

Rossmoor Camera Club
Competition Rules
(Adopted April 17, 2018)
(Revised June 4, 2019)
(Revised February 6, 2024)

Article I—Definitions

Section A—Classes

There are three skill levels or “classes” recognized by the club—General, Intermediate, and Advanced. Members must compete in the same class in both media, digitals and prints [when used].

Section B—Categories

A competition category is a combination of a class and a medium. There are four possible categories:

General Print

General Digital [Projected Image]

Intermediate Print

Intermediate Digital [Projected Image]

Advanced Print

Advanced Digital [Projected Image]

Section C—Competition Subjects

The expected sequence of competition subjects is as follows:

September	Open
October & November	Specific Subjects
January	Open
February & March	Specific Subjects
April	End-of-Year [See Article III, Section B]

The Board of Directors shall solicit possible subjects from the membership for future competitions three years in the future. The Board of Directors shall narrow the list to not less than eight possible subjects, and shall write definitions for each subject. The Board of Directors shall email to all members of the Club the chosen and defined subject list and ask for a vote by

each member of the Club on not more than four choices by a certain date [vote for up to four only]. The four topics receiving the greatest numbers of votes shall be announced at the May Business Meeting and published in the RCC Yearbook on the website, etc. No subject shall be competed more frequently than every third season.

Article II—Member Eligibility

Competitive members of the Rossmoor Camera Club must have paid their annual Competitive level dues on or before the date of a competition and agree to the following:

- by the act of submitting images for judging, acknowledge that they have read and will abide by all Rossmoor Camera Club Competition Rules;
- to hold the Club free from any claim for loss or damage to any print or projected image;
- to keep silent during the judging; and
- to allow the Rossmoor Camera Club to reproduce that entry, with credit, in Club produced material, e.g. LW News, the End-of-Year program booklet and RCC website.

Article III—Competitions

Section A—Monthly

A scheduled monthly competition will be held in every category in which three or more members have submitted at least one entry. One-third (rounded to the nearest whole number) of the entries in each category shall receive awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mentions. The number of Honorable Mentions in each category will be limited by the number of entries, up to seven Honorable Mentions. [The computer competition program allows a total of 10 winners only: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and up to 7 Honorable Mentions.]

In the event there are insufficient entries within a category, that category will be combined with another for the same medium and scored as one class of competition. Winning images will be scored under the individual member's class.

A non-winning image may be submitted twice in future monthly competitions. When an image has been recognized (1st, 2nd, 3rd or Honorable Mention), it may not be resubmitted in any form other than at the End-of-Year Competition event in the year in which it was recognized. A similar photograph shot at approximately the same location and time may not be submitted in any future competition.

Each member may submit up to two entries in each medium in a monthly competition.

Section B—End-of Year

Any competition entry that placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd or Honorable Mention during the competition year is eligible to be entered in the End-of-Year competition for the same medium and in the class of the member. The same schedule of awards as monthly competitions will be used, except 1st

place in each category will additionally be recognized as “Photograph of the Year”. Those photographs will have their images included in the banquet program and published on the Club’s website.

Each member may submit up to three recognized images [1st, 2nd, 3rd, or HM] as originally submitted in each eligible category in the End-of-Year competition—a maximum of six images [3 digitals, and 3 prints when used]. Members with four or more images in a given category must choose which three shall be entered in the End-of-Year competition.

Section C—Copyright

A member’s copyright to their photograph does not require formal registration and is in effect for the life of the photographer plus 70 years. Granting permission for a photograph to be published does not infringe on this protection.

Article IV—Images

Section A—Composition

All entries must be the original work of the member-photographer and an honest depiction using only acceptable digital adjustments listed in Article IV Section B. Photographs taken by the competitor with a digital camera may be entered in either medium as long as they meet all criteria. Film images and negatives that are printed may be scanned and entered in either category.

Section B—Acceptable Digital Adjustments

- Burning and Dodging: to adjust the exposure (lightness, darkness or tonal range of selected areas of the image or the entire image itself).
- Cropping: to reduce any of the boundaries of an image.
- Flipping (reversing) or Rotating: to change the orientation of the image.
- Brightness, Contrast, Highlight and Shadow detail adjustment: to adjust the intensity of the shadows, highlights and mid-tones of the image.
- Color Correction: (for example, to adjust the white balance).
- Color Saturation (including conversion to monochrome): to change the color intensity or by removing color to create a black and white or single color image.
- Perspective Correction (skewing): to adjust the vertical and/or horizontal distortion of an image.
- Sharpening: to adjust the lines or images to create a more focused, crisper or clearer image.
- Red-eye reduction: to remove or change the red color in a person’s eye(s) caused by the reflection of light.
- Repair anomalies (dust, lint, scratches, noise, sensor spots): in processing, by using the cloning/healing tool.

- Limited cloning for the removal of minor distracting elements such as electric/ phone wires or signs unless otherwise specified for certain subjects.
- Vignetting to lighten or darken the corners of an image.
- Stitching of two or more images: to create a wider angle (panorama), whether in camera or editing software.
- Merging multiple images (HDR-High Dynamic Range) for exposure control in camera or editing software.

Specifically prohibited is the insertion of any element(s) not actually present when the photograph was taken or stitching together two or more unrelated images. In general, no significant distortion of reality or creation of a totally different image is permitted.

Article V—Prints [when used]

Section A—Size

The size of a print and its mounting shall not exceed 16 x 20 inches.

Section B—Print Mounting

All prints must be mounted, but the mounting need not be done by the member. Mats or over-mats, if used, must be white, off-white or black and must be securely attached (top and bottom) to the back mount board in a manner that will not damage other entries. Prints may not be framed. The competitor's name or photograph's title may not appear on the front.

Section C—Print Marking

All prints must have only one title and the competitor's name AND NO OTHER INFORMATION clearly printed on the back of the mat with an arrow (pointed in the upward direction) indicating the direction in which the print shall be displayed. PRINTS WILL BE SHOWN AS MARKED AND UNMARKED PRINTS WILL NOT BE SHOWN. The title of the print shall contain no more than 30 characters (including spaces). Nothing may be on the back of any mounted print which would damage another print, e.g. Post-Its, wires, hooks, or loose tape.

Section D—Displaying of Prints and Print Scorekeeping

Two designated people (under the direction of the First Vice President) will display the prints in the light box for judging.

A designated person (under the direction of the First Vice President) will record the print winners.

Section E—Preparation

Printing and processing of digital images may be done commercially or by the competitor.

Article VI—Projected Images (Digital Images)

Section A—Format

All images must be provided as .jpg files—all other formats are prohibited. Image resolution will be sized by the computer operators (under the direction of the First Vice-President). (The optimum size for a submitted image by a competitor is 1920 x 1200 ppi.)

Section B—Image Source

While most images submitted in the digital medium are expected to have been taken with a digital camera, Smart Phones, etc., scanned images that have been converted to a digital format are also acceptable.

Section C—File Naming

To work with the computer program that we use for competitions, the file name on a digital image **MUST** consist of the class in which the image is to compete (General or Advanced), followed by a comma, the entrant's name (first and last), followed by a comma and the title of the image (in no more than 30 characters and spaces). The identifier .jpg assigned by the computer must also be present, but **ONLY ONCE** on the image title. No other periods or commas may be present, as they will confuse the computer program.

EXAMPLE of digital file name:

General, Martha Washington, My Laundry.jpg

General B [Intermediate], Parke Custis, Arlington House.jpg

Advanced, George Washington, My Virginia Plantation. jpg

Note: Make sure your digital file name looks like the example!!!

Article VII—Submitting Images

No less than seven days (usually the 3rd Tuesday of the month at midnight, unless otherwise specified) prior to any competition, each competitor should send an email to RossmoorLW@Gmail.com or rossmoorlw@gmail.com. The email should contain the member's class, name and titles of the images being submitted. Attached to the email should be the digital image with the title as specified in Article VI, Section C. (DO NOT USE A NAME FOR THE IMAGE SUCH AS IMG_47925, which may be how it is assigned by the camera and stored in a computer file).

The **short title** of the image can contain up to 30 characters, to include spaces. No punctuation nor apostrophes, or punctuation may be used as the computer program cannot handle such characters in the short title.

NO DIGITAL IMAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE SEVEN DAY CUTOFF DEADLINE, unless the image has been declared inappropriate for the topic of the competition and the Competition Image Review Subcommittee has given an extension to the individual for the resubmission of entries. An automatic response from the Gmail account shall be sent each entrant upon receipt of their entry. There may be occasions where the timing will be otherwise specified.

All print entries shall be submitted at the competition (at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the activities).

A **Competition Image Review Subcommittee** under the First VP composed of 2 Advanced level members and 2 General level members with one of these members being part of the team that receives the monthly digital competition images. These members are to be chosen by the First VP.

A **subcommittee member** who is part of the monthly competition image **team** receiving the members' images for the next competition would refer any image that may not meet the club's current Competition Rules and topic definition to the **full competition image review subcommittee** for review no later than **two days after that month's day of submission [third Tuesday]**.

A new image may be re-submitted by midnight of the Friday before the scheduled competition.

The Competition Judge's responsibility will be to rule on the quality of an image.

On the night of the competition, **immediately after the 7 p.m. print submission deadline**, before the judge starts, the **subcommittee must review the prints and determine if any are inappropriate for the competition.** There can be no re-submissions of additional Prints in place of those ruled inappropriate.

Article VIII—Judging Procedure

Section A—Selection and Instruction of Judges

The First Vice-President shall select judges who are neither residents of Leisure World nor non-resident members of the club. The First Vice-President, when writing to the judge confirming the time of the competition, shall include a copy of:

- Categories (Article I Section B)

- Definition of competition subject
- Acceptable Digital Adjustments (Article IV Section B)
- Judging Procedure (Article VIII Section C)

The First Vice-President shall also review the system with the judge immediately before judging.

When a judge has not arrived at the time of competition, the First Vice-President shall choose three experienced General and three experienced Advanced members to judge and assign scores. Each judge (in rotation) shall comment on an image—one judge per photograph. The judges selected will judge in the class in which they do not compete.

Section B—Sign-In Procedure

Images should be submitted as described in Article V (print) and Article VII (digital). In an effort to accommodate late **print** submissions, the First Vice-President will provide forms to be used by entrants to record names and print titles. To the extent possible, these forms will be pre-printed with previously submitted competitor names/titles and adequate space provided for new entries. Acceptance of late print submissions is wholly at the discretion of the First Vice-President.

Section C—Judging Procedure

- There will be no comments made by the audience.
- There will be a run-through of each category prior to any commentary by the judge.
- When the images are shown for a second time, the judge will make comments and rule the image to be either “IN” or “OUT” for further consideration. The “IN-OUT” ruling shall continue for as many cycles as needed to produce the quantities of awards specified in Article III. NOTE: In the interest of saving time, the judge may make comments at the first showing and the “IN”s and “OUT”s at the second run-through.
- The judge will notify the images placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd with the remainder being awarded Honorable Mention. All winning images will be acknowledged by the presentation of a certificate at a later date.

Section D—Image Titles

The names of the photographers and titles of the images will not be made known to the judge prior to the rendering of a decision. Titles will be announced at the time of placement. Place

winners are encouraged to state when, where and under what circumstance the photograph was taken.

Article IX—Scoring

Section A—Monthly and Year-End Events

Points will be awarded in each competition category as follows:

<u>Placement</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
First	10
Second	9
Third	8
Honorable Mention	6

Section B—Record Keeping

The Database Manager (under the direction of the First Vice-President) shall be responsible for record keeping. A worksheet shall be maintained for each competitor. The scores awarded for every image submitted by each competitor shall be posted to the worksheet and published monthly.

Article X—Determination of Class

When a member pays the annual dues, the member may designate in which classification he/she wishes to compete for a one-year season.

The RCC Board of Directors may, and should, strongly encourage members to move up or down among the three classifications (General, Intermediate, or Advanced) when a member's annual total points reflect an improved level of competition or a willingness to compete at a lower level because of hardships or limitations.

Article XI—Annual Awards

Section A—Annual Awards

Annual Awards are given at the end of each competition year and are based on the total points accumulated during that year. A minimum of thirty (30) points is required for each award. The point leader in each category will be named "Photographer of the Year" for that category. A 2nd and 3rd place will also be awarded in all categories, provided the minimum number of points (30) has been earned.

Article XII—Miscellaneous

Section A—Supplies

The First Vice President shall be in charge of all competitions and be responsible for providing all necessary materials, personnel and equipment needed to conduct the competitions (forms, screen, computer, projector, photo box, etc.).

Section B—Training and Competition Conduct

The First Vice President shall select and train a support cadre needed to conduct the competitions and shall establish guidelines for assuring the competition proceeds without undue delay or error.

Section C—Final Authority

Decisions of the First Vice President and two other Advanced members (named by the President) shall be final in any matter related to the competitions that are not specifically covered by the competition rules, the Club Constitution, By-Laws or Board action. These persons may disqualify any entry that does not meet a specific subject description, or whose maker fails to comply with club rules.

Section D—Designees

Any task assigned to the First Vice-President may be reassigned to a designee by either the First Vice-President or President.