Quad Cities Photography Club

Competition Rules
Revision date: 9/6/17

Purpose:

QCPC host photographic competition within its membership. The goal of the competition is to develop and improve personal photographic skills through technical and artistic feedback.

General Competition Information:

Club members in good standing can enter images in monthly competition. Club Competitions include digitally projected images and prints, acceptable means of capture include film or digital camera, cell phone or drone. All competition images **MUST** be photographed and processed by the submitting club member. Any photo entered in competition should be primarily created by the image maker including lighting, composition, posing (where applicable) and/or editing. Prints for print competition may be printed by someone other than the submitting member.

Competition Classes:

> Novice/Beginner
> Intermediate
> Advanced

Eligibility of Similar Images:

In the hopes of furthering members photographic skills and techniques it is strongly suggested that each member submit a variety of images and subjects.

Categories:

> **Nature**
> **Landscape**
> **Pictorial**
> **Altered Reality**
> **Mystery**
> **Various Alternating Categories**

Explanation of Categories

Nature Category:

This is a purist category. Nature photography is simply the recording of our natural world by some photographic means. No hand of man shall not be present in any nature images. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the

original scene, are permitted including natural looking HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. Stitched images are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grey-scale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed.

Landscape:

The emphasis for the Landscape category is to show the beauty of land, street, city, sea, rock, night….scapes. The images in this category should be a wider view that depicts the environment. HDR, focus stacking, panoramic, cloning, and image blending techniques as long as they appear realistic and natural are acceptable in this category. Natural looking infrared, monochrome, vignettes are allowed.

Pictorial:

The emphasis for this category is on creating an image with great impact while maintaining a natural quality. The subject matter of this category includes any pictorial images with the exception of ….Scape images (see Landscape category). Images submitted for this category can be from a single exposure or from multiple exposures blended together to create a seamless image. Examples would be HDR, image stacking for depth of field, panoramas, etc. Combining of two images is allowed as long as it appears realistic. There are no restrictions for image enhancement as long as the image maintains a natural looking appearance. Infrared, monochrome, borders and vignettes are allowed.

Altered Reality Category:

The emphasis for this category is on creativity without any restriction on manipulating the original image or images. This category should reflect something not found in reality. Any creatively altered image may be entered as long as the source image or images have been captured by the image maker/member using a film, digital camera, cellphone, or drone. Finally non-photographic elements (including but not limited to textures, paint brushes) may be added to images in this category as long as they are a minimal portion of the entire image. The entries in this category should show evidence of the photographer's creativity and should be unique, different, and out of the ordinary. The entries may depict the maker's interpretation of any subject or style.

Mystery Category:

This class is available for the Digital Competition ONLY. The specific subject for this competition category will be different every month and will be announced at the previous month's QCPC club meeting and will be judged using the same criteria as all other categories. The mystery category is intended to get everyone thinking a little out of the box. The image can either be a new capture or an image that has been previously created.

Annual Digital Competition:

Scores from the monthly digital competitions will accumulate throughout the year with awards being given at the banquet for the highest accumulated scores.

Print Competition:

Each print night will be an all-inclusive competition for that evening meaning awards will be given at each print night. Each member will be allowed to enter up to 3 prints in the competition. There will be four categories in which prints may be entered: Nature, Pictorial, Landscapes and Altered Reality A member may enter their prints all in one category, or split them as desired between the 3 categories. Judging will proceed as usual with awards being given for the top 3 scoring prints in each category each night. If there is a tie, the judges will select the winning image and remaining images will be runner-up images. There will be no year - long accumulation of scores with end-of-the-year awards for prints.

Other Club Competitions:

Theme contest:

Each year 2 special themes will be chosen. At designated meetings, images following these themes may be entered in these special competitions. The entire club will participate in judging these competitions. Images submitted for this contest must have been taken within the announced time frame.

Digital "Photo of the Year contest":

At the awards banquet the "Photo of the Year" will be awarded. A first, second and third place will be awarded in each of the 4 categories, Nature, Pictorial, Landscapes and Altered Reality with the 3 first place images becoming the Photo of the Year in each category. This image will also become the official images representing the club for the following club year. Judging of this contest will be handled "outside the club". Images submitted for this contest must have been taken within the current club year.

External Competitions:

Central IL Camera Club Association (CICCA) hosts two annual competitions (called "Salons"). The fall Salon is a club level competition where QCPC competes as a club against other CICCA clubs. The spring Salon is an individual level competition where members compete against other CICCA club members. All QCPC members who have paid their dues are eligible to enter CICCA competitions (although an entry fee is required for the spring individual salon). Rules and specific entry requirements will be communicated prior to each CICCA event.

Requirements for QCPC Digital Image Competition

A member may **enter a total of 2 digital images**? for each monthly competition. These may be all in one category or split between categories

Sizing Digital Images:

A vertical image needs to be resized to 1050 pixels High (vertical). Keep "aspect ratio" checked and let the software decide the width. A horizontal image needs to be resized to 1400 pixels WIDE (horizontal). A square image should not be taller than 1050 pixels in height. Keep "aspect ratio" checked and let software decide the width. **AT NO TIME SHOULD IMAGES SUBMITTED FOR CLUB COMPETION OR EXHIBITION EXCEED 1400 PIXELS WIDE OR 1050 PIXELS HIGH.** Images larger than 1400 pixels wide OR 1050 pixels tall will be cropped automatically to these dimensions when projected.

Rename and save the file with your competition number and class. Do not put your name on the image, just your competition number and class. Use N for Nature, P for Photo Realistic, A for Altered Reality and X for Mystery. Category definitions are the same as for prints. (See ** on page 4)

Note: if your "competition number" is 0008 and you are showing a Nature Image you should label it as follows: "N 0008 A". If you have a 2nd Nature image it would be numbered "N 0008 B", and a 3rd Nature image as "N 0008 C".

If you have 1 Nature image and 2 Pictorials they would be numbered as follows: N 0008 A,   P 0008 B,   and P 0008 C.

If you show 3 images you will always have one labeled A, one B, and one C. If you show 2 images, you will have an A and a B.

If you are "catching up" because you have judged one night, use, A, B, C, D, E, and F.

You may request a comment on one digital image each evening if you participate in the competition. Add the word "COMMENTS" after the label on your image.   For example: "P 0008 C COMMENTS".

If you do not enter the competition, you may submit one digital image for comments only. Label as above, but add the words "COMMENTS ONLY". No score will be given. For example: "P 0008 COMMENTS ONLY".

Digital images must be submitted via e-mail to qcpcimage@gmail.com by the due date (which will be the Sunday prior to the meeting). All digital images will be deleted after they are shown. gory or split between categories.

Requirements for QCPC Print Competition

Prints require a sticker with your **competition number, name, and class on the back in the upper right-hand corner as you are looking at the back of the print**. **Print your competition number then your name followed by the class. Use N for Nature, P for Pictorial, and A for Altered Reality.** (See page 2 for category explanation)
A correctly printed label for a **nature print** would look like this:

<div align="center">1438 John Doe   N</div>

A member entering 3 prints may ask for comments on **one** of the print images. Simply add the word "COMMENTS" to each label. Following is a correct example:

<div align="center">1438 John Doe   N COMMENTS</div>

Any member who **does not** enter the print competition may submit **one** print for comments only. Add the words "COMMENTS ONLY" to the label. No score will be given.
Example follows:

<div align="center">1438 John Doe   COMMENTS ONLY</div>

Requests for comments MUST be marked **before** the prints are shown.

A firm backing on prints is required and matting of some kind is permissible. Prints should **not** be framed or covered with glass or plastic for showing. Metal prints are acceptable if they are unframed or it does not have any sort of hanging device attached to the back of the metal print. Canvas wraps are not allowed.

Mats: Plain mats are allowable in the nature category. Creative matting may be used in the photo realistic, altered reality and mystery classes.

Special Note: B&W images may be entered in any of the above categories, provided that the B&W image meets all other requirements of the category. Infrared images may be entered only in the Altered-Reality category. Images with borders may be entered in any of the categories except Nature.

Other Club Competition Considerations:

A member may show an image in the digital competition one evening and the same image as a print during a print competition on another evening.

Digital and Print entries may be reentered into club competition one additional time at a later date only if the entry received a score of 20 or below. Entries receiving a score higher than 20 may not be reentered in club competition. When print and digital competition are held on the same night the same image *MAY NOT* be entered into both competitions, the image may be entered on a different print or digital night.

Except for annual or semiannual themed competitions and the annual Photo of the Year competition, there are no time restrictions on when a submitted photograph was taken.

Judging Procedures:

Judges for club competitions shall be selected by the competition committee and club officers from experienced club members. Criteria for selecting judges shall include both their personal photographic ability and ability to offer constructive comments. ***Club judges must be able to impartially evaluate all classes of entries received.*** It should be remembered by all members that club judges are not professional photographic evaluators, but rather, someone offering their personal perspectives on a particular photograph.

Both prints and digital images are judged by the salon method consisting of three judges each evening. When prints are shown, the prints 8" x 12" or smaller will show first followed by those larger than 8" x 12".

Each of the judges will award points as follows:

4 points	Image has many obvious faults
5-6 points	Below average – several faults present
7 points	Average to fairly good image
8 points	Above average image
9 points	Excellent, outstanding image

The votes of all 3 judges are totaled for each image. A total score could range from 3 to 27 points. The total score for each image will be recorded and accumulated by the competition committee to form the basis for annual awards.

Comments on entries: After completion of the numeric judging within a given class, judges will be asked to take turns commenting on those images requested for critiquing by the exhibitors. This will be followed by comments on some of the images picked at random that may offer good learning opportunities. The other two judges will then have an opportunity to add comments. If time allows, any images marked for "COMMENTS ONLY" will be discussed by the judges. Judges may then choose additional images to comments if they feel an image offers a unique learning opportunity for the membership. **No requests for comments may be made from the floor unless the president opens that option based on available time.**

Due to time constraints and out of respect for others, the audience is asked to not make comments either during the judging or during the judge's discussion time.
When offering comments on displayed photographs, judges should remember the following guidelines:
- Be brief with your comments. Our goal is to be able to offer comments on a large number of images.
- Remember that we have a very wide variety of photographic skill sets within the club. Don't let your comments discourage beginning photographers from resubmitting images.
- Always offer some positive reinforcement for the photographer's efforts
- When offering constructive comments, do so in a positive manner. Suggest what could have been done to improve the image. DO NOT focus exclusively on what is wrong with the image.
- If a judge does not feel like they can verbalize their critique of an image in a positive manner, feel free to ask another judge to provide their comments instead.
- DO NOT make comments saying that you do not like a certain kind of photo (ie, B&W, altered-reality, still-life, etc.), therefore you scored it low.

Competition (Print & Digital) make-up for Judges:

On the night a member judges, he/she will receive no scores. To compensate, a judge may make-up their missed chance for showing on another night of their choice. For example, if a judge misses showing 3 digital images in a competition because they were acting as a judge, they may show 6 digital images (3 for that night and 3 make-up images) on another evening of their choice.

For prints, they may make up the number of prints missed due to judging in a make-up session. It is up to each judge to make sure they have made up their missed showing, if they wish. In some cases, this must be made up *before* they do their actual night of judging. For example, if a person is scheduled to judge at the last competition in April the make-up images should be shown in some month prior to April.

If a person judges more than once in a year, the make-up for each judging session must be made up on a separate evening. If a person judges twice, they may show 6 images at 2 different meetings, but not 9 images at one meeting.