

CHICAGO AREA CAMERA CLUBS ASSOCIATION

COMPETITION RULES

(Effective 12/12/2020)

CACCA is organized to promote photographic activities in the Chicago area and part of these activities is to conduct competitions for both Clubs and Individuals. Rules are required for the orderly handling of these competitions so all who enter will have the same opportunity to have their work fairly judged by impartial judges. Because of the very nature and magnitude of entries to these competitions, it is very difficult for those in charge to determine if every entry conforms to every rule. Each entrant should understand the rules so that they do not inadvertently violate them. The CACCA Board believes that the basic fairness of CACCA members will guide them in the submission of their entries so they will not deliberately fall outside the rules.

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I. CACCA COMPETITIONS

This section identifies the various Categories, Divisions and Classes of competition currently being offered by the CACCA organization.

A. CATEGORIES AND DIVISIONS

The CACCA organization currently offers two categories of competition: Interclub and Individual.

Interclub competitions shall be held monthly beginning in October and ending in May for a total of eight competitions. Divisions include Digital Projected Images, Large Color Prints, Small Color Prints, Small Monochrome Prints, and Large Monochrome Prints.

CACCA shall also conduct various competitions for individual photographers, focusing on special subjects or photographic techniques. Individual competitions shall be held throughout the competition year in accordance with the published annual competition schedule. In any season, CACCA may add or drop competitions from this group.

Unless CACCA sponsors a special event, such as an Annual Spring Salon, only photographers belonging to CACCA member clubs are eligible to enter, while they and their friends are welcome to attend the competitions.

All competitions shall be held following the monthly delegate's meetings.

B. CLASSES

Competition divisions may consist of a single class or may be divided into multiple classes of competition. The lowest division will be Class B, then Class A, Class AA. In a division, no Club or Individual participant may enter more than one class. At the beginning of each competition season, Clubs and Individuals entering a division for the first time generally will enter the lowest Class. Other Clubs and Individuals will be placed using the most recent one-year average of submitted images for Interclub Divisions and a two-year average, when available, for Individual Divisions.

At the end of each competition season, when averages are available, the Records Chair shall propose to the CACCA Board, for its consideration and approval, recommended placement of clubs and individuals. An attempt shall be made to keep classes roughly equal in size. Consideration will be made for individuals and clubs with limited number of entries.

Members of any Class shall not move out of that Class simply because they withdrew from participation for one or more years or because they did not submit a full complement of entries for the current competition year.

An individual or club may elect to compete in a class that is one higher than the class into which they have been placed. Participants in Individual divisions may request this move upwards simply by so indicating on their entry form. Board approval is required if a club requests such a move. Individuals or clubs who are new to a division will normally be placed in class B unless a request for a higher class has been made to the Chairman.

Unless the Board decides otherwise, all new divisions will have only one Class the first year. Based upon the number of participants and the scores in the first competition year, the Board may choose to divide the division into multiple classes for following years.

II. GENERAL RULES

This set of general rules, unless overridden in Section III, applies to all divisions of competition except as noted.

A. ENTRIES

SUBMISSIONS

All entries must be submitted to the division chairperson no later than one-half hour before the start of the delegates' meetings. Each CACCA Member Club may submit four entries each month in each Interclub division from regular members of the club. An entrant holding current membership in more than one CACCA club may enter his/her work from each club.

From each CACCA Member club in any monthly Interclub competition, only one entry per maker is permitted in each division.

MAKE-UPS

A maximum of four regular make-up entries is allowed per month. In Interclub Divisions, make-up entries are considered part of the original month's competition entries and not part of the month during which the make-up is submitted.

Judge's make-up entries are entries that could not be submitted during the month when the photographer acted as a judge in a particular competition. If the competition that was judged was an Interclub Competition, the judge's make up must be entered in the next competition in which that judge's club participates. If the competition is an Individual Competition, judge's make-ups can be entered into the competitions prior to and/or after the judging event. Judge's make-ups may be split between Individual Competitions. Judge's and regular make-ups **are** eligible for honors.

Separate entry forms shall be submitted for make-ups with "**Regular Make-up**" or "**Judge's Make-up**" and the **month** being "Made-up" clearly marked on the entry form. In Interclub Divisions, care must be taken to not submit a make-up from a maker who has already competed in the month marked. It is the delegate's responsibility to monitor compliance to such rules. Non-compliance may result in loss of points with no make-ups allowed.

ELIGIBILITY

With regard to all entries, the entrant must have exposed or created all elements of the final image. In order to produce slides, negatives or computer-readable files others may do the processing. Only the entrant may have done any modifications to the original images content. Others may do mounting, in all divisions. Copies of paintings, drawings or other two dimensional work, or of another photographer's work by themselves are ineligible. However, they may be included as a **minor** part of a composition of the entrant's creation.

Same or similar photographs previously submitted by the entrant, from any of the clubs in which the photographer belongs, and judged in the same division are ineligible. (The same image may be entered in other divisions, including Individual.) Similar is defined as almost identical in subject, composition, props, lighting or technique so that a reasonable person viewing the entries together would decide that the entrant is attempting to duplicate the previous entry except for minor changes. The intent of the rule is to encourage submission of new photographs.

Computer imaging techniques may be used in all print and digital projection divisions. See specific rules for Nature and Photojournalism entries for restrictions on the amount of enhancement and/or alteration permitted. Any element that was not generated by the maker, such as clip art, skies, textures, drawings, stock or internet

photographs or any element that is created by another person cannot be used in the image. Elements that are added due to algorithms (i.e., computer generated), such as star bursts, are allowed. Programs that replace elements, provided such replacements are allowed in the competition, may be used so long as the new element is the makers.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Digital Projected Images: All digital images must be no larger than 1400 pixels wide, nor more than 1050 pixels tall. Computer file type is jpeg only. File names must follow requirements set forth in each competition year. Image titles can be no longer than 35 characters, including spaces.

Further information can be found at the DPI section of the CACCA web site (www.caccaweb.com).

Prints: Prints must be mounted. The title, maker's name and club affiliation must appear legibly on the back of the mount in the upper left-hand corner. Mounts with a black or dark back should have this information on a white or light colored label attached to the back. The appropriate CACCA print entry label (Interclub or Individual) must be correctly filled out and applied to the lower right-hand corner. An appropriate entry form (Interclub or Individual) is also to be filled in both top and bottom for each division with all entries listed in appropriate order.

"Small Print" areas shall not exceed 11 by 14 inches. All "Small Prints" are to be mounted on an 11 by 14 inch mount board.

"Large Print" area shall not exceed 16 by 20 inches. All "Large Prints" are to be mounted on a 16 by 20 inch mount board.

Prints cannot extend beyond the edge of the mount.

An image is considered to be Monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no color (i.e. contains only shades of gray which can include pure black and pure white) OR it gives the impression of being a grayscale image that has been toned in one color across the entire image (For example by Sepia, etc.) A grayscale or multi-colored image modified or giving the impression of having been modified by partial toning, multi toning or by the inclusion of spot coloring does not meet the definition of monochrome and shall be classified as a Color work.

RETURN

Except for the Entry of the Month in each division and Best of Year, all entries will be available for pick-up immediately after the completion of the competition. The Entry of the Month / Best of Year is held to copy for CACCA records and will be returned later. Care will be exercised with all entries but the division Chairpersons or CACCA is not responsible for loss or damage during transit, judging or exhibition.

Club delegates and entrants are requested to refrain from picking up or asking for their entries from monthly competitions until the Chairperson has had an opportunity to sort all entries and prepare them for safe return.

CHALLENGES

The following challenge procedures have been adopted to help assure fair competition and to inform people who inadvertently submit ineligible entries, or where normal procedures have been omitted:

If under circumstances not detected until after the competition is run, a club's images are placed in the incorrect class (where multiple classes are used) and judged and scored there, the results should just be transferred to the correct class. If any image in such a situation should happen to receive honors, the honors will be transferred with the image's score.

For extra images entered that should not have been included (e.g. exceeds the allowed limit), the last image entered will be eliminated, regardless of score or if an honor had been awarded.

The Chairperson, a judge or any attending member of a CACCA Club may make challenges to any entry

either before the judging process, or after it is judged. All such challenges must be made to the Chairperson, who will try to resolve the eligibility issue during that competition if possible. If, during the competition the Chairperson concludes that an entry is ineligible for any reason other than violations of the same/similar rule (see "Eligibility"), that entry will be pulled and returned to the maker with an explanation of the reason. In all cases, images should be scored on the merit of the image first before disqualification, and judges should be reminded to judge accordingly. The maker may submit a make-up entry at the next competition. The entrant whose entry is ruled ineligible also may file an appeal in writing to the Chairperson not later than 60 days from the date of the challenge.

If the Chairperson is not able to resolve an eligibility challenge at the competition where the challenge was made, scoring and judging will be allowed to continue. The Chairperson will then later refer the matter to the CACCA Board for resolution. When the Chairperson is prepared to present a challenge, he or she shall notify the president in advance of the next CACCA Board meeting that a ruling on a challenge or appeal will be requested. The Board may decide to revoke any honors given an ineligible entry. The Board also may decide on remedies appropriate to the circumstances for entries removed from a competition and subsequently found on appeal to be eligible. At the last competition of the season, a special committee consisting of the Coordinator of Competitions, the President, and one other director, if available, as appointed by the President, shall be empowered to immediately resolve any challenge for that day.

If the challenge is made under the "same or similar" rule (see "Eligibility"), the maker will be requested to promptly furnish to the Chairperson the previous entries challenged as "same or similar". Failure by the maker to furnish the previous entries will cause the club/entrant to forfeit the points given the challenged entry. An entry that is found, after presentation before the Board, to have violated the "same/similar" rule, will be eliminated, and the club/entrant can replace and makeup the image in a subsequent competition for that season. If this should occur in the May or the final month competition, then the club/entrant will automatically have the challenged score reduced to 18 (or remain at the original score, whichever is the lowest). A subsequent proven violation by the same club/entrant will cause forfeiture of points with no make-up allowed in the same competition season.

B. JUDGING

Room lights will be off during the judging of all competitions. The judges shall not preview entries.

Prints shall be displayed individually for scoring in a print box conforming to PSA standards. Judges shall view prints at a distance of approximately 5 feet. For digital projected images, the viewing distance will be 2- 2.5 times the width of the projected image. If possible, all judges used for CACCA competitions shall be selected from within CACCA membership.

Chairpersons shall arrange for three qualified judges for each competition and will make an energetic effort to prevent using judges from the same club more than once during the current competition year. At any competition, no two judges may be from the same club and, for these purposes, any judge who is a regular member of more than one club will be considered as a member of each club. The chairperson of a competition cannot be a judge.

No judge may have their work in the competition they are judging. If a judge's interclub entry has been removed from competition resulting in a less than full complement of entries, that entry must be entered in the subsequent competition and shall be eligible for honors. (See Make-ups.)

C. SCORING

Entries are first scored on a point basis of from 4 to 9 by each judge, giving a maximum score of 27 for any entry. The scores earned by a club or individual for a competition are added to obtain the total score for the competition. The monthly scores are totaled for the year to obtain the final standings in each division, based on completion in that competition.

D. HONORS

At each monthly competition, in each class of each division, a minimum of 20% of the images will be selected for honors, and approximately half will be awards, and the remaining will be awarded honorable mentions. (See "Chairperson's Procedures" for more details in the procedures for determining honors). Suitably inscribed ribbons will be presented to the recipients of these honors.

Judging for all honors will be by the Standard "IN" and "OUT" voting method. This vote will yield 4 categories ranging from "three IN" to "zero IN." The required number of winners will be chosen from these categories starting with the highest category and going down to include as many categories as are needed. If the lowest of these needed categories must be split, only that category will be re-judged.

Also at each of these monthly competitions, in each division, an Entry of the Month will be chosen from the awards in all classes, judged together. Unlike judging for honors, a "three IN" and "two IN" are considered equal in the process of elimination. (Only "one IN" or "zero IN" are dropped from consideration.)

A certificate and a medal will be presented to the maker of the Entry of the Month.

Immediately after the last monthly competition, each division Chairperson shall arrange a special judging to select the Best of the Year entry. All awards and images that scored 24 points or more are eligible and shall be judged together. This judging will be by "in" and "out" voting, the same as the Entry of the Month. It is the makers' responsibility to submit eligible entries to the division Chairpersons.

The final cumulative scores for all clubs and individuals at the end of the competition year will determine the trophy/plaque/certificate winners. First, second and third place shall be awarded to the clubs with the highest scores in each class in each division. For Individual competitions, the number of trophies/plaques/certificates awarded is based on the number of completions in a category. If 6 or more complete in a category, 3 honors will be given. If 4 or 5 complete, 2 honors will be given, and if less than 4 complete, only 1 honor will be given. Clubs or individuals failing to submit the total required number of entries for the year shall not receive a trophy/plaque/certificate. In case of ties, duplicate trophies/plaques/certificates will be presented.

E. PERMISSIVE USE

By virtue of submitting an entry in any CACCA competition, the entrant certifies the work as his/her own and permits CACCA to reproduce all or part of the entered material free of charge for publication and/or display in media related to promoting and publicizing CACCA. This may include, but is not limited to, low resolution posting on a website, publication in the Year End Catalog, CACCA newsletter and/or inclusion in a DVD intended for CACCA clubs to use as they review winning images. CACCA assumes no liability for any misuse of copyright.

III. SUPPLEMENTAL RULES FOR SPECIFIC DIVISIONS

In addition to the general rules found in II, the following contains supplemental rules that are in effect for the identified divisions.

A. INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS

Eight competitions shall be held each competition year on a monthly basis beginning in October and ending in May. Each club may submit up to four (4) entries from (4) different makers per competition. A full complement of entries for the year is thirty-two (32). The Interclub divisions are:

- **Small Monochrome Prints**
- **Small Color Prints**
- **Large Monochrome Prints**
- **Large Color Prints**
- **Digital Projected Images**

B. INDIVIDUAL CREATIVE DIGITAL (or Artistically Rendered Images)

CACCA will conduct three Individual Creative competitions during the year as digitally projected images. Entries may exhibit a departure from realism by creativity of subject matter and/or photographic manipulation. Entries that are “straight” photographs with no evidence of creativity or departure from realistic presentation are ineligible. This category is also about photographic images that show uniqueness and originality not normally seen in most images. An image can be modified to appear altered in an unusual way, but an image that may appear realistic qualifies if a high level of imagination and originality are evident. Any and all techniques used to alter the image, such as derivations, sandwiches, montages, multiple images; diffusion, solarization, etc. can be used, if desired. The best combination of imagination and execution is the intent.

Completely computer generated images are not permitted. See Eligibility section. These images can be up to 1400 pixels wide and 1050 pixels tall.

C. INDIVIDUAL NATURE

CACCA will conduct three Individual Nature Print competitions during the year in small prints.

Photographs entered into Nature Divisions may depict observations from any branch of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, and must do so in a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject matter and to certify to its honest presentation. Any view may be used, including micro and macro photographs.

The story-telling value of the photograph should be considered along with its pictorial quality.

Obviously recognizably man-made elements shall not be present except in the rare instances where they enhance the story (e.g., where wildlife adopts a man-made location). Scientific wildlife banding, scientific tags and radio collars are allowed. Tethering of animals is allowed, but tethering devices may not be seen in the image. No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. 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. 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.

Images entered in Nature sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above 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. Ineligible are photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants (e.g. garden flowers) or domesticated animals, mounted specimens, obviously set arrangements, derivations or any form of photographic manipulation that creates a false or misleading impression of the natural history subject.

A maximum of four images (monochrome or color) may be entered in each nature competition. The Print competition shall consist of small prints only. Sequences of more than one print on a mount will be considered as one entry.

If the competition has more than one class (class A and B), the following criteria will be used to establish a maker's class positioning for the competition season:

- Any photographer who achieves Tops in that category shall compete in the highest class.
- A two-year competition score average will be used to determine the class placement each season. If only one season of data is available, then that average will be used.
- New competitors will be placed in Class B, unless they elect to compete in A. Previous competitors can always elect to move up in to the next class before the beginning of the next season.

D. INDIVIDUAL PHOTOJOURNALISM

CACCA shall conduct three Individual Photojournalism competitions during the year in small prints. A maximum of four small (color or monochrome) prints may be entered in each competition.

Entries in the Photojournalism Divisions must depict man and his environment. These will generally consist of story-telling pictures or sequences as seen in news media and periodicals, including human interest, spot news, documentary, and humor. Contrived situations or photographic manipulations that alter the truth are not allowed. The picture must be candid and not posed by or for the photographer. The image cannot be the result of influence by the photographer. The journalistic value of the photograph shall be weighed along with the pictorial quality.

E. INDIVIDUAL PORTRAIT

CACCA will conduct three Individual Portrait competitions during the year in small prints. A maximum of four small (color or monochrome) prints may be entered in each competition.

Photographs entered into the Portrait Division may only be living Humans or domestic animals. The Human(s) or domestic animals shall be the main subject and shall dominate the picture.

The chairperson has the right to disqualify any entry that does not meet this requirement. Ineligible entries include, but are not limited to, animals, plants, glassware and other inanimate objects.

F. INDIVIDUAL SPECIAL CATEGORY

CACCA may conduct Individual Special Category digitally projected competitions during the year as a single Class of competition. Subject matter of entries in each monthly competition is restricted to the pre-announced category for that competition.

Images entered into this division may not have been entered in any previous CACCA competition including Interclub, Individual and CACCA Salons.

Each entrant may submit up to four images into each competition.

The Special Category shall be the main subject of the entry and shall dominate the picture. The Chairperson has the right to disqualify any entry that does not meet this requirement.

No honors received in this division shall count toward any cumulative awards or End of Year awards.

Categories for the next competition year shall be posted on the web or in a newsletter.

IV. CHAIRPERSON'S PROCEDURES

Chairpersons have the primary responsibility for the conduct of their competitions except for the actual judging of the entries. Their competitions shall be conducted in accordance with the current CACCA Competition Rules as they apply to their competition division. It shall be the responsibility of each chairperson to understand the CACCA Competition Rules as they apply to their specific division.

Each chairperson shall assemble a committee and make all arrangements for the location and equipment necessary for the competition. **Room lights shall be off during the competition.**

Chairpersons shall arrange to have three qualified judges for each competition and shall make an energetic effort to prevent having judges from the same camera club more than once during the year. If possible, all judges used for CACCA competitions shall be selected from within CACCA Clubs.

At any competition, no two judges may be from the same camera club and for this purpose, any judge who is a regular member of more than one club will be considered as a member of each club.

No judge may enter the competition he is judging. Judges' make-ups submitted at a subsequent competition shall be eligible for honors. For each competition, the judges shall be informed that their work cannot be entered.

At the start of each competition, the chairperson shall introduce the judges to the audience and give their club affiliation and any background information pertinent to the competition. The chairperson shall review the rules of the division and announce the number of entries, in each category or class. The chairperson shall announce the number of awards and any other honors to be chosen. The judges shall not preview the entries. The audience will be requested to refrain from any comments or creation of any disturbance while the judging is in progress.

Each club and entrant is responsible for the eligibility of their entries in each competition in accordance with the current CACCA Competition Rules.

The competition chairperson may make challenges to any entry before the competition has begun or once the image has been scored. Judges and any attending member of a CACCA club may also challenge an entry once an image has been scored. The chairperson may request the assistance of the Coordinator of Competitions to determine the validity of the challenge. If, during the competition, the Chairperson concludes that an entry is ineligible for any reason other than violations of the same/similar rule (see "Eligibility"), that entry will be pulled and returned to the maker with an explanation of the reason. In all cases, images should be scored on the merit of the image first before disqualification. The maker may submit a make-up entry at the next competition. The entrant whose entry is ruled ineligible also may file an appeal in writing to the Chairperson not later than 60 days from the date of the challenge.

If the Chairperson is not able to resolve an eligibility challenge at the competition where the challenge was made, scoring and judging will be allowed to continue. The Chairperson will then later refer the matter to the CACCA Board for resolution. When the Chairperson is prepared to present a challenge, he or she shall notify the president in advance of the next CACCA Board meeting that a ruling on a challenge or appeal will be requested.

Entries shall first be voted on the basis of points, 4 to 9, by each judge, and shall be grouped by total score.

After all the entries have been voted upon and the scores recorded, those with the highest scores shall be considered for honors. To determine which entries are to be considered for honors, the chairperson shall add the number of entries in each score group, from the highest downward, until at least the number needed or more is obtained at some score level. The entries from the higher score groups shall be set aside and the remaining needed entries shall be selected from the lowest score group.

Judging for all honors will be by the Standard "IN" and "OUT" voting method. This vote will yield 4

categories ranging from "three IN" to "zero IN." The required number of winners will be chosen from these categories starting with the highest category and going down to include as many categories as are needed. If the lowest of these needed categories must be split, only that category will be re-judged.

Judges shall continue voting until the chairperson finds the judges unable to arrive at a final decision. The chairperson will then request that the judges discuss the remaining entries among themselves until a final decision is reached. An extra honor(s) can be added at the discretion of the chairperson.

Once the required number of entries has been selected, all entries shall be combined for the awarding of honors. Approximately one-half of the entries shall receive Awards and the remaining entries shall receive Honorable Mentions.

After the Award and Honorable Mention entries have been chosen, an Image of the Month shall be chosen from all Awards in all classes judged together. The chairperson shall show and announce the title, maker's name and club affiliation for the Honorable Mention entries prior to the judging of the entry of the month.

After that entry is chosen, the chairperson shall show and announce the same information for the Awards and the Entry of the Month.

Immediately after the last monthly competition, each division Chairperson shall arrange a special judging to select the Best of the Year entry. A new panel of judges shall be used for this competition. All awards for the year, including the current competition, are eligible and shall be judged together. All regular entries receiving 24 or more points and not receiving an Award are also eligible for Best of the Year honors. This judging will be by "In" and "Out" voting; votes of "two in" and "three in" are considered equal, and the entry is retained. Votes of "one in" or "none in" will drop the entry. It is the makers' responsibility to submit previous eligible entries to the division Chairpersons.

Award and honorable mention prints shall have the appropriate stickers affixed to the backs of the prints prior to their return. Digital award and honorable mention ribbons shall be included in the Club's packet at the next CACCA delegate's meeting. A certificate and a medal will be presented to the maker of the Entry of the Month at the next Delegates Meeting.

All regular competition entries, except for the Image of the Month/Year, will be available for pick-up after the competition.

The chairperson shall request that club delegates and entrants refrain from picking up or asking for their entries until the chairperson has had an opportunity to sort all entries and prepare them for safe return.

The Image of the Month/Year shall be furnished to the record keeper and the catalog for their use and shall be returned later.

The chairperson shall present certificates of appreciation to the judges as an expression of thanks from CACCA.

The chairperson shall tabulate all scores for the competition and year to date by Club/Individual. Monthly results shall be sent to the person responsible for reporting the results to the web page. These results shall include a listing of the Judges and all entries (by class where applicable) receiving honors. A current Club/Individual standing list (by class where applicable) shall also be furnished. Send report to results@caccaweb.com

Year-end standings shall be furnished to the editor of the year end catalog.