

# **SANTA ROSA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY COMPETITION RULES**

(2019, v2)

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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, AA or MC level per 4.2.

- 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 Competition Chair shall enter winning projected images, and digital facsimiles of winning

print images, in the corresponding Northern California Council of Camera Clubs (N4C)

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, shall be entered in those categories as applicable.

- 2019 Schedule of Categories (Kevin will provide)

Schedule for 2019 goes here

### 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 triptychs are not sequences and are only permitted in the Pictorial, Monochrome, 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 notifying 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 reentered.

- When an SRPS member who is also a member of another N4C affiliate club wins at N4C with an image that was entered in the other club, that image cannot subsequently be entered in SRPS competitions.

- Monthly winners will be entered automatically 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 website. 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 website.

## **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:

- o Only a first-place winner, or
- o First and second place winners, or
- o First, second and third place winners, or
- o No winners at all.

- o 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, regardless of how many entries are submitted in a category/level.

- o 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:

- o First place - six points
- o Second place - five points
- o Third place - four points
- o Fourth place - three points
- o Fifth place - two points
- o Honorable Mention - one point
- o Best of Show - three points, in addition to first place points awarded
- o Best Authentic Wildlife - three points, 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.

Maximum image size must conform to what is required by N4C, which in 2019 is no more than 1920 pixels in width and 1200 pixels in height.

### 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. Winning monochrome images submitted to the Pictorial category at SRPS will be submitted to the Pictorial category at the N4C regional competition.

### Pictorial Monochrome (M)

The Pictorial Monochrome category follows the same guidelines as the Pictorial category, except that only monochrome images are allowed.

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. An 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 ineligible for submission in the Pictorial Monochrome category.

### 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.

#### 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.

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 storytelling 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. 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 humans 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 Projected Nature Sequence may have a series of up to four images, which count collectively as a single image; and no composite of multiple-images-in-one are allowed.

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

#### Subdivision: Authentic Wildlife (AW)

Authentic Wildlife is defined as one or more extant zoological or botanical organisms free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Landscapes, geologic formations, photographs of zoo or game farm animals, or of any extant zoological or botanical species taken under controlled conditions, are not eligible. Wildlife is not limited to animals, birds and insects. Marine subjects and botanical subjects (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild are suitable wildlife subjects, as are carcasses of extant species.

#### 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.

and third place winners in each category at each level. In case of a tie or ties, multiple

#### **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 the A, AA or MC 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 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 ADVANCEMENT**

- While new Club members generally enter at B level, those with higher levels of skill and experience may petition to enter at the A, AA or MC 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, A or AA 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. See Section 4.4 for Advancement to MC rules.

- 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 submission 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.

There are three (3) different paths to Master's Candidate (MC) as follows:

1. Achieve First, Second, or Third in AA Overall Point Average TWICE within a four-year period.
2. Achieve First, Second, or third in AA Overall Point Average AND win a first place in one of the categories in the End of Year Competition (section 6) within a four-year period. Minimum two years to meet these two requirements.

3. Advancement Committee decides if Master Candidate is the correct level to place a petitioning member. The photographer's portfolio and experience are taken into consideration.

#### 4.4.2 Qualifications

- A member will have four consecutive years in which to qualify as a Master level Candidate (MC). 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. To meet the "active participation" requirement, the Master Candidate must have participated during the Master Candidate year or the previous four years in at least one of the following:

- Served as an SRPS Officer, Committee Chair, or active Committee member,
- Presented an educational program at an SRPS Program Night outside of the Master Candidate presentation, or to a local outside organization as an SRPS representative,
- Organized and/or led an SRPS field trip,
- or any other activity pre-approved by the Vice President.

- The member must have submitted at least 15 images in each of the two qualifying years to qualify for advancement.

- 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

January at the latest so the candidate has 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. If the MC was advanced by the Advancement Committee, the MC has 4

months to provide the Outline to the AC for approval. The qualifying year begins when the MC is

informed of eligibility.

- 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 COMPETITION 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 a maximum of four. Prior winners from

regular monthly competitions are eligible.

- Images winning the Palmer Field Trip competition are eligible for future regular monthly competitions unless they have already won first, second, or third place in a regular monthly competition.

## **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 a paper ballot, or by an equitable procedure

as directed by the Competition Chair.

- o The Competition 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 using the competition website.

- 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. The winner of the Al Shelton

Award serves as an online judge of the next year's Al Shelton Award.

### **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 number of submissions required 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 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 Monochrome, 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).