrealistic color, unrealistic brightness or contrast, partial-image conversion to monochrome.

10. **Unrestricted Categories.** Entries in the four Unrestricted categories are not subject to the restrictions of Rule 9, but may adhere to them at the competitor’s option. Manipulation is neither required nor prohibited. Images may combine multiple exposures, including but not limited to compositing of different scenes, pano stitching, focus fusing, and merging bracketed exposures for high dynamic range. If more than one exposure is combined to create the final image, every image component must be fully compliant with all applicable rules (including assignment date restrictions and originating in a camera). “Creative” digital filters that manipulate existing photographic pixels (e.g., brush strokes, posterize, add noise) are permitted. **Digital filters and painting techniques that artificially create new image elements (not of photographic origin) in violation of Rule 3 are prohibited.**

11. **Print Presentation.** The photograph as displayed, not including optional mat or border, must be **at least 5 inches in height and width and at least 71 square inches in area.** E.g., commercial 8 by 10 inch mat openings (actually 7.5” x 9.5”) satisfy this minimum. The print must be mounted on a rigid board having thickness 1/4 inch or less. Print and board must not exceed 16 by 20 inches. If a mat is used, it must be securely attached to the front of the mount board at both top and bottom. The print must not be framed. Identifying marks such as name or title must not appear on the front. Two or more images mounted on the same board are considered a single entry.

The back of the mounting board must be free of all conflicting markings. The competitor’s name and image title must be very clearly printed on the back of the mount with a prominent arrow indicating the “up” orientation. The print will be displayed as indicated by the arrow. Nothing is permitted to be on the back of the board that could possibly damage another print (such as metal, exposed adhesive, loose labels or tape).



12. **Electronic Image Submission.** Electronic images are computer files which are presented on screen using a digital projector. The Electronic Image Submission Guidelines and the Electronic Image Archive Policy are posted on the NBCC web site ([www.nbccmd.org](http://www.nbccmd.org)) and are subject to revision. Competitors must comply with all guidelines and consent to all policies, and should review the latest information before submitting.

13. **Year-end Competition.** Any photograph which has won a monthly competition award during the year (including Honorable Mention) is eligible to enter the year-end competition. Prints submitted to this competition must be the exact same prints as originally presented with the NBCC award sticker on the back of the mounting board. Winning electronic images are automatically submitted for the year-end competition by the Competition Committee.

14. **Sanctions.** Violations are determined by the Competition Image Review Committee or Competition Committee Chairperson. Violation of any competition rule will result in the disqualification of the offending entry. Any entry disqualified after judging begins will still count as having been entered for purposes of Rule 6. Disqualified entries that won awards will forfeit awards and points. The Board of Directors may take further corrective action to maintain fairness for all competitors. Prior to entering, each competitor is responsible for resolving any uncertainty, such as a questionable entry or clarifying a rule, with the Competition Image Review Committee or Competition Committee Chairperson.