

TOPICS Camera Club
Rules for Digital Projection Competition
(Adopted February 23, 2009)

1. Only members whose dues are paid for the current year are eligible to enter Digital Projection competitions.
2. There are two levels of competition within the Digital Projection Competition division: Class AA (beginner-intermediate); and Class AAA (advanced). All new members must spend their first year in Class AA.
3. After 20 wins (First, Second or Third place) and two full years of competition in Class AA, a member may move to Class AAA.
4. New members who have completed one full year of competition in Class AA, who have demonstrated exceptional photographic competence, and who feel they are misplaced in the lower class, may petition the Digital Competition Chairman requesting they be permitted to move to the higher class after only one year. The move may be made with the approval of the DPC Chairman and club President. Moves to a higher class may only be made at the beginning of a competition year.
5. If a Class AA member is eligible to move to Class AAA but feels he or she needs more experience before moving to the higher class, the member may petition the Digital Projection Competition Chairman to remain in the lower class. The final decision will be made by the DPC Chairman and President. If permission to remain in the lower class is granted, the member retains all wins and is eligible to advance to the higher class at the beginning of the following competition year.
6. If, after competing in a higher class for a minimum of one year, a member feels he or she needs more experience in a lower class, the member may petition the DPC Chairman to be placed in a lower class. The decision to allow the member to change to a lower class will be made by the DPC Chairman and the President. If permission to change is granted, the member starts over with no wins in the class to which he or she moves. Moves may only be made at the beginning of a competition year.
7. During the club year (September through May), there will be five competitions. Each competition will have an assigned topic and a general topic. An image entered in the Assignment must have as its main subject the assigned topic. Any image of the member's choice may be entered in the General category without regard to theme.
8. A maximum of four images may be entered in any competition. All four images may be entered in the Assignment category, or the General category, or may be divided between the Assignment and General categories in any combination.
9. Every competition has an assigned topic or theme. The assigned topics are chosen by the TOPICS Board of Directors and are announced at the April meeting each year. Images taken for the Assignment after the April meeting in which they are announced earn one additional point in competition.
10. Digital images to be entered in competition are to be delivered to a designated person by a specified date. The date and place of delivery is selected by the Digital Projection Competition Chairman. Delivery of the images, on time, is the responsibility of the member. Normally, information about competitions will be conveyed to club members at club meetings and via the club newsletter.
11. Images for entry in club competitions may be submitted to the chairman on a compact disc (CD-R, e.g.), sent via e-mail, or by means approved by the DPC Chairman. A compact disc must be readable by a Windows based PC.

12. Images submitted for competition should be placed in a folder containing no other files.
13. Members are to prepare their images for projection in accordance with requirements outlined in *Preparing Images for Digital Projection Competition*. Copies may be obtained from the DPC Chairman or the club secretary.
14. No major reconstruction of an image entered in the **Assignment** will be permitted. The rule of thumb is that the image must remain essentially as it was photographed. Changes to the image that are acceptable include cropping, changes in saturation, brightness, contrast and sharpness. Main features of the image may not be removed or moved, nor may objects not originally part of the picture be added. However, non-essential, distracting elements such as telephone lines, con-trails, dust spots or litter, for example, may be removed. Filter effects that are common to photography may be used. This would include polarizing effects, warming and cooling filters, and soft focus filters.

There will be no restrictions placed on the editing of any digital image entered in the General category. The maker is free to use his or her creativity, using any of the tools and techniques available in image editing. The rule of thumb in the General category is: Be as creative as you like-the sky's the limit!
15. Digital entries will be judged by a panel of three non-member judges. The judges will select First, Second and Third place images and Acceptances in both the Assignment and General categories.
16. Images which are deemed not to fit the assigned category by the judges or competition chairman may be moved to the General category.
17. Winning digital images (First, Second, Third or Acceptances) may not be reentered in any future Digital Projection Competition. They are considered "retired" and may not resurface sporting a new title. Non-winning images, however, may be reentered as many times as desired, or until they achieve a win.
18. Winning digital images may be reentered in other divisions. For example, a winning digital image could be reentered as a print, or even a slide. However, a winning digital image may not be reentered in another division in the competition year in which the win occurred. It may only be reentered in a future competition year.
19. Competition entries will be shown on regular club meeting nights in September, November, December, February and April. Images will be shown in random order, ending with the Acceptances, Third place, Second place and First place in each category (Assignment and General). Ribbons are awarded for winning images. Constructive comments may be made by qualified club members or other competent photographers during the presentation of the images.
20. All winning images (First, Second, Third or Acceptances) are eligible for the Image-of-the-Year competition at the end of the club year. These images, collected at the April club meeting each year, are re-judged by a new panel of judges and are shown at the annual Awards Banquet.
21. The winning images of the Image-of-the-Year competition receive awards which are presented at the annual Awards Banquet in May. In addition, awards for the most points earned in Classes AA and AAA are also presented to the winning club members.

A plaque with a plate engraved with the member's name, number of points earned, and the year the points were earned will be awarded to all members achieving their first 50 points in competition. Additional inscriptions will be made on the point plaque's engraved plate upon achieving 100 points, and then for each additional 100 points.

Members who earn 500 and 1000 points will be awarded a large plaque mounted with a print of an image of the member's choice.

22. Points awarded for digital image competition entries are as follows:

Place	F	AS	GN
1 st	6	5	5
2 nd	5	4	4
3 rd	4	3	3
Acc	3	2	2
Entry	2	1	1

F = For Assignment: Image taken after the April meeting at which assigned topics were announced.

AS = Assignment: Image taken before the April meeting at which assigned topics were announced.

GN = General: Competition category without assigned topic.

ACC = Acceptance awards.

Entry = Points awarded non-winning images.