

Competition Rules

See Class C Rules Addendum for information on submitting images for comments.

Interclub or “regular” competitions of printed and projected images are held periodically during the club “season”. The club season runs from July through June of the following year while competitions typically occur in October to May. There are 6 club competitions every season. Every summer the schedule is published for the upcoming year.

There are 2 major divisions of competition entries:

1. Printed Image
2. Projected Image

Print Division has 2 Sub-Divisions: Monochrome and Color. Projected Image Division includes DPI (Digital Projected Image) only. Prints are further sub-divided into Categories – Small Prints and Large Prints (see size definitions below).

Small color prints, large color prints and DPI have 2 classes (A & B defined below); both small and large monochrome print competitions are held as a single class.

The two competition classes are A and B. Class B is for the less experienced or **B**eginning photographers; Class A is for the more accomplished or **A**dvanced photographers.

Club members in good standing may enter competition (both intraclub and special) as well as attend programs and outings. Guests are welcome to view competitions and attend programs, but may not enter competitions, workshops or attend outings.

New members entering competition for the first time should consider entering Class B. However, if the new member feels that they are of the caliber of an advanced amateur (or better) the member may enter Class A. Once a member starts a competition in either Class A or Class B, the member is expected to complete the year in that class unless an exception is granted by the Club’s president and competition chair.

A member’s class assignment will be made using the following guidelines:

- Members who have completed at least one full competition season with a Class A average of at least 22.5 points will remain in Class A.
- The winner of a Class B category will be moved into Class A of the same category during the next season if their average justifies “promotion”.
- Members who start in the club mid-year will not, typically, be moved into Class A the following year unless skill levels are deemed appropriate – though they may elect to compete in Class A.
- For categories separated into classes, the average score of all images entered in each competition is calculated. Members scoring more than the next higher class average will be considered for promotion. However, any “natural break” will influence the final class split.
- The club strives to assign members to each class so that the classes are more skill-balanced and stronger competitions result.

Any member in Class B may be advanced into Class A at their request and with the consent of the appropriate Chairperson. A member is expected to remain in the class in which images are initially submitted for the entire season.

Number of Entries – All Members may enter up to 3 images plus one make-up image in each category for each competition regardless of class.

At the annual salon, up to 3 images may be submitted in each category.

(Rules governing the eligibility of images are below.)

Maximum Entries - A total of 18 images are allowed per year in each competition category.

(See Summary chart below.)

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Final Best - At the conclusion of the competition season, up to 3 of the lowest scores will be dropped from each member's total. The final standing will be compiled based upon the average scores of the remaining, highest scoring images. The following chart shows the required, maximum and final entries.

<i>Garden Photographic Society</i>								
See schedule for meeting dates.				8/1/2018 update				
Competition Summary								
Competition				Maximum Entries		Minimum Entries**	Final Best***	
Division	Sub-Division	Category	Class	per Night*	per Season	to Complete	Min.	Max.
Printed Image	Monochrome Prints	Small	None	3	18	12	12	15
		Large	None	3	18	12	12	15
	Color Prints	Small	A	3	18	12	12	15
			B	3	18	12	12	15
		Large	A	3	18	12	12	15
			B	3	18	12	12	15
	Projected Image	Digital (DPI)	A	3	18	12	12	15
			B	3	18	12	12	15
C****			1	6	NA	NA	NA	
<p>Note: Class AA has been eliminated; Classes A and B may enter up to 3 entries per competition. Yellow highlighted areas indicates current revision or addition.</p> <p>* Maximum regular entries per competition night plus 1 optional makeup entry if needed. ** To complete a category, one must submit the minimum number of entries. *** Up to 3 lowest scoring entries will be dropped after minimum entries are submitted. **** Class C for comments only - see separate description/information: "Class C Addendum."</p>								

Make up entries should be kept to a minimum. Club members are encouraged to have friends or other club members submit their images in their absence. If a club member does miss an intraclub competition 1 make-up entry may be submitted per competition. In addition, make up images may be submitted in advance of a competition if the club member knows that he/she will miss a future competition.

Special contests, e.g., an Annual Salon, an Intra-club "Shoot-out", Special Subject, etc., that may be held may be subject to other rules.

The meeting room is open at 7 p.m. **Entries are due by 7:15 p.m.** All prints must be submitted to the print committee no later than 7:15 p.m. **Entries must be accompanied with an appropriate and completed contest form.** The 7:15 cut-off time is required to allow sufficient time to organize the prints for viewing. The competition begins as soon as competition Chairs indicate they are ready to begin competition - about 7:30 p.m. **Members are encouraged to complete entry forms before coming to the meeting.**

All images must be the original work of the maker. Images created by either film or digital cameras are allowed. The image must not be a copy of a picture or portions of a picture taken or created by others. The club member must have created the original image. Art or photographic images created by others may be included as a minor part of the composition; however, the member's created image must assume a major and dominant part of the overall image. Subject matter or photographic technique is not restricted. Garden Photographic Society is a Pictorial Image club. Image alteration using photographic or computer techniques such as color dyes, montage, Kodalith sandwich, or computer editing and enhancement is allowed.

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All entries must be eligible to be submitted to CACCA if an applicable category exists, i.e., the entry must not have been submitted to a previous interclub CACCA competition in the same category. (An entry submitted to an individual CACCA contest, e.g. Individual Nature or the CACCA salon, is allowed.)

New work is encouraged. An entry may be deemed ineligible if it is judged by the Rules and Grievance Committee to be the same or similar to a previous entry. A similar image is defined as virtually identical in subject, composition, props, lighting and technique so that a reasonable person viewing the entries together would decide that the entrant is attempting to duplicate the previous entry except for insignificant changes.

It is the responsibility of each contestant to enter only eligible images. If ineligible material is entered, the member is at risk of losing the score earned by the ineligible image. Any challenge should be presented, anonymously if desired, to the Rules and Grievance Committee - a standing ad hoc 3 or more member committee composed of the President, affected contest chair and other experienced members as deemed necessary by the President. The committee is responsible for the disposition of the challenge and the committee's decision will be final.

Digital Projected Images (DPI) entries are subject to the following requirements:

- Images must be sized to fit within a horizontal rectangle of 1400 pixels by 1050 pixels. This means all images must be no greater in width than 1400 pixels and no greater in height than 1050 pixels.
- Images must be submitted in 8-bit Jpeg file format. (sRGB color space is recommended.)
- Entries are submitted as email attachments to the GPS DPI mailbox: dpi@gardenphoto.org.
- Other optional recommendations (e.g., color space and resolution) or suggested techniques for preparing entries (e.g., perimeter outline and file compression) can be found in the GPS DPI Instructions.

Print competitions are conducted in two sizes, in both monochrome and color – making 4 print categories in all.

Small prints must be mounted entirely (i.e., no overhang) on an 11 by 14 inch mount board while large prints must be mounted entirely on a 16 x 20 inch mount board (no exceptions). All prints will be exhibited within the club's Print Display Box that includes 5000K lighting to approximate normal daylight. Mount boards may be plain or enhanced; also, matte overlays may be used. Black matte mounting boards tend to “show” better in the club’s print display box. However, any color mounting board and/or matte overlays may be used.

Commercial development and/or commercial printing are allowed. Prints created by computer peripherals such as dye-sublimation or ink-jet printers are allowed. However, custom prints (i.e., prints made by a commercial lab with significant value-added by lab personnel) are not allowed. It is permissible for a club member to have a commercial lab make the final print, provided the lab does not affect or alter the image (or print file) prior to printing. It is NOT acceptable for a friend to make the print for you; however, you may use a friend’s equipment to create the print provided you do all the work yourself.

All prints must be identified (maker and optional title) using a label affixed in the upper left corner on the back of the mounting board. Labels are available from the Print Contest Committee. A new, dated label is required for each competition submission. The title is optional, but strongly encouraged. A good title should help identify or clarify the image to the viewer.

Important Restrictions

Images that members select for competition may be used as DPI, color or monochrome prints. This allows an image to be submitted more than once; however, an image can not be entered in different divisions on the same competition night. **Also, an image may be entered only twice per season.**

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An image may receive an honor as a DPI, a color print (either small or large, but not both), or a monochrome print (either small or large, but not both) for a **maximum of 3 honors**. After receiving the maximum honors, the image must be retired from all future competition. Other restrictions apply ...

An image that has not won an Award or Honorable Mention may be entered once again within the same division in the same competition season or in a subsequent season. This gives the maker the opportunity to “try again” – to submit the same image once again in the same division, but on a different, competition night. After 2 entries, the image can not be entered in the same category again.

The member may elect to enter the image in a different division. A member is allowed to enter the image in all of the 3 divisions, but **an image may be entered in only two divisions per season**. The same image may be entered in another division in a later competition season if it is still eligible.

Images that have received an Award or Honorable Mention honor in any regular competition in any season must be retired from normal competition in that division. And, once an image wins an honor in DPI, color prints and monochrome prints, the image must be retired from ALL future regular competitions. If an image is already retired under previous versions of the rules (for example, as a slide), it must stay retired.

Examples

- 1) A member enters an image and receives no honor. The member may enter this image again in the same category in the same season or a subsequent season. If the member enters the image again within the same competition season, the image may not be entered in any other division that season.
- 2) A member enters an image as a small color print and receives an honor. The member enters the image as a small monochrome print in the same competition season. This image can not be used in any other division in the current season. If the member receives a second honor as a monochrome print, the image must be retired from all future print competitions.

For regular competitions, an image should be entered in only one division on the same evening. All submitted entries must be from different eligible images. For the Annual Salon, an image may be entered in up to 2 divisions.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the club is required to compete in competition, or attend workshops, outings, and otherwise participate in the club. The annual membership fee must be paid in full prior to submitting any image into competition. Membership in the Chicago Botanic Garden is not required, but is encouraged. (As a member of the Garden Photographic Society, an individual is eligible for a discount to join The Chicago Botanic Garden.)

JUDGES

The member responsible for obtaining judges will select a panel of 3 non-member judges from the CACCA Judges list. An effort will be made to recruit highly qualified judges with a wide range of outstanding photographic skills. Individuals who attended the CACCA Judge Training session are preferred. If a scheduled judge is unable to attend, a suitable alternate will be selected from the judges list if time permits, or else a qualified member of the club will be recruited for judging duty.

Final selection of Award or Honorable Mentions will be made, whenever possible, by the non-member judges. The Judge Procurer has the authority to reimburse any non-member judge requesting travel expenses up to the limit set by the club.

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SCORING

Scoring is numerical and accomplished via an electronic score box. Each judge scores an image from 3 to 9 points, inclusive, making the range of total points for each entry from 9 to 27. The standard CACCA scoring criteria is used; published guidelines are available.

All entries except DPI must be submitted with a properly filled out Contest Entry Form. Since DPI is an all electronic competition, no Entry Form is required. The Score Keeper maintains a record of each entered image and the score received. All totals are recorded for each contest in order to obtain the final annual score for each contestant. (See "Annual Standings" Section for further details). A tally showing each member's scores, total points and individual standings is maintained and published after each contest by the club's Score Keeper.

AWARDS

From each contest in each class, Awards and Honorable Mentions will be selected from the highest scoring entries. Between 25 and 40% of the total entries in each print and DPI competitions will be selected to receive Awards and Honorable Mentions. The number of each will be approximately evenly split. In order to facilitate smooth operation and expedite the competition, the competition chair (or similarly acting person) may adjust the number of honors.

- Suitably inscribed ribbons, or equivalent, are to be awarded to the winners.
- A Best-of-Show (BOS) will be selected from the top scores for each competition category. However, if only one member enters a division, there will not be a Best-of-Show awarded in that division.

RETURN OF ENTRIES

Most prints are available for return the evening of the competition. Prints will be returned by the competition chairs after

1. The scores have been properly recorded.
2. Entries have been selected for Chicago Area Camera Club Association (CACCA) competition.

Entries chosen to be submitted to CACCA are returned at the club meeting following the CACCA competition unless the maker and the CACCA Delegate make other arrangements. A few entries may be held by the CACCA Delegate to allow future selections as may be required. Reasonable efforts will be made to return all images as quickly as possible. Members may request an earlier return where this interval causes an abnormal inconvenience by negotiating special arrangements with the contest chairperson and the CACCA Delegate.

DPI entries are held in a separate folder for each DPI competition on a storage hard drive. These images will be protected against use for any other purpose without prior consent from the makers.

CACCA INTERCLUB COMPETITION

Club Membership in the Chicago Area Camera Club Association (CACCA) will be maintained. As an affiliated member, the club will participate in the monthly interclub competitions held from October to May of each year. The CACCA Delegate and Contest Chairperson select the images to be entered at CACCA. The accumulated points are used to determine annual club standings. Award and Honorable Mention honors are given to the individual makers whose images were submitted and selected for such honors.

For individual participation, CACCA also sponsors Print **and/or** DPI competitions in specific areas such as Nature, Photojournalism (PJ) and Portraits. In DPI, competitions are conducted for **Creative Images, i.e. artistically rendered derivations**. Monthly DPI special category competitions (assigned subject) may also be held. All members are encouraged to participate in one or more categories.

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Some contests such as Nature and PJ have more stringent rules for acceptable images; see the current CACCA rules (available on the CACCA website, www.caccaweb.com) before submitting entries. Current schedules, rules and entry forms are available from a CACCA Delegate or CACCA website.

ANNUAL STANDINGS

Each member must submit at least the minimum number of entries to qualify for an end-of-year honor. A few extra entries are allowed – see Competition Summary chart above. As members exceed the minimum number of entries, the Scorekeeper will drop up to 3 of the lowest scores. Since some members may only enter the minimum number of entries while others may submit more, all final standings will be determined by the average scores of all participants within the competition category. Members who complete the category (submit the required number of entries) and have the three highest averages will be recognized. Members with the same average will be listed alphabetically and all members who tie will be awarded the same honor if eligible. Only three top places will be recognized. The ability to drop low scores is intended to encourage member to experiment - try new photographic techniques and to submit images of diverse subject matter.

AWARD PRESENTATION

All awards for annual standings, and for any special **photo events** will be presented at the club's annual banquet.