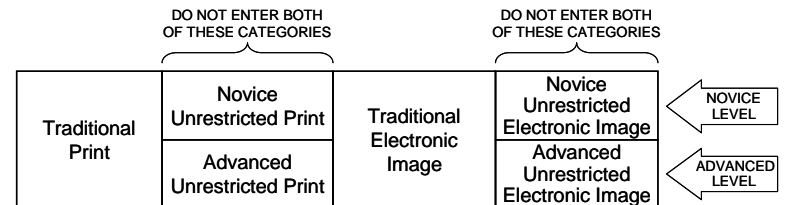


**COMPETITION RULES FOR NBCC
Effective September 2010**

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:

1. **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.
2. **Eligible Members.** Competitors must be members of the North Bethesda Camera Club with dues paid in full.
3. **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 artificially added including text, lines or shapes;
 - anything scanned other than the competitor's photographic print or film.
4. **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.
5. **Number of Entries.** Each competitor may submit up to four (4) total entries in each monthly competition, but no more than two (2) electronic images and no more than two (2) prints. 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.

6. **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.
7. **Categories of Competition.** There are six categories as listed below. Traditional and Unrestricted are defined in Rules 9 and 10.
 - Print categories accept photographic prints (see Rule 11).
 - **Traditional Print**
 - **Novice Unrestricted Print**
 - **Advanced Unrestricted Print**
 - Electronic Image categories accept computer files (see Rule 12).
 - **Traditional Electronic Image**
 - **Novice Unrestricted Electronic Image**
 - **Advanced Unrestricted Electronic Image**
8. **Novice and Advanced Levels.** Unrestricted Print and Unrestricted Electronic Image photographers compete at two levels: Novice and Advanced. 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. A member may compete at Novice level in one area (such as Novice Unrestricted Print) and Advanced level in another in which they have more expertise (such as Advanced Unrestricted Electronic Image). Members are encouraged to settle into the appropriate level and remain there for the duration of the competition year.



9. **Traditional Images.** The Traditional Print and Traditional Electronic Image competition categories are for photographs which are not manipulated. Each image must be created by one single exposure in the camera. Infrared and color infrared as captured by a camera are permitted. Allowable adjustments (including in-camera) are limited to the following:

- 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.
- Adding one thin border (stroke) surrounding the entire image and colored black, white, or neutral gray.

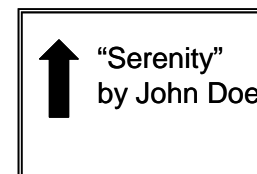
The following examples are not acceptable in Traditional Images:

- 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 Images.** 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). Digital 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 like pixilation, brush strokes, and add noise are permitted; but text, lines, shapes and objects must not be added unless they are from the competitor’s photographs made within the date limits.

11. **Print Presentation.** The photograph as displayed (not including optional mat or border) must be at least 80 square inches in area (e.g., 8 x 10) and no less than 5 inches on any side. The print must be mounted on a rigid board having thickness 1/4 inch or less. Neither print nor board may 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. Specific guidelines for electronic image competition files and submission are posted on the NBCC Web site (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 Club award during the competition 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.