

COMPETITION RULES FOR NBCC

September 13, 2023

ALL ENTRANTS, BY THE ACT OF SUBMITTING IMAGES, ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY HAVE READ AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE LETTER AND THE "SPIRIT" OF THESE RULES:

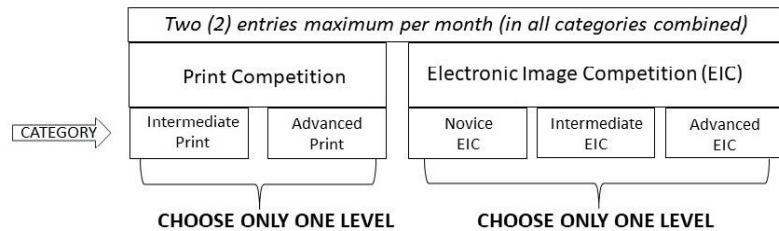
1. **Scheduled Competitions.** Competitions will be held monthly September through May in each competition category (see Rule 7) in which at least three entries are submitted. One-third of the entries in a competition category, rounded to the nearest third, will receive awards: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, with the remaining awards given Honorable Mention. When only one or two entries are submitted in a competition category, no award will be given, however, the judge will be asked to critique the images. Participation in NBCC Competition is reserved for eligible members who regularly attend the competition meetings they enter. If a member cannot attend a competition meeting, they must provide information about their image(s) to a surrogate (an attending member) who will speak on behalf of the photographer in the event their entry(ies) place or a question is raised.
2. **Eligible Members.** Entrants must be members of the North Bethesda Camera Club with dues paid in full.
3. **Eligible Entries.** Each image entered must consist solely of photograph(s) captured by the member using a camera. For entries into the five competition categories (see Rule 7), the photographs must have been captured no earlier than the date specified in the competition assignment.

North Bethesda Camera Club supports artistic freedom of expression. Depictions of the human body have a long history in art. For this reason, nudity is not prohibited as long as it is presented in a tasteful manner. However, images that are deemed pornographic or distastefully graphic will be ruled ineligible at the discretion of the Competition Committee whose decision is final.

The following examples are not eligible for any competition:

- an image with any portion photographed or modified by someone other than the member.
 - images of other people's works of art (2D or 3D) may be disqualified if they are merely a 'record shot' of the art. The entry must clearly reflect the photographer's personal artistic vision and interpretive composition.
 - 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.
 - anything scanned other than the member's photographic print or film.
4. **Processing.** Standard commercial processing and printing may be performed by an outside service. However, any custom processing, manual optimization, and image manipulation must be performed by the member. For example, optimization performed by professionals or expert friends could give an unfair advantage and are prohibited. Manipulation is neither required nor prohibited. "Creative" digital filters that manipulate existing photographic pixels (e.g., brush strokes, posterization, added noise) are permitted. Digital filters and painting techniques that add new image elements in violation of Rule 3 are prohibited; this includes applying textures or incorporating components (such as skies) not originally photographed by the member.
 5. **Number of Entries.** Each member may submit no more than two (2) competition images per 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 the same 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, perspective, lighting, exposure and processing are treated as the same image for repeated entry purposes.

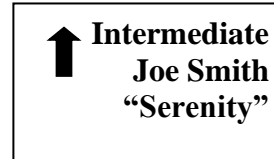
7. **Categories.** There are five competitive categories: two print and three electronic. The competitive categories typically have date restrictions, monthly assignments, and awards are given at each competition level.



8. **Novice, Intermediate and Advanced Levels.** The five competitive categories described in Rule 7 are divided into levels (Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced) to foster competition among members of similar capability. The term “Novice” does not imply beginner status. There is no Novice Print category. The Intermediate Print category is intended for all print competitors below the Advanced level. Members determine for themselves at which level they will compete depending on their self-assessed capabilities and are encouraged to settle into the appropriate levels and remain there for the duration of the competition year. A member may compete at one level in Prints and a different level in Electronic, but not at multiple levels within Prints or at multiple levels within Electronic. Any Intermediate competitor who finishes the year in 1st or 2nd place in any two program years must move to the next higher level the following year.

9. **Print Presentation.** The mounted print may be no smaller than 80 square inches in area (for example, 8” x 10”). Panoramic prints may be creatively cropped as long as no side is less than 5 inches in length. An optional mat may cover part of the 80 square inch minimum area with up to ¼-inch border covering the image. The print must be securely mounted on a rigid board having thickness ¼-inch or less. Print and board must not exceed 16” x 20”. If a mat is used, it also 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.

The back of the print mount board must be free of all conflicting markings. The Submission Level, Member’s Name and Print Title must be very clearly printed on the back of the mount board 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 front or back of the board that could possibly damage another print (such as metal, exposed adhesive, loose labels or tape).



10. **Image File Submission.** Image files (JPGs) are to be submitted regardless of whether the category is Print or Electronic. Identifying marks such as name or title must not appear on the image. The image files for Electronic Competition categories may be previewed by the judge prior to the competition meeting. However, the image files (JPGs) for Print Competition will only be viewed by the judge if there cannot be a face-to-face meeting with actual mounted prints. Print JPGs will not be previewed by the judge prior to competition if there is a face-to-face judging. The image files for all winning submissions, Print and Electronic, will be posted on our website and may be used for club activities, such as proposals for exhibits. If a member does not wish to have his or her image displayed and be available for club usage, he or she must opt out by informing the Competition Chair. Details on preparing the image files for all submissions are provided in Image File Preparation and Submission Guidelines.
11. **Year-End Competition.** Image files of all winning Electronic competitions are automatically submitted by the Competition Committee for Year-End Competition.

All winning Prints must be submitted to the Year-End Competition or the maker forfeits the points awarded during the monthly competition. If the award was given during an in-person meeting, mounted prints must be the exact same print as originally presented with the NBCC award sticker on the back of the mount board. If the award was given based on the JPG image file shown during a virtual meeting, the mounted print must be produced from the exact same image file that was judged. **NO PRINT / NO POINTS!**

12. **Sanctions.** Violations are determined by the Competition Committee or Chairperson. Violation of any competition rule will result in the disqualification of the entry. Entries that are disqualified retroactively will forfeit awards and points. The penalty for violating Rule 5 will be the disqualification (forfeiture of awards and points) of all of that member's entries for that month. The penalty for violating Rule 6 is disqualification (forfeiture of awards and points) of the original and repeated entries for the current competition year. Any entry disqualified after judging begins will still count as having been entered for purposes of Rule 6. Those who are chronically absent may be asked by the Board of Directors to stop entering during that Club year. The Board of Directors may take further corrective action to maintain fairness for all competitors. Prior to entering, each member is responsible for resolving any uncertainty, such as a questionable entry or clarifying a rule, with the Competition Committee or Chairperson.