

# **SANTA ROSA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY COMPETITION RULES**

(2016, v1)

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## **1.0 BASIC RULES**

### **1.1 COMPETITIONS**

- Monthly competitions: January through October (see 2.0)
- Palmer Field trip and End of Year Competition, November (see sections 5 & 6)

## 1.2 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- All full and honorary members may enter club competitions. Members will not be required to be present to compete.
- Member dues must be in good standing.

## 1.3 COMPETITION FORMATS

Two competition formats are acceptable: prints and digital images. The formats are judged together.

## 1.4 RECORDS

The Competition Chair will keep a record of each competition as a basis for determining awards and advancement. Records will be kept for a period of five years.

# 2.0 MONTHLY COMPETITION RULES

## 2.1 LEVELS

- Each member will compete in one of four levels: B, entry level; A, second level; AA, third level; Master, fourth level.
- New members start at the B level unless advanced to the A level per 4.2. No new member will start higher than the A level.
- Re-entering members may be reinstated at the level previously attained.
- Members will compete in their respective levels (B, A, AA, Master) in each subject category.
- In the event there are four or fewer members in the Master level, those members will compete in the AA level competition, but their scores will be kept separately. When there are at least five members at the Master level, a Master level will be formed.

## 2.2 COMPETITION SCHEDULE

- Monthly competitions are held on the second Thursday of each month, January through *October*
- Competitions shall be open for entry the second Friday of the preceding month.
- An additional competition will be held the fourth Thursday of January.
- The Competitions Chair shall enter winning projected images, and digital facsimiles of winning print images, in the corresponding N4C(Northern California Council of Camera Clubs) competition (See Section 3.) Images shall be entered into the category entered at SRPS, and images eligible for N4C special categories, such as Authentic Wildlife, Sequence, and Pictorial Monochrome shall be entered in those categories as applicable.

*SRPS participates in the Pictorial Monochrome category only at the N4C level. Winning monochromatic images in the Pictorial category in these months are automatically entered into the Monochrome category at N4C.*

## 2.3 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Each member may enter up to three entries per competition meeting. Sequences of two to four individual images, as defined below in section 3.0, N4C Category rules, count as one entry, and are limited to one sequence per member per competition meeting. Entries containing multiple noncontinuous images such as collages or triptych are not sequences and are only permitted in

the Pictorial and Creative categories.

- The entries may be divided between the print and digital formats, as well as among the categories.
- A digital version of print entries is required by the Review Committee, is used for the projected image entry at N4C, and may be substituted for the print entry at competition if the member chooses by notification of the Competition Chair.
- Identical, substantially similar or derivative images may not be entered in different categories or in different formats on the same evening.
- An image identical to, substantially similar to or derivative from a winning image (*1st, 2nd or 3rd place*) in a prior monthly competition may not be entered in a subsequent monthly competition. A substantially similar image is one taken of an essentially unchanged scene or subject, or one altered by editing variations such as creative effects or cropping, but still readily recognizable as the same or a similar image.
- An image may be entered a maximum of three times. Submitting the image in a different format does not allow for additional submissions.
- Any image winning first, second or third place in a regular monthly competition in any category may not be entered in the monthly competition again in any format, including in a higher level if the member subsequently advances. Images receiving an Honorable Mention award may be re-entered.
- Monthly winners will be automatically entered in the End of Year competition.
- Submissions must conform to these rules and the document “Preparing Images for Competition” which is found on the club web site. Images must be submitted before the published deadline.
- Further information on entry requirements and procedures can be found in “Competition Entry Information” which is located on the club web site.

## 2.4 IMAGE REVIEW

- Images will be reviewed for conformance to the rules by a Review Committee on the weekend after the entry deadline.
- The Competition Chair will notify a member by e-mail if an image does not conform to the Category Rules that were posted on the SRPS website at the time the image was entered. The image will be moved to the appropriate category or the member will have the opportunity to withdraw the image from competition.

## 2.5 JUDGING AND AWARDS

- A qualified non-member, or, alternatively, a panel of any combination of qualified members and non-members, will critique and judge each entry. Members may not judge a category in which they have an entry.
- After the entries have been shown and critiqued, the judge will review them, with the digital
- entries displayed together on the laptop screen in a lightbox view, and will rank the first, second and third place entries in each level within each category.
- When there are multiple judges in regular competitions, the Competition Chair or designee will ask each judge for his or her first and second choices, tallying the responses to determine first, second and third place winners. If there is a tie, the Competition Chair will ask the judges to resolve it, and will keep track of the result.
- Regardless of the number of entries in a category/level, at his/her discretion, the judge may

award:

- Only a first place winner, or
  - First and second place winners, or
  - First, second and third place winners, or
  - No winners at all.
  - Regardless of whether first, second or third places are awarded, the judge, at his/her discretion, may award as many Honorable Mentions (HMs), as he/she deems worthy, irrespective of how many entries are submitted in a category/level.
  - A first place, or “Best of Show” award for the best image among all the first place winners across all categories and levels.
- Points will be awarded as follows: Ten points for first place, eight points for second, six points for third, four points for Best of Show (in addition to any other points awarded), three points for HMs, and two points for all other entries. Points will be cumulative toward advancement, except for the AA level, where point average will determine advancement. (see section 4.4)
  - All first, second and third place winners will be eligible to compete in the End of Year Competition (see 6.0).
  - Additional points will be granted for awards won at the subsequent N4C competition as follows:
    - First place - six points
    - Second place - five points
    - Third place - four points
    - Fourth place - three points
    - Fifth place - two points
    - Honorable Mention - one point
    - Best of Show - three points, in addition to first place points awarded
    - Best Authentic Wildlife - one point, in addition to any other points awarded. Three points will be awarded effective January 1, 2016, in addition to any other points awarded.

### 3.0 CATEGORY RULES

- The category rules shall follow those of the Northern California Council of Camera Clubs (N4C) for projected images, and are reprinted below.

#### Preamble

#### The following holds for all Competition Divisions

The Northern California Council of Camera Clubs subscribes to the Ethics Statement of the Photographic Society of America. Consistent with that Ethics Statement, all images submitted for competition in both Print and Projected Image mediums, and in all Competition Divisions shall originate as photographs by the entrant on photographic emulsion or acquired digitally.

By virtue of submitting an entry, the photographer certifies the work as his/her own. No clip art, digital art or photographs other than those made by the entrant may be used in whole or in part in any portion of the image. Images may only be manipulated as noted in individual division definitions. When graphic

elements other than photographs created by the entrant are used in an image, photographic content must still predominate.

Now that N4C is judging on a monitor rather than a projector, it is more imperative that members use the N4C standard resolution, a maximum of 1600 pixels in width and 1200 pixels in height so that the judges can better determine whether the focus is sharp.

### Pictorial (P)

Pictorial photography is the use of the photographic medium as an art form. The emphasis is on interest, visual impact, composition, and technical excellence. Images in the Pictorial division are not confined to any particular subject, type, or style of photography. Pictorial images may be manipulated in the darkroom, on the computer or in the camera in a manner consistent with the standards stated in the preamble to these definitions. The term Pictorial includes color and monochrome images. A monochrome image refers to an image in black and white (grayscale), but also includes images made of tones of a single color. For example, sepia images, which display tones from light tan to dark brown, or cyanotype images (“blueprints”) are also monochrome.

### Creative (C)

Creative photography is producing an image through the use of imaginative skill or originality of thought including the altering of reality. No image should be eliminated from competition simply because it looks realistic, provided it shows originality of concept.

Creative images may include modifications in the darkroom, on the computer, or in the camera, as well as unusual points of view, imaginative use of subject matter or lighting, or any other presentation that begins with the maker’s photograph or a collection of photographs.

All Creative images must be consistent with the standards stated in the preamble to these definitions. In Creative image competition the title is read when showing the image.

### Travel (T)

A Photo Travel image must express the feeling of a time and place, and portray a land, its distinctive features or culture in its natural state. There are no geographical limitations. Close-up pictures of people or objects must include distinguishable environment.

Techniques that add to, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping are not permitted. All adjustments must appear natural. Conversion to monochrome is allowed.

The title should give the location and complement the travel story. All Travel images must be consistent with the standards stated in the preamble to these definitions.

### Journalism (J)

Journalism entries shall consist of pictures with informative content and emotional impact, including human interest, documentary and spot news. Sequences in Journalism show a chronology of events or tell a story. Two to four images are permitted in a Sequence in the Journalism division, which applies to Projected Image competition only. The journalistic value of the photograph shall be considered over

pictorial quality. In the interest of credibility, photographs which misrepresent the truth, such as manipulation of the image, or situations which are set up for the purpose of photography, are unacceptable in Journalism competition. The primary concern is to make story-telling and/or newsworthy photographs.

Techniques that add to, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping are not permitted. All adjustments must appear natural. Conversion to monochrome is allowed. In competition the title is read when showing the image. Good titles are important and should add to the photo-story. All Journalism images must be consistent with the standards stated in the preamble to these definitions.

### Nature (N)

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation. The informative and nature story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality, while maintaining high technical quality.

Images entered in the Nature division can have landscapes, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant organisms as the primary subject matter. This includes images taken with the subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food.

However, photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible. Also human elements shall not be present in the image and are ineligible except: in situations where wild animals have been tagged with scientific bands, tags or radio collars; in situations where nature subjects (e.g. barn owls, storks, eagles etc.) have adapted to an environment modified by humans, and these human elements are an integral part of the nature story; or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. Any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement is not permitted. This includes techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping. Infrared images (either direct-captures or derivations), are not permitted and are ineligible.

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 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. Stitching is allowed to complete the natural image. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grey-scale monochrome.

Sequences in Nature are permitted and should show a chronology of events or tell a story. A Print Nature Sequence consist of a series of two or more related images and must have all images printed on the same sheet of paper, or matted in the same mat (composite of multiple-images-in-one). A Projected Nature Sequence may have a series of up to four images, which count collectively as a single image, and unlike print sequences, in projected images, no composite of multiple-images-in-one are allowed.

In Nature competition the title should be factual and descriptive and should be read when showing the image. Scientific names are encouraged but are not required. All Nature images must be consistent with the standards stated in the preamble to these definitions.

### Non-competitive (NC)

In addition to the above N4C categories, this category is for any image in good taste, a place where all members (regular, associate or honorary, in any level) may submit images which do not fit in the competition categories, and/or where members can receive constructive feedback about their images without entering them into competition. Members submitting Non-competitive entries must be present to have the entries shown.

## 4.0 ADVANCEMENT

### 4.1 ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

- The Advancement Committee, under the direction of the Vice President, will determine which members meet the qualifications for advancement. This entails reviewing petitions to enter the club at A level, deciding on petitions for advancement during the year, reviewing the year's competition results to determine which members are eligible for automatic advancement, and confirming that candidates for the Master level have satisfied all requirements. End-of-Year advancement and Master's eligibility will be announced at the Annual Awards Banquet.
- The Advancement Committee will consist of the Competition Chair and two members appointed by the Vice President, with the Vice President serving as an alternate. At least one of the three regular members will be a Master.
- In the event that the Vice President or Competition Chair becomes eligible for advancement, the decision on that advancement will be made by the remaining members. Should an appointed member become eligible for advancement after appointment, that member will be replaced by the Vice President or by a new appointee who is not eligible for advancement.

### 4.2 PETITIONING FOR ENTRY ADVANCEMENT AND MID-YEAR ADVANCEMENT

- While new Club members generally enter at B level, those with higher levels of skill and experience may petition to enter at A level by submitting to the Vice President 20 images for Advancement Committee review. The Advancement Committee will decide on the appropriate placement level.
- At any time during the year, a B or A level member may request advancement to the next level by submitting to the Vice President 20 images for Advancement Committee review. The Advancement Committee will decide on the appropriate placement level.
- Images for Advancement Committee review may be submitted or made available online.
- Should a member move to a new level as the result of petitioning, points already earned at the lower level are not transferable to the higher level.

### 4.3 END-OF-YEAR ADVANCEMENT TO LEVEL A OR AA

- Following the End-of-Year Competition in November, the Vice President will receive from the

Competition Chair recommendations for automatic advancement from B to A level and from A to AA level. The Competition Chair may also recommend consideration of other individuals or clusters of individuals whose scores indicate significant achievement during the year.

- To be eligible for advancement, the member must have submitted a minimum of fifteen entries in any combination of categories in the Monthly Competitions during the year. If the member was advanced to a higher level during the calendar year, only entries at the new level are considered.
- The eligible members in the B and A levels receiving the highest and second highest total scores, in all categories of the Monthly Competition combined will automatically advance to the next level.
- The Advancement Committee will determine if additional members will advance to A or AA. The committee will base the decision on the total scores in all categories of the Monthly Competition combined. In the event there is a cluster of top scores, all members represented in that cluster will be advanced, provided they have met the minimum submissions requirements.

#### **4.4 ADVANCEMENT TO MASTER LEVEL**

##### 4.4.1 Purpose

- It is the intent of the Santa Rosa Photographic Society to recognize outstanding accomplishment in the field of photography by promoting qualified members to the Master level.

##### 4.4.2 Qualifications

- A member will have four consecutive years in which to qualify as a Master's level candidate. In the event a member has not qualified within the four-year period, the oldest year of achievement will be dropped at the beginning of the following year. The minimum time for a member to remain in AA Level is two consecutive years, provided all other requirements are met.
- Qualification requirements are based on two factors: active participation in the club and notable levels of achievement in the monthly competitions.
- The member must have submitted the minimum of entries required to qualify for advancement as set forth in the competition rules in at least two of the qualification years.
- The member must rank first or second based on highest overall average score, at least one of the years.
- During another of the qualification years, the member must win a first place in one or more of the competition categories in the End of Year Competition (section 6). This condition is waived if the member achieves first or second rank based on highest overall average score, in at least two of the years.

##### 4.4.3 Advancement Procedure

- Following the End-of-Year Competition in November, the Competition Chair will notify the Vice President of any AA-level member who has become eligible for the Master level.
- The Vice President will submit relevant information to the Advancement Committee for review. The Advancement Committee will confirm the member's eligibility for Master Candidate status. Decisions will be made in conformity with club rules.
- Following qualification, the member begins a one-year period as Master Candidate. During this year the member will compete at the Master Level.
- The Vice President will inform the Master candidate of his/her eligibility, of the requirements to be met, and of the procedure to follow during the year of candidacy. Notification of Master candidacy, if not given at the Awards Banquet of the qualifying year, will be given by the end of
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- January at the latest in order for the candidate to have sufficient time to prepare the Master's Presentation Outline.
- The Master Candidate is required to give a Master's Presentation for club members during the year of candidacy.
- The Master's Presentation will be a photographic presentation and lecture of approximately 45 minutes in length in the medium of the candidate's choice. The purposes of the presentation are to educate club members and to demonstrate the candidate's proficiency in a specific area.
- By April 1st, the Master Candidate will give the Vice President a "Master's Presentation Outline." The Vice President will distribute the Outline to the Advancement Committee, requesting approval of the topic and contents of the proposed presentation and suggestions for improvements as necessary.
- The Vice President will notify the Master Candidate of the Advancement Committee's recommendations and confirm a date for the Master's Presentation as one of the regular programs during the year.
- Failure to give the Master's Presentation within the candidacy year results in loss of eligibility, and the member will need to begin the qualification process again.

## **5.0 PALMER FIELD TRIP COMPETITION**

### **5.1 LEVELS**

All members compete in one group, regardless of level. Awards do not count toward member advancement.

### **5.2 COMPETITIONS SCHEDULE**

The Palmer Field Trip Competition is held the second Thursday of November.

### **5.3 RULES**

- Images must be taken on club Field Trips, as designated by the Field Trips Coordinator, and can be of any style.
- Each member may enter up to two entries per Field Trip, up to four maximum. Prior winners from regular monthly competitions are eligible.
- Winners of the Palmer Field Trip competition are eligible for future regular monthly competitions.

### **5.4 JUDGING AND AWARDS**

- Members will view and may discuss entries as time allows.
- Members will vote for winners by writing three titles on paper ballot, or by an equitable procedure as directed by the Competition Chair.
  - The Competitions Chair will score the results of member ballots to award first, second, and third place.
- Winners will be announced at the Awards Banquet.

## **6.0 END-OF-YEAR COMPETITION**

### **6.1 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

- Eligibility: All first, second and third place award winners in the Monthly Competitions during

the year are eligible for submission in the same category and level in which they won. In the case of members advancing to a new level during the year, only entries winning awards in the member's new level will be eligible.

- Entries do not have to be resubmitted.

## 6.2 JUDGING and AWARDS

- After the last Monthly Competition, all of the year's monthly competition winners (first, second, third), including the digital facsimile of prints, shall be judged by an online panel of at least three judges.
- Each judge will rank his or her top five choices in each category level as follows:

Ranking for the Top 5	Points Awarded
The highest/best	5
The second highest/best	4
The third highest/best	3
The fourth highest/best	2
The fifth highest/best	1

- The Competition Chair will receive the judge responses, calculate how many total points each entry receives, and select the top five scorers in each category level. In the event that fewer than five entries receive any points in a category/level, then only those that received at least one point will be selected. If one or more entries receive the same number of points as the fifth highest, then all entries that are tied with the 5th highest in that category level will also be selected. Any ties for the first, second, or third place winners in each category level will be resolved by a tie breaking round, with a minimum of three judges.
- The First, Second and Third place winners in each category level will be announced at the annual Awards Banquet.
- The judges will also be directed to choose a Best of Show from among the twenty first place images (first in each category level), to be designated the Al Shelton Award. A minimum of three judge responses are required. The Judges Chair may enlist additional judges as needed. If no image receives a majority of the votes, a tie breaking round will be conducted, with a minimum of three judges.
- The Al Shelton Award will be announced at the annual Awards Banquet.

## 6.3 END of YEAR MEETING

- The top five images in each category-level, plus ties, will be shown to the membership, in no particular order, at the End of Year Meeting, to be held the Monday before the fourth Thursday of November. No further judging occurs at the End of Year Meeting.

## 7.0 AWARDS BANQUET

Awards are presented to deserving members at the Annual Awards Banquet in December of each year. To be eligible for High Point Total and/or Category Awards, a member must submit a minimum of fifteen digital and/or print images. There is no minimum submissions requirement for the winners of the End of Year (EOY) competition. The awards are as follows:

- High Point Total Awards: An award is given to each of the four members, one at each level, who achieves the highest point total for all categories combined. In case of a tie, multiple awards are given.
- Category Awards: Awards are given to the members who achieve the highest average score and second and third place winners in each category at each level. In case of a tie or ties, multiple awards are given. A minimum of six image submissions, including digital and print, are required within the Pictorial category to be eligible for an award in that category, and a minimum of three image entries, including digital and print, are required to be eligible for an award in the Nature, Travel, Journalism and Creative categories.
- End of Year Competition: An award is given, as determined by the results of the End Of Year Competition, for first, second and third place winners in each category level.
- Palmer Field Trip Award: An award is given, for the first, second, and third place winners.
- Al Shelton Trophy Award: An award is given for the image selected best from among all the first place winners in each category level in the End of Year competition. (Best of Show).