

Rossmoor Camera Club

Competition Rules

Adopted April 17, 2018, Revised June 4, 2019, Revised May 11, 2021, Revised April 5, 2022, Revised Feb. 2024, Revised Oct. 2025

RCC Competition Rules, Revised April 2, 2022Download

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 three possible categories for RCC competitions:

- (1) General Digital [Projected Image]
- (2) Intermediate Digital [Projected Image]
- (3) 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 [use of liberal post processing permitted and inclusion of new elements, etc.] Every item of the image must be from the submitting photographer, no AI images or significant image elements may be added.

February & March: Specific Subjects

April: Year-End [See Article III, Section B]

Each September, the Board of Directors shall solicit possible subjects from the membership for future competitions and set a date for the closure of these submissions at least 21 days after the notification of the membership by email. The Board of Directors shall narrow the list to not less than eight possible subjects with definitions for each. The Board of Directors shall mail

(email or postal) to all members of the Club. Members may vote by email for no more than four subjects commencing with their receipt and ceasing three days prior to the annual membership meeting in May. The four receiving the greatest numbers of votes shall be the subjects of competition three years hence. Voting shall be conducted by the Board of Directors.

No subject shall be competed more frequently than every third season.

The competition subjects will be listed and defined as soon as feasible on the website and in appropriate written materials, thereby giving members an opportunity to work on these subjects for the following three years.

Article II—Member Eligibility

Members of the Rossmoor Camera Club must have paid their annual 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 computer generated 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. Of the entries submitted, up to one-third (rounded to the nearest whole number) of the entries in each category may receive awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mentions. The number of Honorable Mentions in each category will be limited by the number of entries. The judge is not compelled to award as many Honorable Mention awards as are mathematically possible (for example, if there are 30 entries, normally one-third of the entries (= 10) would be awarded, First, Second, Third and seven honorable mentions – the judge is not compelled to award all seven honorable mentions. The judge may determine that only four or five are worthy of Honorable Mention).

In the event there are insufficient entries within a category, that category will be combined with the other 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 three entries in each monthly competition.

Section B – Year-End

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 published on the Club’s website.

Each member may submit up to three original unaltered entries in each eligible category in the year-end competition—a maximum of three images. 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 using only acceptable digital adjustments listed in Article IV Section B. Photographs taken by the competitor with a digital camera may be entered as long as they meet all criteria. Film images, negatives and prints from the photographer’s work may be scanned and entered.

Section B – Acceptable Digital Adjustments

1. Each image entered must consist solely of a photograph captured by the member using a camera, iPod, smartphone, or other devices.
2. The image may not be modified by someone other than the member.
3. Photographs of two-dimensional works of art (art works, etc.) such as prints and paintings are not eligible except when the prints or paintings are a minor part of the member’s composition.
4. Image elements not of photographic origin including text are not eligible.

5. Standard commercial printing may be performed by an outside service.
6. Manipulation is neither required nor prohibited.
7. Any custom processing, manual optimization, and image manipulation must be performed by the club member submitting the photograph.
8. Techniques that add new image elements not in the original image photographed by the member are prohibited, including applying textures or incorporating components (such as skies or a moon), except for the January Open Competition.

Article V — Prints – Print Competition has been suspended indefinitely.

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 1080 pixel resolution)

Section B – Image Source

While most images submitted in the digital medium are expected to have been taken with a digital camera, scanned images that have been converted to a digital .jpg 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, Intermediate 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 or special characters (like \$, or #, or @) may be present, as they will confuse the computer program.

EXAMPLE of digital file name:

General, Jennifer Dough, See You Later Alligator.jpg

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

Article VII – Submitting Images

Based on the established deadline published by email to all members, each competitor should send an email to 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 marks or apostrophes may be used, as the computer program cannot handle such characters in the short title.

An appropriate email might look like:

Jennifer Dough is submitting the following photographs in the General category for the August competition, Reptiles.

General, Jennifer Dough, See You Later Alligator

General, Jennifer Dough, Snakes on a Plane

A COMPETITION IMAGE REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE shall be appointed by the First VP. The Image Review Subcommittee would review any image that may not meet the club's current Competition Rules and topic definition. If it has been determined that an image does not meet the club's current Competition Rules and topic definition, a new image may be re-submitted by midnight of the Friday before the scheduled competition. In cases of doubt, the Image Review Subcommittee should leave the image in the competition with final determination of acceptability left to the competition judge.

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

DIGITAL IMAGES will not normally be accepted after the cutoff deadline. If an image has been declared inappropriate for the topic of the competition or due to other extenuating circumstances, and the Competition Image Review Subcommittee has given an extension to the individual for the resubmission of an entry(ies), the entry(ies) may be accepted at the discretion of the Competition Image Review Subcommittee. There may be occasions where the timing will be otherwise specified.

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 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 – Image Submission

Images should be submitted as described in Article VII.

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.

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:

Placement – Points Awarded

- 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. Records are kept only for the year in progress. Cumulative Overall Records are not maintained.

Article X—Determination of Class

Section A – Voluntary Assignment

Any member who requests classification as General, Intermediate or Advanced will be granted it.

Section B – Season Winners

Any General class competitor who places 1st or 2nd in the final year-end standings two or more times within any three consecutive years shall be encouraged to advance to either Intermediate or Advanced class for the next and subsequent years. Promotion will occur only at season-end.

Section C—Reclassification

Any Advanced competitor who feels unable to compete at that level may appeal to the Board of Directors for reclassification to Intermediate or General. The Board of Directors will determine if the reclassification is granted.

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.

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.