

Beacon Camera Club

Club Competition Rules

V15 April 2024

1. COMPETITIONS

- 1.1 Aside from other, ad-hoc competitions, each season there will be three print and three projected (DPI) competitions known as 'Set' competitions. At its discretion, the committee will decide whether one or more of the 'set' competitions will be themed. For such themed competitions, images must be of relevant themed subject matter. Judges and critics will assess adherence to theme and this will likely affect assigned scores.
- 1.2 Entries to the 'Practical Cup' Competition can be images procured during any event organised by the club to which any club member may contribute. Such entries must be acquired during the current season's events, or as otherwise determined by the Committee.
- 1.3 **Entry method.** All entries to competitions and inter-club battles (both prints and DPI) shall be registered by uploading images (whose format is defined in rule 2.3) via the on-line competition submission system on the club's website before midnight on the date specified in the Club programme, which date in general shall be at least two weeks before the competition date, unless circumstance dictates otherwise. Physical prints, which must be registered as entered in the manner described above, must be delivered to the competition secretary by midnight on the day which is at least one week before the competition date. The competition secretary is authorised to apply discretion when dealing with entries and methods of entry to competitions.
- 1.4 **Use of images.** In addition to forming the entries to club competitions, the digital copies of entered prints and DPI images will be used:
 - 1.4.1 to facilitate previewing by the members and the competition judge prior to the competition night, with the aim of promoting consistency between competition results.
 - 1.4.2 for possible inclusion in club submissions to external competitions, exhibitions; interclub 'battles' or other club-related purposes decided by the committee unless the author indicates that the image data are not to be used in this way.
 - 1.4.3 to provide a record of competition winners on the club's website or other media
 - 1.4.4 for club promotional purposes on the club's website or other media.
- 1.5 **Copyright.** Copyright of submitted images will remain at all times the property of the author(s) of the images.
- 1.6 **Return of work.** The competition secretary will make available the physical prints entered to be collected by the authors after each competition or battle.
- 1.7 **Validity.** An image entered and judged to be 'Commended' or 'Highly Commended', in any BCC competition (excluding inter-club Battles) cannot be entered into any other club competition for that season but will be valid for entry in subsequent seasons. If an image is placed 'first', 'second' or 'third', it can never be entered in any future club competition. These classifications will be those defined by the club scoring system: preferences of invited critics are not considered for the purposes of annual ranking or exclusion from re-entry of images.

1.8 **Print Identification.** Competition entries which are prints must bear a title and the image identification number (assigned by the competition submission system) on the top rear of the print and must NOT show the author's name. If any print identifies the author, the competition secretary is authorised to obliterate the author's name or to reject the entry if this is not possible.

1.9 **Originality.** In all cases, entries to all club competitions or exhibitions must be the unaided work of the author, and every element of an image must have been photographed by the entrant. For clarity, entries which incorporate elements (a) generated by other means (e.g. Artificial Intelligence systems) or (b) by photographing imagery created by a third party are prohibited. However, trade or third-party creation of prints from the author's single image file is permitted. So as to eliminate doubt, the committee reserves the right to request and inspect the original image(s) used to produce an entry to a competition and further reserves the right to exclude any image which in their consideration breaches the rules. Any decision made by the committee regarding authenticity will be final and binding.

2. Competitions in two sections.

2.1 For all 6 Club 'set' competitions, a member's work will be entered and judged in one of two sections: 'General' and 'Advanced'.

2.2 Members will automatically enter in the Advanced Section if they meet one of the following conditions:

2.2.1 They hold any formal photographic qualification (e.g. City & Guilds or degree in photography, etc.) or worked as a professional photographer (i.e. earning more than £5k p.a.) at any time.

2.2.2 They have achieved any recognised photographic distinction (PAGB, RPS, SWPP, etc.)

2.2.3 They have ever received an award trophy at a Club awards night.

2.2.4 They have achieved first, second or third place in four or more competitions over the previous 2 seasons.

2.2.5 Members who fall outside the conditions set out in 1.6.1 may choose the section in which they wish to compete.

2.3 As a default position at the beginning of a season, members who do not express a preference and who do not fall within the conditions in rule 2.2 will enter in the General Section.

2.4 Members who enter in the General section can elect to enter in the Advanced Section at any time but any aggregate scores used for award purposes will not be transferred mid-season. I.e. scores gained remain attributed to the section in which they were gained.

2.5 Members who enter in the Advanced section will remain in that section for subsequent seasons unless they elect to enter in the General section at the beginning of a season, subject to the conditions laid out in rule 2.2. The competition secretary will have discretion to be able at any time to move a member from one section to another so as to allow for unusual circumstances.

2.6 Each competition entry for the set competitions shall be awarded a mark for the purposes of the annual consistency awards. The mark for each entry shall be the sum of the scores awarded members of a judging panel who will enter their scores into the club's online scoring system. Scores will be in the range of 1 to 20 per image per panel member. A panel member who has entered the competition will not score his/her own entries: instead, the average of the other panel members' scores for his/her entry shall be assigned to the entry.

2.6.1 All Club members are eligible to serve on the judging panel. A member who wishes to do so must inform the Competition Secretary. He/she will be given basic instruction in the judging methodology.

2.6.2 Panel Members for each set competition will be chosen by the Competition Secretary (whose decision is final) on the basis of (a) rotation and (b) availability. A minimum of three and a maximum of five panel members shall judge each set competition.

2.7 **Awards Night.** Competition entries for each year's set competitions are eligible for judging for the annual Awards Night at the end of that year. Up to 5 images may be submitted per section (Colour Prints, Monochrome Prints, DPIs). The entries will be assessed privately by the chosen judge and only those which have been assigned Commended, Highly Commended, Third, Second and First places will be those shown at the Awards Night Competition. Entries for this event must be selected and prints submitted to the Competition Secretary three weeks before the Awards Night competition. Images submitted must be identical to those entered in the original 'Set' competition.

2.8 **'Consistency' Awards.** The annual consistency award for each section (mono prints, colour prints and DPI) will be made to the member with the highest aggregate marks from the best two entries in each of the set competitions and in each class where appropriate. In the event of a tie in any section the member with the most 1st places in the section will be deemed the winner. If this still results in a tie, the number of 2nd and, if necessary, 3rd places will be taken into account on the same basis.

3. SET COMPETITIONS - ENTRIES

3.1 Prints:

3.1.1 Up to 4 prints in any combination of monochrome or colour may be submitted for each set print competition subject. Prints must be mounted and labelled in accordance with rule 1.8. There are no maximum or minimum sizes for the mounts of prints: however, it should be noted that if the print mount does not fit in the club's print carrying case (50x40 cm is the limit for this) the club accepts no responsibility for whatever damage might occur during handling to prints or mounts which exceed these dimensions. Additionally, limits on the size of print and mounts can be decided by the committee at any time at its discretion.

'Set' print competitions will consist of two classes: 'Colour' and 'Monochrome' and entries will be judged within their class.

3.2 Digital projection images:

Up to 4 images may be submitted for each set competition subject. There is no distinction between monochrome or colour in this class. Image format is defined in rule 3.3.

3.3 File Formats:

3.3.2 **Title:** If the image is uploaded to the club's web server, the title can be entered at upload time. If it is agreed by the competition secretary that image files can be supplied by any other delivery method, the filename should be constructed thus: **<title>,<author>.jpg** E.g. **My Winning Image,Joe Bloggs.jpg**.

A descriptive title is not required but in that case, the word 'Untitled' must be used: this is to satisfy the file storage demands of the competition database.

For any method of delivery, the title should be presented/entered in the way that it is expected to be seen or read at the top of display screen, with capitals and spaces as appropriate but NO underscores, full stops, commas, or other non-space separators.

Hyphens and question marks are allowed, however. The number of characters allowed in the title will be defined by the submission system.

Physical digital media must bear the author's name written on the surface: adhesive labels should not be used.

- 3.3.3 **File type:** JPEG, quality "Maximum", Resolution: 3840 pixels wide by 2160 pixels high, (commonly known as '4K'). i.e. a landscape format image can be 3840 wide and 2160 high, but if it is a portrait image, it must be 2160 high or less and therefore, naturally, it will not occupy the full width of the projected display

Image sizes which are less than the above maxima in both horizontal and vertical will be up-sized at projection time to fit the projected display without distortion: i.e. maintaining the original aspect ratio. It is important to note that such images will appear less sharp than those which fit the display without projection-time magnification.

Images of pixel dimension larger than defined above will be rejected by the upload system and the entrant will be informed of that action at the time. Over-size Images supplied by other methods may be scaled down by the competition secretary (at his/her discretion) to fit the maxima but maintaining the aspect ratio. The maximum image dimensions required or acceptable may be altered as required by the competition secretary so as to accommodate the use of alternative display devices.

Images entered into some competitions might require the use of lower-than-4K resolution projection, and the competition system will advise of this upon entry of images.

- 3.3.4 **Colour space:** sRGB

- 3.3.5 **DPI or PPI:** Unimportant: it is ONLY the pixel count of both axes which matters.

- 3.3.6 **Orientation:** Images must be presented in the correct orientation for display.

4. Reduction of entry numbers

- 4.1 At the discretion of the Competition Secretary, the maximum number of competition entries allowed per member may be reduced – 'Cut' – so as to ensure the smooth running of the competition evening. The priority order defined by the entrants at entry upload time will form the basis of this, with lower priority numbers being removed first (i.e. 1 = high, 4 = low). Any image that is withdrawn for this reason can be subsequently entered in another competition during the same season.

For Print competitions with a mix of class entries, BOTH classes might be cut, therefore it is important to number entries so that at least one of each class will survive a 'cut'. E.g. for 2 colour and 2 Mono entries, they should bear priority numbers which allow for this: C-1, C-3, M-2, M-4. Priorities can be assigned in the competition upload system after entry.

5. Entry assessment by Judges and Critics

5.1 Critics.

Someone who is or is not a member of the Club may be asked to provide constructive critique for the entries. He/she will not be required to assign scores, but may optionally nominate up to 3 of his / her favourite images. These nominations shall not be taken into account for the annual consistency awards.

5.2 Judges.

Each of the season's 'Set' competitions will be judged as defined in rule 2.6. Such a judging system might be applied to other competitions as deemed necessary.

6. Preview, review and results.

- 6.1 Prior to the competition, all entries to set and optionally other competitions will be displayed for preview purposes on the Club's web forum gallery using the image files submitted via the on-line competition submission system. The gallery is visible only to club members and any invited critic – i.e. it is not viewable by the general public.
- 6.2 The full results of competitions will be posted in the competition feedback section of the club's website forum after the competition; all entered images will be displayed in the 'Review' gallery of the forum, and the top awarded entries will be annotated and displayed in the publicly-visible competition results section of the club's main website.

7. PRACTICAL COMPETITION

- 7.1 Entries – Up to 4 images per section (defined in the club programme) with a maximum of 10 images across all media.
- 7.2 Format – Image formats, sizes, mounting, etc. as for Set Competition entries (see rule section 3.).

8. OTHER CLUB COMPETITIONS

- 8.1 The rules of the Chairman's Challenge shall be announced by the Chairman each year.
- 8.2 The rules and system used for scoring all Club competitions other than described herein shall be decided and announced by the Competition secretary as appropriate.