

Competition Rules Huntington Camera Club (Revised September 2024)

Introduction

Competition Rules can be updated at any time during the club calendar year if the Board, the competition committee or competition rules committee believes a change is in order due to a pressing issue that surfaces. The Rules Committee will meet, discuss the potential issue and come to a consensus and provide the voting board with their position for discussion, approval and inclusion in an updated version of the rules. This provision allows for the mid-competition year changes to take effect as needed whenever the need arises. The new rule will be announced to the entire membership via e-mail and a new version of the competition rules will be subsequently posted to the club web site.

The competition committee operates within the rules generated by the competition rules updates committee. Any and all changes to competition rules and guidelines must come from the competition rules update committee. The updated rules & posted changes are reviewed and approved by the voting body of the club and ultimately the executive board.

The Huntington Camera Club holds our monthly competitions to bring enjoyment, education and inspiration to our members and guests. It is also intended to bring the highest level of integrity and honesty to club contests. It is for this reason that before any member enters an image for competition, he or she must sign a waiver agreement to attest that the work entered is his / her own and not taken from any other source.

I. CLASSES

Masters Class – Those who have, in previous years of club competition, established photographic skills in a specific category superior to Class A workers, or, met the requirements of II below.

Class A – Those who have, in previous years of club competition, established photographic skills in a specific category superior to Class B workers, or, met the requirements of II below.

Class B – All others.

The Competition Chairperson may, with the approval of the Executive Board, combine classes if in their judgment there are not enough members in a class. If a category does not have all 3 classes, the competition chairperson may request approval from the Executive Board to create a new class when the number of members justifies the expansion.

II. ELIGIBILITY AND CLASS ASSIGNMENT

A. Only those members whose dues are paid for the year may compete. The Treasurer must receive payment no later than one week prior to the competition entry date. **
Before competing, a waiver form must be signed by each individual entering a monthly competition.

B. New or returning members will be assigned to Class B. unless they have previously competed in a higher class at this or another club, or request to be in a higher class in which case they must, prior to the first entered competition, submit a sampling of images for the desire class for 1 evaluation. The Competition Chairperson may select a panel of master photographers to screen newcomers who ask for a review before placement in a class.

C. No change in class may be made during the competition year.

- D. Once having competed in Masters or Class A, a member may not compete in a lower class in that specific category even if the member has not entered a competition for a period of time. If a class is eliminated, the member retains that designation in the event it is ever re-instated.
- E. The Competition Chairperson will review the standing of the competitors at the end of the competition year and will move the following workers:
- First place B workers and any B worker who scores within 2 points of first place will move to the A level in that category
 - First place A workers and any worker who scores within 1 point of first place will move to the M level in that category.

The Competition Chairperson and/or his/her designees may review any other member and determine whether or not that member is moved up to the next class.

III. ENTRY CATEGORIES

- A. Black & White Prints - shall be a single choice from the list below. NO COMBINATIONS OF THE THREE ARE ALLOWED.
1. Conventional monochromatic Black and White print.
 2. Conventional Black and White print toned with a single overall color, (for example sepia or blue).
 3. Conventional Black and White print colored with a single spot color in specific areas (for example a person carrying an umbrella with the umbrella colored red or a photo of a bird with 2 yellow eyes).
- B. Color Prints – Prints, which contain multiple colors, including monochrome with more than one added color. Prints may be made by any means including conventional paper and chemicals, Polaroid's, inkjet, laser or dye sublimation printers, etc.; however, they must have originated in a light sensitive medium (see IV below).
- C. Digital Projected Images- This category replaces the Slides category. Images may be either monochrome or color. The images will be projected using a digital projector and, therefore, entries must be formatted and sized appropriately. See separate rules on format, size and naming convention located elsewhere on the website.

IV. ORIGINAL WORK

All elements or objects must have been photographed or manually enhanced by the maker and must be the maker's original photography. The use of AI, copies of other printed media, or the use of existing digital images created by another are NOT permitted. This includes images downloaded, photographed or scanned from the Internet or other public forums. The maker must originally have created all work PHOTOGRAPHICALLY. That is, the original image must have been captured by any means such as a conventional film camera, pinhole camera, digital camera, etc., as long as the medium is sensitive to light.

What is AI? – Artificial intelligence is a machine's ability to perform the cognitive functions we usually associate with human minds. All elements in a competition image must be created or captured photographically by a human...that human must be you. No exceptions!

It is important to note that AI (Artificial Intelligence) created, or artificially generated elements are strictly prohibited from all club photography competitions. AI is NOT

photography! Use of AI software in competition images will disqualify the image. No make-ups will be permitted.

It should also be noted that a submitting member must do all of the "Photo Editing" himself or herself. Outside guidance and instruction is permitted, but the maker and not the instructor or any other person must perform the work.

Additionally, members are cautioned that when using an outside photo-processing lab to make prints for competition, the member must instruct the lab to make prints without any correction. This point is important as labs may automatically color correct and make other corrections to improve an image. This is viewed as outside the rules of our competitions and is not allowed. We recognize that this is an "on your honor" component to the rules with limited ability for us to police. We fully expect members to do what is right and not abuse this rule. The original image may be manipulated in any way, such as hand copying, spot toning(retouching) burning, dodging, bleaching, distorting, air brushing, painting, etc., either by hand, mechanically or in a computer.

The original image may be combined with others TAKEN by the maker by sandwiching, montaging, pasting, etc., either mechanically or in a computer, provided the enhancement is done SOLELY by the maker and every element added to the photograph was created by the member. However, the maker may be ADVISED by another as to how to make the enhancement only until his/her skills are proficient enough to work on his own. The maker (on the honor system) has 1 year to obtain the skills necessary and then must work on his own. The use of an outside printing lab is allowed (Costco etc.) as long as the outside lab does not change or enhance the maker's original submitted image.

As an organization of amateur photographers, it is our intention to assist, strengthen and refine the techniques employed in seeing, capturing and presenting our images. We, in the body of these rules, repeatedly mention that the images presented for competition are the creation and generation by the individual.

V. APPROPRIATE SUBJECT MATTER FOR ENTRIES Photo images that could be considered lewd, insensitive, inappropriate or offensive are NOT permitted in club competitions. If the competition chairman or his delegates feel that any image is of questionable subject matter and violates the above criteria, they may be disallowed at any club competition.

VI. SPECIFICATIONS FOR ENTRIES.

A. All entries must be registered on the web by using our web-based competition entry form. The major rules are highlighted below:

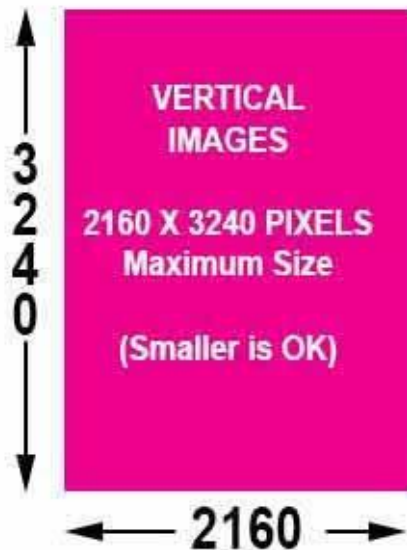
1. All electronic entry rules must be followed.
2. Deadline for submission is 8:00 pm the Sunday preceding the first competition date of each competition month.
3. Projected images must be uploaded employing all digital formatting requirements.
4. When entering prints, both black & white and color, the prints must be submitted by hand carrying them to the competition. The label data (title) must also be entered into the competition entry form accessible on the web.

5. Entry data and submission of digital images, which fail to meet the deadline time, will not be accepted

B. Projected Images Sizing and Titling of Images.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL DIGITAL ENTRIES STARTING IN SEPTEMBER.

*Beginning in September, all digital entries will be viewed on a new 4K flat screen TV.
In order for your entries to look their best they should be submitted as follows:*



**PLEASE NOTE
FOR OPTIMUM RESULTS
SET YOUR COLOR PROFILE TO:
Adobe RGB (1998)**

*If your images do not fit into the boxes
as shown above, they will be clipped.
Smaller images will not be clipped, but
you will not be taking advantage of
the new, larger format.*

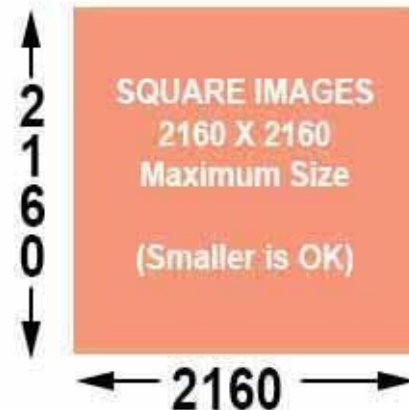


Image naming:

Your name (the one that you to log onto the website), a hyphen, the name of your image
For example: BSmith-Sunny Day 215

No punctuation ANYWHERE except for the hyphen. No periods, no commas, no apostrophes, no explanation points. The hyphen shall be the ONLY punctuation anywhere, or your image might not load properly

C. Prints

1. All prints must be mounted on sturdy material capable of standing unaided in a print display box.
2. Prints may be horizontal or vertical. The print must be a minimum of 5x7 to a maximum of 16x20. The mount may be any size as long as it fits in the club's display box, but not more than 16x20 inches for a rectangular print and 16 inches for a square print.
3. Prints must be two-dimensional unframed, with nothing laid over the printed surface. No prints are to be mounted on wood or in any manner, which might damage other prints (above or below) when placed in a stack. This particularly applies to glue, tape or metal clips. Prints so mounted will be rejected at the sole discretion of the competition representative.
4. The image's title placed on the print must match the image's title entered on the web-based entry. An additional name can be added if desired.

VII. MARKING PRINTS AND PROJECTED IMAGES

A. Prints

1. If a print is lacking an HCC label, the maker must draw on the back of each mounted print a sizable and clearly visible arrow, pointing to the top of the print.
2. A club competition sticker (HCC Label) or facsimile, with the following required information: Title, Photographer's name, Competition Date, Class, Make-up if applicable), must be affixed near the upper right-hand corner on the back of the mount.

B. Projected Images No special markings are required. All file size and naming conventions must be followed as previously mentioned in these rules and detailed on the website.

C. No signatures or watermarks should be visible on any print or projected image.

D. Identifying text cannot be added to any photo entered for competition. The photographer's name and copyright symbol is not allowed in club competitions.

VIII. MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

A. A club year will consist of nine monthly competitions, September through May unless modified by recommendation of the competition chairman and approved by the board.

B. All print entries, which have been registered as required in section V above, must be received no later than 15 minutes prior to the announced start of the meeting on competition night to be eligible for judging. Late entries shall be accepted at the discretion of the Competition Chairperson. Photographs, which have not been registered as required in section V, will not be accepted for competition that night.

C. Each paid up member may submit three entries per month with a maximum of 2 entries in any one category. Should a member submit only one entry in a category such single entry shall constitute a full entry. The other may not be "made-up" later.

D. Members who miss one or more monthly competitions (That is, submit no entries) or join later in the club year, may make-up only one missed entry for each category for each

of the missed months. Only one make up image per category may be made in any month. Therefore if two months have been missed then the make-ups must be entered in 2 different months. Make-ups are limited to a total of 3 per category for the club year. Make-ups must be clearly marked on the 5 print label with an "MU" plus the month being made up. These markings should agree with the electronic (web based) entry form information.

- E. If a member has a situation that is considered extreme or unusual in nature, which has caused him or her to miss at least 4 competitions in any club year, they may petition the Board for more than 3 make-ups. (Note: This provision will generally only be granted in cases of severe hardship.)
- F. Scoring for all images at a competition will range from 6 to 9 in half point increments (i.e. 6, 6.5, 7, 7.5, 8, 8.5, 9)
- G. Ribbons will be awarded for each entry that received a score of 8,8,5 or 9. Only "B" workers will receive ribbons. A- and - Masters will have to sign up to receive them. "B" workers may elect not to receive ribbons if they so desire.
- H. An entry, which receives a score of 7.5 or less, may be re-entered in subsequent competitions. Modifications or rework on an entry is permissible.
- I. If an image scores 8 or higher, that same image may never be entered again in the current or later years. You may never enter the same image in more than one category such as a print and a digital image. You may never enter a black and white image and then either tone or hand color it and enter it again. Two images are considered to be the same if the subject matter and the composition (vantage point, lens focal length etc.) and lighting are essentially identical. If after review the second image is You may, however, enter a color image and convert it to a black and white image (or a black and white image converted to color) and enter it again in a future competition year (not in the same year of the original entry). deemed identical, it will be disqualified with no make up allowed.
- J. If any member belongs to and competes in another club, they must inform the PFLI Selection Committee at the beginning of the competition year. They must declare which category and club they will compete in for PFLI. Members may submit the exact same digital image or print to compete in another club in addition to ours regardless of score. However, that image or print may not be submitted to PFLI from both clubs.
- K. Members need not be present to have their work judged.
- L. The Competition Chairperson or his/her designee will be the sole judge of acceptability on competition nights.
- M. Annual Awards
 - 1. The member's highest score from each monthly competition will be totaled to arrive at a cumulative score for each category.
 - 2. First, second and third place awards will be presented at the annual awards meeting. No award will be made if a member receives a cumulative score of less than 64 points.
 - 3. There will be no award for any category in which there were not three members competing in at least four monthly competitions.
 - 4. An award will be given to any member who receives a total score of 81 in a competition category (that is a score of 9 for every monthly competition in a competition category)
 - 5. In the event of a tie, duplicate awards will be made.

6. The Executive Board may present a "Most Improved" award to a worker in class B. This award will be based on a comparison of scores for the first four months with the scores from the last five months.

N. PRINT & PROJECTED IMAGE OF THE YEAR

1. Black & White print, Color print and Projected Image of the year competitions are held at a specially planned meeting at the end of the year. 6
2. A member may submit up to three entries per category.
3. Each entry must have been submitted during one of the year's nine monthly competitions.
4. A 1st , 2nd and 3rd Place awards will be given in each category and "The Huntington Camera Club Memorial Cup" award will be chosen from these Image winners among all of the categories (best in show).
5. A single person cannot be awarded more than one award per category (i.e.; a single individual can not receive both a 1st place and 2nd or 3rd place award for any category.).

IX. DISPUTES

- A. If a member believes anyone's projected image or print has been submitted in contravention to any competition rule, he/she should report it to the Competition Chairperson after the competition. This may result in cancellation of the score with no make-up allowed.
- B. The Executive Board will decide any disputes concerning the interpretation or execution of these rules.
- C. In the case where a member violates these rules, their image(s), and score(s) if given, may be removed from the competition. Repeated violations may cause the Competition Committee to vote on suspending a member from competing for the remainder of the competition year, being disqualified from the competition for that Competition Year or being removed from Club Membership. Such suspension or expulsion must also be voted and approved by the Club's Voting Board Members. The individual will be notified and have an opportunity to present his/her case.

X. CONTACT WITH THE JUDGE

It is the responsibility of our judges to ONLY score and comment on the images within our competitions. It is not the judge's job to review or comment on a member's portfolio. Therefore, we ask that you DO NOT present the judge with any images for his comments before, during or after the competition.

Frequently Asked Questions and Final Thoughts:

Q. I am adding a blue sky with different shades of the same color blue to my black and white image. Is this permissible?

A. No, only a single shade of one color is allowed in a B & W image. This enhancement would only be allowed in the Color or Projected Images Categories but not in the B&W Category.

Q. Duotone, which uses one color, is acceptable. How about Split Toning, which uses two colors?

A. No. This enhancement would only be allowed in the Color or Projected Images Categories but not in the B&W Category.

Q. Can I combine sepia to one part of the image, duotone to another and leave the rest of the image in black and white?

A. No, only one color is allowed. This enhancement would only be allowed in the Color or Projected Images Categories but not in the B&W Category.

Q. Can I have someone other than myself do the "Photoshop" work without my assistance, guidance or input?

A. No, club members are strongly encouraged to do all of their own work, to be truly work that they can honestly call their own. However, they can be ADVISED as to how to do the work, but must do the work themselves.

Q. Can I use images created by others in any way as part of my image?

A. In street photography or other images where signs, handbills, works of art are part of the image you can include it. Images of other people's artwork cannot be portrayed as your own.

Q. Must all parts of the image be created by me?

A. Yes Q. Can another person or lab manipulate my image in Photoshop or a Photoshop type program even at my direction? A. No

Q. Can another person guide me through or tell me how to manipulate an image in Photoshop or a Photoshop type program as long as I do the actual "hands on" work?

A. Yes

Q. Can I have an outside lab print my images?

A. Yes, but they must be advised to not change color, contrast or image quality – no photo corrections.

Q. I upload my photos for printing and they have a photo enhancement service. Can I use that enhancement service?

A. No

Q. My friend is an expert in Photoshop. Can I upload my image to her to crop, enhance and do other adjustments that she sees fit to make my image more presentable?

A. No, unless you work together with her advising you and you do the actual "hands on" work Q.

Can I take a photo or scan a comic strip character from the newspaper or use a downloaded image that I have not created and use either in my image? A. No

Q. I want to bring my membership check the night of the competition. Can I do that?

A. No, we need time to log in your membership data before the competition registry date.

Q. If I enter any image(s) in any categories during a monthly competition, can I enter a make-up in another month for the category that I did not enter in?

A. No, if you enter any images in any monthly competition, you are not entitled to any make-ups for that month. However, if digital image(s) have already been entered online and an unforeseeable occurrence makes it impossible to bring in prints on the night of the competition, then the member can request special consideration of the competition committee to enter the prints at a later date.

Q. Can I enter make-up images in any category even though I didn't compete in that category that month?

A. No, not if you have entered any other categories for that month. Final Thoughts Club competitions are intended as a learning experience for both the maker of the entered image and the club membership at large. Winning your category ...although it may be the intended goal by the very definition of competition ... should be done with ultimate integrity and honesty. The competition committee cannot possibly police every single entry for any one of a number of infractions (nor is it their intention to do so.) with that in mind. Please compete to win, but with learning and sharing in mind. Having someone else do your edits and Photoshop work is not in the spirit of honest and fair play. Using someone else's image (borrowed from the internet) is a very serious infraction and will not be tolerated at the club.

Some discussion has taken place on the following:

1. Using model set-ups at photography conferences, although making it easy to get a great image, is not illegal within our rules.
2. Submission of consistently similar images month after month from the same sequence of images "on the same roll", although not outside the rules, is not in the interest of learning and growing ... and more towards only securing winning images if its "sister" image previously scored well.
3. Images that are poorly mounted with damaging glue or tape may be disqualified by the competition committee chair and committee on the very evening of competition. Please be mindful that you want to prevent damage to another image by using care in mounting and gluing.

Please keep in mind that our rules are designed and presented to you so that we compete with each other on a 'level playing field.' It is never the intention of the club competition committee, the rules update committee or the board of directors to limit your creativity or inhibit your intent as a photographic artist. We only strive to ensure that all members can work with a consistent set of rules that impact us all evenly and consistently.