

**Bainbridge Island Photo Club Competition
Organization and General Rules
(Approved 2009)**

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Rules

There Are Five Category Rules for General, Creative, and Special

Panoramas are a special deal, which will be covered separately in the following section, below.

1. Every member is entitled to 24 entries for the year and gets 24 entry slips. Any entry slip can be used in any month for any category (Special, General, Creative).
2. A member can enter up to six images in any one competition month. Any Specials must comply with the Special Subject for the month when entered.
3. The Overall Award is based on your best (highest scoring) 18 images for the year, without regard to category.
4. The Creative Award is based on your best six Creative entries.
5. The Special Award is based on your highest-scoring six Specials.

There are no other judging rules.

Some Examples

You could, for example, enter 4 images each competition month, perhaps 1 Special, 2 Generals, and 1 Creative. Or you could enter all Specials, or all Generals, or all Creative, or any other combination.

You could completely ignore Creative, or Special, and still fully compete for the remaining Awards.

We no longer use the term "makeup", but you have great flexibility to spread your entries over the year to meet your needs. You might, for example, want to enter 6 images in January, especially if you anticipate possibly missing other competition meetings later in the year. Someone else might skip January entirely, and enter 6 images in March and in May.

You could completely skip any 2 meetings, and still enter your full allotment of 24 images. You could even skip 3 meetings, and still enter enough images to win all the Awards.

To be fully competitive, you need to enter at least 18 images, including at least 6 Creatives, and including at least 6 Specials spread across at least 3 meetings. If you enter more images, or include more Specials, or more Creatives, you might improve your chances, since additional high scores will help you, but additional low scores won't count against you.

Do not enter more than six images in any month or more than 24 for the year. If you do, the *highest scoring* images over the limit will be disqualified.

Panoramas

You may enter up to two Panoramas in any one month with a limit of 6 for the year. They will be judged separately, will not count against the 6 image per meeting or the 24/18 image per year limits, and will not be counted in the overall image standing. They will have a separate award. The Panorama score is the sum of the highest-scoring 5 Panoramas. They are separate from General, Special, and Creative in every respect.

Meeting Dates

Club competitions are held bimonthly at the Club meetings in January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Image Eligibility

All images are to be made by the Club member on a photosensitive medium or device, either analog or digital. The images you submit must, of course, be exclusively your own work, from start to finish.

You alone should control all processing of the original image. Commercial processing is OK so long as you specify all details of the processing such as cropping, color, dodging, burning, compositing, etc.

You may submit an image more than once if the submissions differ in artistic rendition.

Digital and other manipulation of prints are OK. Again, the guiding rules are that the original image be produced on a photosensitive medium or device and all subsequent manipulation be done or directed solely by *YOU*.

Examples of eligible images:

- Plain vanilla photographs
- Digitally manipulated photos
- Photo collages and montages
- Hand-tinted photos
- Scanned images (provided they aren't scans of someone else's work).

Formats: Prints and Digital Projection

Print Format

1. Mount prints on mat or foam board no more than ¼ inch thick. Overmats are optional.
2. Identify images you submit on the back of the mount in the upper right hand corner with: (a) your name, (b) print title, (c) category (General / Special / Creative / Panorama), (d) an arrow pointing to the top of the print, and (e) the entry slip. Note: This means your name and title must be provided twice on the back of the print: On the label, and on a separate ID of some sort.
3. Don't put your name on the front of the print.
4. No frames, no protective coverings.
5. Non-panorama prints may be up to 16" x 20", and Panoramas up to 16" x 40", including mats.

Digital Projection Format

1. Detailed guidelines for Digital Projection are found on the Club website at http://www.biphotoClub.org/digital_projection.htm.
2. Images for projection should be in JPG; the longer dimension of the image should be 760 pixels.
3. Following competition, images submitted for digital projection may be posted on the Club website, where they may remain for a year or more. If you do not wish to have your image posted, so indicate when you submit it. (Covered further in the guidelines on the web.)
4. Improperly prepared, titled, or identified entries may not be accepted.
5. It doesn't make any sense to enter Panoramas for projection since they couldn't be any wider than the standard screen width.

Special Subjects

At each competition meeting, there is a Special subject, such as landscape, still life, fog, animals, etc.. This feature of the process is to encourage members to expand their capabilities by photographing subjects they might not otherwise undertake.

How To Submit Images

| | Image | Entry slip |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Print | Submit at the meeting at least 15 minutes before the meeting starts | Attach to the back of the print |
| Digital Projection | Submit by e-mail by midnight of the Friday before the meeting | Not needed |

Entry Slips

When you join or renew membership in the Club, you receive a complete set of entry slips for the year. Each has

- Your name (preprinted)
- Space for the image title
- Check box showing whether the image is General, Special, or Creative

You no longer need submit entry slips for digital images, only for prints. However, this means you are responsible for keeping track of how many entries you have left to make. If you enter too many images, the overage will be eliminated, and you will have no choice about which are eliminated.

How Judging Works

The VP Competition selects a critic and three judges for each competition meeting. Generally, the critic and judges are Club members, but outsiders are sometimes invited.

Each judge awards three to nine points to each image as shown below. This 3-9 scoring convention is in common use by other clubs and associations.

Scoring Guidelines

The descriptions below provide judges with a consistent understanding of what scores mean, and you, as a member, can see how your images are scored.

Some images may fit one of the descriptions below but also have other strengths or weaknesses. Judges will increase or decrease the score to account for these other strengths or weaknesses, including how well a Specials image fits the Special category. In the end, judges will use their *judgment*.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Score 3: Badly Flawed | The image would be unacceptable for most uses |
| Score 4: Somewhat Flawed | Usable, but with significant technical flaws |
| Score 5: A Good Record Shot | A good, clear image of a recognizable subject |
| Score 6: A Nice Snapshot | The sort of picture you might stick on your refrigerator |
| Score 7: A Pretty Picture | The sort of picture you might hang on the wall |
| Score 8: Especially Good | Causes you to pause and linger |
| Score 9: Strong Impact | A picture you wish you had taken |

Points earned at each competition meeting, regardless whether prints or digital projection, are cumulated over the year. There is no carryover from one year to the next. Accumulated points determine annual awards.

How Meetings Work

1. You prepare and identify your images prior to competition meetings, including entry slips.
2. Image logging begins 45 minutes before and ends 15 minutes before meeting time.
3. The President begins the meeting, generally at 7 PM.
4. Prints are judged before digital projection images so members can view them close-up during the mid-session break.
5. For each image:

- The scorekeeper announces the title.
 - Three judges rate it using the electronic scoring machine in the meeting room.
 - When all three judges have voted, a critic comments on the image.
 - The scorekeeper announces the photographer's name and the image score.
6. Midway in the meeting the members take a break for conversation, refreshments, and print viewing. After the break, judging and critique resume until all images are judged.
 7. When the meeting ends, you pick up your prints. The Club takes no responsibility for prints or other material you leave behind.
 8. The VP Competition collects entry, login, and scoring forms for processing and publication of results in the Club newsletter.
 9. The VP Competition forwards digital projection images to the webmaster for posting on the Club website. Members who have submitted prints are encouraged also to forward digital images of their prints to the webmaster for posting. Details are on the website.

Appendix: Behind the Scenes

This section is for reference by Club management. Other members are, of course, welcome to read, comment on, and question it.

Who's Responsible for What

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Board of Directors | All decisions about Club awards, based on judging points |
| President | Decides on members' requests to change competition level |
| VP Competition | All aspects of competition other than those noted above. <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Prepares forms for keeping records of Club members' competition performance– May appoint a Print Coordinator, a Digital Projection Coordinator and a Judging Coordinator– With the help of the Coordinators, organizes judging, recording, displaying, and critiquing of images– Performs tasks needed for Club digital projection competition including entry, logging, and presentation– Selects a critic and three judges for each competition meeting |
| Digital Projection Coordinator | Assists the VP by handling selected aspects of digital projection |
| Print Coordinator | Does what's needed for Club print competition including entry, logging, and presentation |
| Judging Coordinator | Arranges for judging and scoring, other than selecting critic and judges |

Coordinators are not responsible for competition activities outside the Club, such as those of Photographic Society of America (PSA) or Northwest Council of Camera Clubs (NWCCC). Coordinators may appoint assistants as they see fit.

Selecting Special Subjects

During September or earlier, the Vice-President, Competition appoints a committee of three who nominate 12 potential subjects. At the November meeting each Club member votes for up to six of the nominated subjects. The six highest scoring subjects become the Specials for the following year, starting with March and ending with January of the year after that. The VP Competition selects the month in which each subject appears.

How Judging Works

Scoring Guidelines (Complete)

The descriptions below provide judges with a consistent understanding of what scores mean. Some images may fit one of the descriptions below but also have other strengths or weaknesses.

Judges should increase or decrease the score to account for these other strengths or weaknesses. In the end, judges have to use their *judgment*.

- Score 3: Badly Flawed** The image would be unacceptable for most uses
The image has such serious technical flaws that most photographers would find it unacceptable.
- Score 4: Somewhat Flawed** Usable, but with significant technical flaws
It might be underexposed, overexposed, out of focus, or poorly composed.
- Score 5: A Good Record Shot** A good, clear image of a recognizable subject
Might include more than one subject without a clear center of interest. Technically competent, if not perfect. Adequate lighting and composition, though perhaps not the most aesthetically pleasing. A solid utilitarian photo.
- Score 6: A Nice Snapshot** The sort of picture you might stick on your refrigerator
A good image of an interesting subject, with pleasant lighting and composition. Technically good, with at most minor flaws. The sort of picture you would be happy to show your friends and relatives to explain some aspect of your life. Or the sort of picture you might post on your refrigerator or bulletin board to remind yourself of a pleasant occasion. Could have come from a series of photos used to tell the story of your vacation. Might be of lesser interest to other people who are unfamiliar with the people or events depicted.
- Score 7: A Pretty Picture** The sort of picture you might hang on the wall
A beautiful (or otherwise engaging) photograph of an attractive or interesting subject. Has wide appeal to a broad range of viewers. Technically excellent, with very good lighting and composition. The sort of picture you might expect to see hanging in a bank lobby or in your dentist's waiting room.
- Score 8: Especially Good** Causes you to pause and linger
Has all the virtues of the previous category plus some additional element which motivates you to spend a few more moments looking at the image to appreciate its merits. Might have a unique choice of subject, an especially creative composition, or very dramatic lighting. The technical excellence might have been achieved under particularly difficult circumstances. It might have an element of humor or intellectual challenge. The image might be described as "intriguing", or cause you to wonder how the photographer achieved that effect.
- Score 9: Strong Impact** A picture you wish you had taken
Has all the virtues of the previous category, and also creates an immediate emotional reaction. This image grabs your attention. Excellent in every respect. An image that sticks in your mind, and which you would enjoy seeing again and again. On a busy evening with 100 images, a judge might typically use this top score between one and ten times. Nevertheless, a judge evaluates each image on its own merits and let the numbers fall where they may.