

TOPICS Camera Club  
Rules for Print Competitions  
(Rev. February 23, 2009)

1. Only members whose dues are paid for the current year are eligible to enter Print competitions.
2. There are two levels of competition within the Print 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. This rule will not apply to current Class A members who are “grandfathered”, that is, current Class A members may move to Class AAA upon achieving 15 wins.
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 Print 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 Print 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 Print Chairman to remain in the lower class. The final decision will be made by the Print 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 Print 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 Print Chairman and club President. If permission to move 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. A print 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 prints may be entered in any competition. All four prints may be entered in the assigned category, or the general category, or may be divided between the assigned and general categories in any combination.
9. Prints for competition may be color, black and white, or hand tinted black and white. Prints of all types, whether color, B&W, or hand tinted B&W will be judged in a common class and not separated.
10. 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 print 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!
11. Prints will be judged by class (AA or AAA). The Print Chairman will also decide, based on the number of prints entered, whether prints will be judged by category (Assignment and General) or whether the categories will be judged together.
12. Following the competition, prints will be displayed on a meeting night determined by the Print Chairman and President.

13. Winning prints will be awarded appropriate ribbons.
14. Winning prints may not be reentered in any future print competition. Winning prints are to be considered “retired” and cannot resurface sporting a new title. Non-winning prints, however, may be reentered as many times as desired, or until they achieve a win.
15. Winning prints may be reentered in other divisions. For example, a winning print could be reentered as a digital image, or even a slide. However, a winning print 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.
16. The minimum acceptable size for a print will be 8 x 10 inches or 80 square inches.
17. The maximum acceptable size for a print is not to exceed 16 x 20 inches mounted.
18. All prints entered in competition must be mounted on a 16” x 20” mountboard or matboard. This is to facilitate handling, to help prevent damage to the print, and to conform to standards set by the Photographic Society of America. Prints may be permanently or temporarily mounted.
19. All images included in a print are to have been originally created by the maker.
20. Prints may be commercially made or made by the competitor.
21. Prints may be matted but may not be in frames.
22. Prints are to be labeled on the back with the entrant’s name, class and title of print. Entrants should use labels which have been prepared for the purpose. The label should be placed at the top center of the back of the print. In addition to name, title and class of print, the label should also list the category entered as follows:
  - Place an “F” on prints which are entered in the Assignment category and which were photographed after the April meeting in which assignment topics were announced.
  - Place an “AS” on prints which are entered in the Assignment category but which were photographed prior to the April meeting in which assignment topics were announced.
  - Place a “GN” on prints which are entered in the General category.
23. All winning prints (First, Second, Third or Acceptance) are eligible for the Print-of-the-Year competition at the end of the year. These prints, which are collected at the April meeting each year, are re-judged by a panel of new judges and will be shown at the annual Awards Banquet in May.
24. Points awarded print competition entries are as follows:

Place	F	AS	GN
1 <sup>st</sup>	6	5	5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	5	4	4
3 <sup>rd</sup>	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 entry without assigned topic.

Acc = Acceptance awards.

Entry = Points awarded for non-winning images.