

Grand Photos Competition Guidelines - (Revisions added for Spring 2012)

Why Compete?

Competitions are held to encourage club members to improve their photographic skills by learning to take good (or better) pictures; process them in programs such as Picasa, Elements, Photoshop, etc; print and show – or prepare for digital presentation of – their images; and interact with other competitors and club members. Such competition provides a unique challenge for each photographer to put forth his/her best effort. Most competitors find this a positive learning experience and enjoy sharing their photos with a captive audience composed of others who share their love of photography.

General Information about Competition

This document provides general guidelines and specific requirements applicable to all Grand Photos Competitions. Individual competitions – as well as those of other clubs and organizations – may have additional guidelines.

Grand Photos holds two Competitions each year, Spring and Fall. Each consists of a Print Competition and a Digital Competition. These competitions have different Chairmen, are judged separately, and may include different categories and specific rules. For both Spring and Fall competitions, a Grand Photos Competition Show is held at which all images, results and awards are presented to the club and visitors.

- Competitions are open only to paid-up members of Grand Photos.
- There will be a \$1 entry fee for each image entered in print and digital competition.
- Competitors may enter a maximum of two (2) entries in any category of print or digital image competition. In 2012, a maximum of eight (8) print and eight (8) digital images may be entered by each competitor.
- Every effort will be made to safeguard member entries, however, Grand Photos assumes no liability for any misuse of copyright by the entrant, and will not accept liability for lost or damaged entries.

In All Fairness

A member may not submit two or more entries bearing marked similarity in the same competition, even if entered in different categories (example: Open and Creative), or in different media (Digital or Print). Please note that markedly similar images remain so even after cropping, color change, or creative alteration.

Additionally, if your photograph (or any photo bearing marked similarity) has previously won a Grand Photos competition Place award (first, second, or third), it may not be entered into any subsequent Grand Photos competition. Otherwise, an image may be submitted up to three different times.

By virtue of entry, the entrant certifies the work as his/her own and to be in compliance with competition category definitions and guidelines. All entries must be images that the competitor captured with a digital or film camera. The process may include scanning of prints, negatives, or slides taken by the member. Violation of competition guidelines may result in zero points or ribbons being awarded to this entrant for each category – digital and print – in this competition. Final judgment about entries meeting Grand Photos Competition guidelines is reserved for the Competition Chairman.

General Print Competition Requirements

All print entries shall be submitted with the following information in the bottom right corner of the back side of the mounting board:

- Entrant's name
- Image title
- Entrant's phone number
- Arrow pointing toward top of image
- The Division and Category being entered

Prints must be **securely** mounted, unframed and un-matted, on a black or white 16 x 20 mounting board (no construction paper). While foam board is permissible in Grand Photos competitions, other clubs and competitions may not accept this type of board. All photos and labels must be firmly attached to the board (no post-it notes, please). **Your print may not have anything sticky, rough, or transferable on it that could damage other prints in a stack.**

Borders, strokes, frames and the like are allowed in each category but have specific restrictions in the Nature Category.

B&W images may be entered in all Categories.

General Digital Competition Guidelines

Images must not exceed 1024 pixels in width nor 768 pixels in height, including borders. You can size the image in Adobe products by clicking: Image; Resize; Image Size. Make sure "Constrain Proportions" and "Resample" are set. It is generally recommended that you set "Resample Image" to "Bicubic Sharper" or, if that is not available, to "Bicubic". Change the pixel width to 1024. Check that the pixel height is 768 or less. If it is more than 768, change it to 768. The width should now be 1024 or less and the height should be 768 or less. Click OK. **(The width and height maximums are not interchangeable)**

As long as the pixel dimensions are proper and you save the image as a JPEG file (filename.jpg), you may enter any file size in Grand Photos – we recommend saving with a high quality level (9 to 12) Make sure the "filename" includes the following, in order with each item separated by a comma (Do **not** add a space after any commas), only use spaces between words of the title, **do not include commas or periods within your title:**

- Division A, B or C (see divisions)
- Category (i.e. O for Open, N for Nature, C for Creative, R for Rotating, etc)
- Entrant's last name, first name, image title (for digital entries, unless otherwise specified, please limit the "image title" to 3 words)

Example of a correct filename: B,N,Adams,Ansel,Half Dome

Submit digital JPEG image files according to individual competition instructions via thumb drive (preferred), CD, or, if permitted, by e-mail.

Borders, strokes, frames and the like are acceptable in each category but have specific restrictions in the Nature Category.

B&W images may be entered in all Categories.

Category Definitions

Categories may vary from one competition to the next. The competition chairmen will define any 'special' categories that are included, such as Rotating, and will post the current category definitions on the website before each competition. Categories used most frequently are defined as follows:

Open

Any image is eligible for the Open category. Image manipulation of every type is acceptable in this category.

Nature

Nature photography depicts landscapes, wild animals, and non-hybrid plants in a natural habitat. The accurate record of the subject and natural environment is the prime factor. Evidence of "hand of man" in any part of the image is not allowed. One exception to this rule is that scientific bands on animals in zoos or in the wild are acceptable. Photos of zoo animals are acceptable only if the zoo setting replicates a natural setting with no man-made objects such as feeding dishes in the scene.

Photographs of hybrid plants, formal floral arrangements, domestic animals and mounted specimens are not acceptable.

Only limited post-processing modifications are acceptable for Nature images. These would include cropping as well as adjustments to sharpness, contrast, brightness, color and saturation, **as long as the resulting image closely represents the actually-observed scene**. Removal of items that are part of the photographed scene – such as posts or wires **or contrails** – through any selective process such as cloning **or "content aware" brushes** - is not permissible in the Nature category.

Borders or strokes are prohibited in Nature, with the following limited exceptions:

Digital Nature images may optionally include a single thin white border at the perimeter of the image **to separate your image from the black projection background**. The border may be a maximum of 5 pixels wide and must be included in the maximum width and height pixel dimensions.

Nature prints may be mounted with some of the white unprinted paper on the perimeter of the image.

Competition Divisions

Background

- Grand Photos strives to provide opportunities for members to compete in a peer group with similar experience in photography and competition. Historically we have had two divisions of competitors to accomplish this objective, the A & B Divisions. Beginning Spring 2012 we will begin a C Division for members with 100 or more points.
- Some that are new to competition in Grand Photos, but may have significant experience in photography must currently be listed in the A Division, but their logical peer group for competition may be the B or C Divisions. We allow members to choose any division above their point level to enter. **Anyone in the A or B Divisions, may choose to enter some or all of their images in the higher B or C Divisions, that is their option (this does not increase the allowed entries per person per category or the total entries by a competitor).**

Division A to B transition

- As of 2011 members are moved from division A to division B when they have achieved 25 points in competition. This break point of 25 points will be subject to increases over time to keep the divisions with sufficient members in each to provide a competitive environment.

Division B to C member Transition

- The C Division will be started in Spring 2012 with the 11 members who have accumulated at least 100 competition points. Members reaching 100 points in the future will be added to the C Division. This 100 point threshold is subject to future modification at the discretion of the Competition Chairmen to keep a suitable balance between divisions. Division C members may not compete in division B except in categories where the B & C entries are combined or when there are insufficient entries in a division C category and, at the option of the competition chair, these images may be merged with a Division B category.
- Division C members are not awarded points for Acceptance.
- All divisions in Spring 2012 will have 5 available competition categories. However, the Competition Chairmen will combine the Division B and C images submitted for two categories, which will be judged together.

Revised and Board approved 4/09 v2
Some instructions modified for 2012

Award and Judging Guidelines:

final, Nov 2009

1. Awards will be given based on a minimum number of entries in a category as follows:

- There must be a minimum of 5 entries to have a first place.
- There must be a minimum of 8 entries to have a second place.
- There must be a minimum of 12 entries to have a third place.

2. Ties will be broken for First, Second, and Third places by the judges.

3. Both Digital and Print entries will have a **Best of Show** for each Division which will be determined by judging all first place awards from each category. There must be multiple categories in order to award a **Best of Show**

4. Ribbons: **Best of Show** receives a ribbon. **First, Second** and **Third** places receive ribbons.

Honorable Mention ribbons will be given to entries that are tied for **Third** place, or, if there are less than 12 entries, to ties for the lowest place ribbon awarded.

If there are **12 or more entries** but no ties for **Third** place then entries with the next lower score will receive **Honorable Mention** ribbons.

HM Adjustment: If there are ties for **3rd** place, but not enough to provide the following minimum number of HM's based on the number of entries, then HM's will also be awarded to all entries receiving 1 point below **3rd** place.*

Entries: Minimum HM's from ties for 3rd

13 to 15 1

16 – 24 2

25 – 35	3
36 - 50	4
50 or more	5

Entries one point below **Honorable Mention** will receive **Acceptance** ribbons.
 (No acceptance awards will be given in Division C categories. They will not be awarded to Division C members in combined B+C categories).

Acceptance Adjustment: If the above schedule does not award ribbons to at least 25% of the entries in a category, then **Acceptance** ribbons will also be awarded to the next lower score **in A and B Divisions only**.*

* The **HM** or **Acceptance Adjustments** will not be made if their application results in > 60% of a category receiving ribbons.

In the event that these guidelines result in an award distribution that seems inappropriate, the Chairmen may use their best judgment and make an adjustment.

5. **Certificates** will be awarded to members for the following achievements in Grand Photos competitions:

- Moving from Division A to Division B (**currently** requires 25 points).
- 50 points
- 100 points and every 100 points thereafter.

JUDGING GUIDELINES

1. Entries will be judged by a minimum of three qualified judges unless a judge fails to show. In this case, only two judges will be used.
2. Judges will be asked not to discuss the entries unless a tie can not be broken after several attempts.
3. Each tie breaker print will be placed in the light box.
4. Judges will use a five to nine scoring scale where a score of six is considered average.
5. Prints will be judged at a distance of 6 to 7 feet from the judges to the light box. The judge(s) may approach the print for closer observation; however, the print will remain in the light box.
6. The print competition and digital competition judges may be different judges.
7. The print and digital competition judging will be open or closed to members at the discretion of the Print Chairman and/or the Digital Chairman.
8. Each Division and Category will be judged individually **except B+C categories designated for combination**. If there is not a minimum of five entries in a Category, (which is required to award a first place), then the entries from that Division and the next Division will be combined and judged together.
9. There should be no audible comments from anyone that might influence or distract the judges.