

BALTIMORE CAMERA CLUB COMPETITION RULES

ELIGIBILITY

1. **Membership** - Members must be current on dues to be eligible for competitions.
2. **Rules Compliance** - Entries must comply with the rules for competition. Any questions regarding compliance will be addressed by the competition chairperson. The chairperson (or designee) will make the final decision regarding compliance.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

3. **Photographic Processes** - Images may be recorded by any recognized photographic process, including film, digital sensor or digital scanning.
4. **Originality** - The original photographic exposure or exposures (including textures, special effects and artifacts) used to create the final competition image must have been made by the competitor.
5. **Image Content** - Each entry must be a single unified image. Single unified images may be created from composites, collages or montages at the discretion of the maker. Entries may not consist of a series or sequence of discrete images unless specifically allowed for a given competition.
6. **Age of Work** - Entries must be the result of recent effort by the competitor, defined as processing and printing (if applicable) that has occurred within the last five years. Use of master exposures greater than five years old is allowed.

Note: See Print Entry Rules and Projected Digital Entry Rules below for specific requirements regarding each type of entry.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES AND GROUPS

7. **Competition Categories:**
 - **Color Print**
 - **Monochrome Print** – Images that consist of varying shades of grey (“black and white”) or varying shades of one color. Images displaying varying shades of more than one color (or grey plus one color) must be entered in the color print category.
 - **Projected Digital Images** - May be monochrome or color.
8. **Print Competition Groups:**
 - **Novice** - Members compete in the novice group within each print category until unlimited status is earned.
 - **Unlimited** - 100 competition points are required to earn unlimited status in each print category.
9. **Projected Digital Image Competition Groups**
 - **Novice** – Members compete in the novice group with the digital category until intermediate status is earned.
 - **Intermediate** - 50 competition points are required to earn intermediate status
 - **Unlimited** - 100 cumulative competition points are required to earn unlimited status.

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10. Advancement

- a. Advancement must be earned separately in each competition category: color print, monochrome print and projected digital.
- b. Advancement takes place at the next competition after the required number of cumulative points are earned.
- c. In lieu of earning 100 points, experienced photographers are encouraged to petition for advancement to the unlimited competition group. See the Competition Group Petition Process for further details.

MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

11. Timing and Frequency

- a. Print competitions (monochrome and color) and projected digital competitions are generally held once a month at separate meetings during the club competition year
- b. The club competition year begins in September and ends in May.

12. Themes - Competitions may be either open or themed as announced on the club calendar.

13. Entries per Competitor - A maximum of three entries are allowed per competition category.

- a. For print competitions, a total of six entries are allowed, three color and three monochrome.
- b. For digital competition, three entries are allowed.

14. Total Number of Entries per Competition Group - A minimum of nine entries are required in a competition group (for example Novice – Color Print) for monthly judging to occur.

- a. If there are 9 – 11 entries, three placements (first, second and third) and an honorable mention will be awarded.
- b. If there are 12 or more entries, five placements (first through fifth) and an honorable mention will be awarded.
- c. If there are less than 9 images in the novice print, novice digital or intermediate digital groups, the makers will be given the option of competing in a higher competition group. If an image places when competing in a higher competition group, that image will enter the year-end competition in the competition group matching the maker's status at the time of the monthly competition placement.

15. Competition Advancement Points are awarded based on placement are as follows:

Competition Placement	Competition Advancement Points
1st	13
2nd	8
3rd	5
4th	3
5th	2
Honorable Mention	1

16. Resubmission of Entries

- a. No print or digital image which has placed is eligible for any future Baltimore Camera Club monthly contests. This rule also applies to new images made from the same master exposure(s) as an image that has placed.
- b. Entries that do not place may be entered up to a maximum of three times across all categories. This rule applies to all images made from the same master exposure(s).

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17. Use of Winning images

- a. Winning images will be posted to the camera club website.
- b. After posting to the website, winning prints may be held by the maker or by the club for the year-end competition. If held by the maker, it is the responsibility of the maker to return winning prints to the competition chairperson in time to be included in the year-end competition.
- c. All winning prints will be available for pickup at the regularly scheduled club meetings following the year-end banquet.

PRINT ENTRY RULES

18. Processing

- a. All processing steps must be done by the maker except for (1) developing of film negatives/positives and (2) printing of the entry.
- b. Hand coloring of the print entry is allowed.

19. Image Size

- a. Maximum allowable printed image area is 320 square inches (16 inches by 20 inches)
- b. Minimum allowable printed image area is 64 square inches (8 inches by 8 inches).
- c. Maximum allowable single dimension for a printed image is 20 inches
- d. Minimum allowable single dimension for an image is 8 inches.

20. Mounted Entry

- a. Printed images must be mounted on a semi-rigid material (such as mat board or foam core) that is a minimum of 1/16" thick (the thickness of a single mat board.)
- b. Maximum allowable mounted print entry size is 16x20 inches.
- c. Minimum allowable mounted print entry size is 8x8 inches.
- d. Matt board frames and printed borders are optional at the discretion of the maker.
- e. Mounting and mat board framing of the print may be done by others.
- f. The layers (print, matt and optional frame) of the final entry must be secured to each other across the entire face of the entry. The layers of the entry must not separate or fall open. Three dimensional frames and glass are not allowed.
- g. The back of the entry must be a smooth, continuous surface (such as matt or foam core) that is clean, dry, and free of adhesive.
- h. All edges must be smooth; any sharp or rough edges must be ground or sanded smooth.

21. Labeling

- a. Mounted entries must be labeled with the following information on the back upper left corner: Date, Title, Maker, Competition Category and Competition Group.
- b. The preferred method for providing this information is by using pre-printed, adhesive backed labels that are provided by the club. Alternatively, the maker may label the entries manually; however, the information must be presented in the order given above.
- c. ALL HANDWRITING MUST BE LEGIBLE. BLOCK LETTERING IS RECOMMENDED.
- d. Only one label may be displayed on the back of the image; any obsolete labels must be covered.
- e. The front of the entry shall not contain the image title, competitor's name, or other image data.

Note: The position of the label will be used to orient the image for competition judging.

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PROJECTED DIGITAL ENTRY RULES

22. File Size/Format

- a. Maximum allowable digital image size is 800 pixels per side.
- b. Maximum allowable file size is 1MB.
- c. File format is to be JPEG.

23. File Naming

- a. The file name must be: Competition Group Abbreviation_Image Title_ First Name Last Name.
For example: ***U_Another Sunset_John Brown.***
Competition Group Abbreviations are N (novice), I (intermediate) or U (unlimited).
- b. The title of the image as given in the file will be used to prepare the title list for competition.
- c. The maker's first name and last name must be the same as given on the official Baltimore Camera Club membership roster.
- d. Underscores must be used in the file name to separate the required information.
- e. The image must be free of the image title, competitor's name, or other image data.

24. Borders

- a. Digital borders and edge treatments are allowed.
- b. Digital borders and edge treatments must be contained within the maximum 800 pixel per side file size.

25. Submission of Entries

- a. Entries must be submitted no later than midnight on the Sunday night preceding the contest.
- b. Entries must be E-mailed to baltimore_cameraclub@yahoo.com.
- c. In the e-mail subject box write your name followed by Digital Entries and the date of the competition. For example: **John Brown Digital Entries September 1, 2014.**
- d. In the text of the e-mail, please restate for reference your competition group, your name and the titles of your images.

COMPETITION GROUP PETITION PROCESS

26. General Information

- a. Experienced photographers may petition to advance to the unlimited competition group in any competition category by contacting the competition chair.
- b. Petitions for advancement must be made separately for each category: color print, monochrome print and projected digital.

27. Eligibility - To be eligible for the petition process, petitioners must have:

- a. Been a member of the club for three months or more.
- b. Competed in a minimum of three separate competitions within the requested advancement category.
- c. Placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in three separate competitions within the advancement category.

28. Petition Portfolio Requirements

- a. The petitioner must submit a portfolio of 15 -20 images in the competition category.
- b. The images must meet the same criteria and formats that are used for competitions except that print images do not have to be mounted.
- c. Images that have placed in previous Baltimore Camera Club competitions are not allowed.

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29. Portfolio Review

- a. The competition chair selects a panel of three club members with unlimited status in the competition category to review the portfolio.
- b. The review will occur within approximately one month after the portfolio is submitted.
- c. The identity of the petitioner will not be disclosed to the panel until the review is complete.
- d. The panel will determine whether to accept or reject the petition.

30. Advancement/ Petitioner Feedback

- a. If the petition is accepted, the petitioner:
 1. Will advance to the unlimited competition group at the competition following the portfolio review
 2. Will retain the competition point totals that had previously earned (i.e. the member's accumulated points are not set to 100.)
- b. If the petition is rejected, one member of the review panel will meet with the petitioner and provide feedback on the reasons for denying the request for advancement.

YEAR-END COMPETITION RULES

31. Year-end Competition Judging will occur in three steps as follows:

Category and Group Winners

All images placing 1st through Honorable Mention in the monthly competitions will be judged to determine:

MONOCHROME PRINTS: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place in each competition group (Novice, Unlimited)

COLOR PRINTS: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place in each competition group (Novice, Unlimited)

DIGITAL IMAGES: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place in each competition group (Novice, Intermediate, Unlimited)

Medals will be awarded as follows: Gold 1st Place, Silver 2nd Place, Bronze 3rd Place.

Best in Category

All Gold, Silver and Bronze medal winning images from the category and group winners (21 images total) will be judged in their category to determine:

Best Monochrome Print – The Wayne Ballard Award

Best Color Print – The Graham Cromwell Award

Best Digital Image – The Dick Smith Award

A trophy will be awarded to the best in category winners.

Image of the Year

From the three best in category winners, an Image of the Year will be chosen.

An obelisk will be awarded to the image of the year.

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32. The Baltimore Camera Club Medals of Excellence will be awarded to the three members accumulating the greatest number of Medal of Excellence points during the club year based on results of the monthly competitions. Medals will be awarded as follows: Gold 1st Place, Silver 2nd Place, Bronze 3rd Place.

Monthly Competition Placement	Medal of Excellence Points
1st	4
2nd	3
3rd	2
4th	1
5th	1
HM	1

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Revision Log

Revision	Description	Date
a.	General reorganization of existing rules into a single document.	August 1, 2014
b.	Added General Image Rules which include the following requirements (1) all photographic content must be from original exposures made by the competitor, (2) competition entries must be a single unified image, (3) composites, collages, and montages that form a single unified image are allowed, (4) sequences or series of images are not acceptable except as allowed for specific competitions and (5) entries must be the result of processing and printing within the last five years with no age limit on the master exposure.	August 1, 2014
c.	Revised print entry rules to allow printing by others for all competition groups (unlimited and novice.)	August 1, 2014
d.	Added definition of monochrome print as varying shades of grey or a single color.	August 1, 2014
e.	Clarified print size maximum to 320 square inches, 20 inches maximum in a single dimension. Updated minimum print size to 640 square inches, 8 inches maximum in a single dimension.	August 1, 2014
f.	Added 1/16" minimum thickness for print mounting.	August 1, 2014
g.	Added discussion of printed frames and borders.	August 1, 2014
h.	Added requirement that obsolete labels on print entries must be covered.	August 1, 2014
i.	Added requirements that (1) print entry layers be secured to each other across the entire face of the entry and (2) print entry edges must be smooth; sharp edges must be ground down.	August 1, 2014
j.	Modified to allow frames and borders on digital entries.	August 1, 2014
k.	Updated digital entry file naming requirements to include (1) the category group abbreviation is placed first in the file name, (2) the title of the image as given in the file name will be used to prepare title list for competition, (3) the makers name as given on the official membership roster must be used and (4) the data in the file name must be separated by underscores.	August 1, 2014
l.	Added intermediate competition group for projected digital category. For purposes of forming this group, all members with 25 monthly digital competition points following the Digital 9 competition in May 2014 will be placed into the intermediate group. Beginning in September 2014, all intermediate competitors must accumulate 100 points to achieve unlimited status and novice competitors must accumulate 50 pts to achieve intermediate status.	August 1, 2014
m.	Added Competition Group Petition Process. Included requirement that petitioner must have been a member of the club for three months and placed 1 st , 2 nd or 3 rd in three separate competitions within the advancement category.	August 1, 2014
n.	Eliminated option to reenter entries that earn Honorable Mention in future competitions.	August 1, 2014
o.	Added restrictions on reentry of images from the same master exposure(s).	August 1, 2014
p.	Eliminated option to petition to move down to lower status.	August 1, 2014
q.	Deleted year-end judging procedures. The competition committee will have separate work instructions	August 1, 2014
r.	Clarified that gold, silver and bronze Medals of Excellence will be awarded.	August 1, 2014
s.	Corrected 10.b. Advancement takes <u>place</u> , word was missing	August 1, 2014