

STANDING RULE 1

TWIN CITIES CAMERA CLUB OF WESTERN NEW YORK

RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR MONTHLY CRITIQUES AND COMPETITIONS FOR MEMBERS

(Revised August 20, 2024)

TCCC critiques and competitions are methods enabling members to learn and grow as photographers. Submission of print or projected images in four categories is accomplished through the TCCC web site. New members enter as beginner photographers and advance in levels through the critique process annually if they meet the guidelines below.

Please be advised that by entering images into competition, you grant TCCC the right to display your images online and to submit your images to regional or inter club competitions. You, the maker, will still maintain the copyright and ownership of your images.

CRITIQUES

Critique Process: TCCC members are encouraged to participate in the monthly critique process to gain knowledge and photographic insight. The critique process is not a competition with other club members but a method to learn from expert judges' comments to become a better photographer.

1. Categories

Image critiques will take place in two image categories:

- Print Images
- Projected images

2. Levels

For each image category, members are classified into one of five levels, based on their ability.

- Bronze Level: Beginner photographers
- Silver Level: Experienced photographers
- Gold Level: Advanced photographers
- Diamond Level: Exceptional photographers
- Masters Level: Expert photographers

Note: New members will begin in the Bronze Level unless they request a different level because of prior experience (Requires Board approval – see note below).

3. Level Advancement

- Advancement to another level is based on the performance of the member during the club year's (September through May) monthly critique meetings.

A minimum of five image in any category, entered into the current year's critique meetings, is required for advancement, with at least three of those images receiving an Honorable Mention. *(See section 7 below for definition of Honorable Mention.)* A minimum of three images receiving Honorable Mention is required for level advancement.

- Level advancement is applied across all categories.

4. Monthly Critique Night General Rules and Procedures

- A person must be in good standing to submit images for critique. (Membership dues paid).
- Images will be judged and critiqued by persons noted for their photographic expertise.
- Traditional images are judged on three standard aspects of photographic quality: Impact, Composition, and Technical merit.
- Images are judged anonymously. Therefore, any identifying information, such as a watermark or other copyright mark, shall not be included in the image. Such images will be excluded from the critique/competition.
- The same exact image may not be entered both as a Projected image and as a Print.
- The only exclusion for subject matter is **no nudes**

Creative Images

Any image –Print or Projected – may be entered as “CREATIVE”. An image entered as CREATIVE counts as one of the monthly entries.

- Images must originate AS PHOTOGRAPHS (image capture of objects via light sensitivity) made by the entrant (photographer entering the image in competition) on photographic emulsion (film) and digitally scanned; or directly acquired digitally (digital camera). Images must be the entrant's (photographer entering the images into competition) and may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else.
- To have an image judged on its creative merits, add the word CREATIVE (in CAPS) to the **BEGINNING** of the image's title when uploading the image for both Print and Projected images.

CREATIVITY and ALTERED REALITY.

- Creativity of an image is a dominant consideration...as exhibited by IMAGINATIVE CONTENT and SKILL, ORIGINALITY OF EXPRESSION, UNUSUAL JUXTAPOSITIONS, and UNIQUENESS OF VISION. The image should surprise the viewer. The image must exhibit alteration through digital post-processing of the original image. Such Altered Reality must be readily apparent to the viewer.
- Entering an image as “Creative” would also allow the image, presumably made with editing tools and tricks, or in-camera techniques to be judged and critiqued on the premise that it is not representative of traditional photographs but represents the creative bent of the maker.
- Titles for all “Creative” entries will be announced before the image is critiqued. This will give the judge the opportunity to have some idea of the maker's intent in advance.

The judges' decision on whether the altered reality is "readily apparent" is final.

Eligibility of Work

- Images must be originally photographed by the submitting member.
- Images may not be made in whole, or in part from any artificially generated, or generative AI software, AI applications or websites IE: Adobe Firefly, Midjourney, Dall-e etc.
- Above statement does not to include the use of sharpening, denoise, and or upsizing tools, programs or applications; bracketed, HDR imagery or the use of in-camera effects, filters, or lenses, or the use of purchased presets.
- Sky replacement and textures may be used to composite images provided images are the original work of the photographer.
- Plagiarism will result in suspension from TCCC. Copying another's work or borrowing someone else's original ideas and presenting the image as yours will not be tolerated.
- Images created on club outings or for special club assignment competitions are eligible for regular competition.
- Images made in training sessions, where the subject has been setup by an instructor, are not eligible since they are not considered truly and entirely the work of the member.

5. Print Submissions

- A maximum of two prints may be entered each critique night. They may be color, monochrome or one of each.
- Prints must be turned in by 6:55 pm on critique night.
- A digital version of the print(s) must be submitted in order for the image to be eligible for the critique. It must be uploaded to the TCCC website no later than 11:00 pm on the Sunday prior to the critique meeting: (<https://twincitiescameraclub.com>) The maximum size is 1920 pixels on the long edge. The working color space must be sRGB and saved as a jpg.
- Prints must be a minimum size of 8 x 10 inches. The maximum size may not exceed 320 square inches and be no taller than 24" or wider than 30". The maximum size includes the mat border if matting is elected to be used. Prints must be presented on rigid mounting board.
- Beware that matting material may encroach on the margins of your images.
- Clearly and legibly include member's name and an easily visible arrow pointing to the top on the reverse top left side of the print. It is recommended to use the printable label produced by the submission software for the back of your printed image.
- Prints do not need to be printed by the maker.
- There can only be one makeup of a missed critique meeting during the club year. It can only be for the preceding month.
- Members wishing to NOT have their digital image posted on the TCCC web site are asked to contact Bob Hardick (bobh665@hotmail.com) who will provide separate handling rules.

- Lost or damaged prints are not the responsibility of the Twin Cities Camera Club or its Officers. Prints must be picked up from the Print Chairs at the end of the critique meeting.

6. Projected Images Submissions

- A maximum of two Projected images may be entered for each monthly critique night. They may be color, monochrome or one of each.
- Projected Images are to be uploaded to the TCCC website: (<https://twincitiescameraclub.com>) no later than 11:00 pm on the Sunday prior to the critique meeting
- Be sure that your image(s) is/are submitted to the correct category; projected vs. print.
- Images must be sized at no more than 1920 pixels on the longest edge.
- The working color space must be sRGB.
- The image must be saved as a jpg.
- There are no makeup dates for Projected image entries as the critique dates are set up on the website well in advance in order for members to upload their entries.
- **It is the responsibility of the maker submitting images for the critique/competition to VERIFY that their images have been properly uploaded.**

Note: **Problems Uploading** - If there is a problem uploading images, please contact any of the following:

- Competition Chair Bob Hardick at bobh665@hotmail.com
- Projected Image Chair Dan Hurd at dan@digimarkservices.com
- Communications Officer Sharon Gurbacki at sdgsdg@verizon.net

7. **Honorable Mention**

Honorable Mention will be given; during monthly critique meetings will be for the following range of scores:

- Bronze: 11-15 points
- Silver: 12-15 points
- Gold: 13-15 points
- Diamond: 14-15 points
- Master: 14-15 points

When an image receives an Honorable Mention, the makers name will be announced.

Any image that does not receive an Honorable Mention may be re-entered on a future critique night. Images that receive an Honorable Mention may not be reentered in any future Critique Night competitions.

New members from another camera club may join at levels equal to those in the other camera club. Once an individual becomes a member of TCCC, advancement will be based solely on their performance at TCCC, regardless of their performance in any other camera club.

The vote of the Board can award advancement, although the member may refuse advancement granted by the Board.

8. COMPETITIONS

TCCC Annual Internal Club Competitions

At the end of each TCCC Club Year, members are recognized for their knowledge and expertise.

Highest Average Score - End of Year Competition

At the end of the club year, for each of the two image categories, (Projected and Prints), Highest Average Score awards will be given, at each of the levels (Bronze, Silver, etc.), for the highest average score attained that year. A member's five highest scores will be used to determine their average. In the event of a tie, the highest number of honorable mentions received will determine the winner. If the number of honorable mentions is equal, then a tie will be declared. A member must have submitted a minimum of five images in **any** category during the club year to qualify.

Print and Projected Images of the Year Competition

Annually, at the last regular meeting in April, the club will hold a competition to select the most outstanding Monochrome and Color Prints and Projected images of the year.

Image of the Year Rules are as follows:

- Member must submit a minimum of FIVE (5) critique night entries during the current year.
- Image submissions will be made from Members Library on the Twin Cities website. They must be images that were entered into critiques during the current club year without changes.
- Prints shall be submitted to the Print Chairs prior to 6:55pm, before the start of the meeting on the night of the competition.
- Members may enter up to THREE (3) images in both Print and Projected categories for a total of six (6) maximum entries.
- This competition shall be divided into three levels: Bronze/Silver, Gold/Diamond, and Masters.
- Images initially submitted as prints cannot be submitted as projected.
- Any competitor may choose to compete at a higher level. However, no competitor may compete at a lower level. For example: A Bronze or Silver level may choose to compete at the Gold/Diamond or Masters Level but a Gold/Diamond may not compete at the Bronze/Silver level.
- Both Print and Projected images categories will be judged by a panel of 3 judges as follows:
- Each judge will score images on a scale of 0-9 and combined for a maximum score of 27.
- The top 25% in each of the 3 levels will advance to subsequent rounds.
- Subsequent Rounds: Images will be judged on an "in" or "out" basis until 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place for each of the 3 levels is determined.

Special Assignment Competitions

There may be special assignment competitions for which rules will be provided to the members. Images for these special competitions must have been originally photographed after March 1, immediately prior to the current club year beginning September.

9. Inter-Club and Regional Competitions

Throughout the camera club year, TCCC participates in competitions with other camera clubs in the local area, throughout the region and between regions. TCCC Board members and Officers identify those images that represent the club at these competitions.

Rainbow – NAPA v TCCC (Selected from Print and Projected images)

- Annual inter-club, **friendly**, Rainbow Competition between the Niagara Association of Photographic Arts (NAPA), Niagara Falls, ON, CA and TCCC.
- In the Spring of each year either NAPA (even numbered years) or TCCC (odd numbered years) hosts the friendly competition with a potluck dinner.
- The number of images, (from print and/or projected categories) will be determined by both clubs prior to the competition. TCCC member images are chosen from the current years' critique sessions. All members who submitted an image(s) to the critique nights will have their highest scoring image included in the Rainbow Competition. If more images are needed the Competition Committee will select the additional images.
- The Rainbow trophy is presented to the president of the winning club at their annual end of year banquet.

10. How to View Your Competition Images and Their Scores

- Log into the TCCC website
- Click on the "My Account" tab>"My Image History".
- On the "My Image History" page, click the box "check to display thumbnail images".
- First column shows the thumbnails
- Second column shows image titles
- Third column shows image scores
- Fourth column shows competition dates
- Fifth column shows competition names/types
- If you click on any of the column headings, that column will be sorted either ascending or descending.
- General Listing: If you want to see your highest-scored images from the current club year, click on the "Event/Date" heading to sort the competitions in descending date order. You can then see the images and their scores listed for each competition.

- Specific Listing: If you want to be more specific, click on the "Image Search Options" button at the upper part of the page, and specifically list the competition type and date.
- Either of these options will work.

11. How to View Your Competition Skill Levels

- Log into the TCCC website.
- Click on the "My Account" tab>"My Competition Levels".
- The next window will show your competition skill levels.

12. How to View Critique Scores for All Entries on a Specific Critique Night

- After logging in, click "Organization" tab.
- Click "News and Information" option.
- Click the arrow next to "Critique Night Image Scores".
- Click the arrow next to the current club year to get a submenu showing specific critique night dates.
- Click "View" to see everyone's scores from the particular critique night that you want to see.

Date	Update	Author(s)
9/4/2024	<p>p.1 Sec 3 Honorable Mention for all levels when achieving a score within the range for level advancement.</p> <p>p1 Sec 3 Deleted: Print and Projected images are grouped – when a member’s competition level advances it does so in both print AND projected categories. Replaced with: Level advancement is applied across all categories.</p> <p>p.2 Sec 4. Re restrictions for subject matter, added no nudes.</p> <p>P.3 Eligibility of Work 3rd point, added “or purchased presets” to acceptable tools.</p> <p>p.3 Sec 5: Print Submissions: Clarified language regarding categories of prints to read: A maximum of two prints may be submitted each critique night. They may be color, monochrome or one of each.</p> <p>Adjusted submission time to end at 6:55 pm.</p> <p>Added <u>Beware that matting material may encroach on the margins of your images</u> as a reminder.</p> <p>Also added It is recommended to use the printable label produced by the submission software for the back of your printed image.</p> <p>p.4 Sec 6 Projected images; same language regarding categories, uploading. Added a reminder to check that they’ve submitted to the correct category (projected v print)</p> <p>p.4 Sec 7 Expanded the range for Master level makers to receive Honorable Mention, from 15 to 14 – 15.</p> <p>p. 5 Sec 8 Highest Average Score - End of Year Competition</p> <p>A member must have submitted a minimum of five images in any category during the club year to qualify.</p> <p>p.6 Sec 9 Rainbow Competition All members who submitted an image(s) to the critique nights will have their best image included in the Rainbow Competition. If more images are needed the Competition Committee will select the additional images.</p>	<p>D. Fox,</p> <p>P. Fitzpatrick,</p> <p>R. Lonsdale,</p> <p>B Hardick,</p> <p>D. Hurd</p>
06/05/23	<p>Removed image categories to two print and projected. Software doesn’t limit amount of images that can be entered. Very time consuming for those involved to resolve.</p> <p>Changed advancement to highest level achieved will be constant in print and projected.</p> <p>Added wording to how honorable mentions and points scored will</p>	<p>D. Fox;</p> <p>B. Hardick</p> <p>Critique/Competition Committee</p>

	<p>be announced at critique/competition.</p> <p>Added more detailed language for how creative images are defined in hopes it will be more easily understood by all involved.</p> <p>Added language that will address the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) software. What constitutes it; what's accepted and what's not.</p> <p>Cleaned up language for end of year competitions, and several other locations to read easier.</p> <p>Removed inner-club competitions with the exception of Rainbow with Niagara Falls camera club.</p> <p>Improved language for number of images regarding Rainbow competition.</p> <p>Changed contact members from Steve Dent to Bob Hardick and Dan Hurd.</p>	