



**THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL/ZOOLOGICAL
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
RULES OF COMPETITION
(Revised August 2011)**

ELIGIBILITY

Only members in good standing whose membership dues are current are eligible to enter competitions. Dues must be paid by October 31st. If dues are not paid by October 31st, members' cumulative scores will be removed from the standings. Once a score is removed from the standings it will not be reinstated. If a member feels that he or she would like to be excused from this rule, he or she must discuss this issue with the Competition Chair or the President before the beginning of the competition year, or as soon as he or she is aware that there will be a problem.

COMPETITION GROUPS

- Group "B" – Beginner

All new members will be placed in Group B. However, if a new member can demonstrate proof of a PSA star rating, is a recognized Salon exhibitor, or submits a portfolio for review (and they are judged to be qualified), he or she will be placed in Group A. New members will not be placed in the AA Group.

- Group "A" - Advanced
- Group "AA" – Salon

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Projected Images – Digital

- Theme - Ungrouped
- Black and White - Ungrouped
 - B&W images must be monochrome only.
 - Toning of the entire image is permitted.
 - Spot coloring of an individual element is not permitted in the B&W category. However, "spot colored" images may be entered in the Color or Altered Reality category.
- Pictorial Color Group B
- Pictorial Color Group A
- Pictorial Color Group AA
- Altered Reality – Ungrouped

Images will be presented in the above order.

Minimum Number of Participants in a Category to Hold a Competition

- A minimum number of three (3) participants are necessary to hold a monthly competition.
- A cancelled competition will not be made up. No make up entries are permitted for that competition.
- Images submitted and not scored, may be resubmitted in a future competition.

- At a point in time it is determined that there will be fewer than 6 competitions for the year, that category will be eliminated for the remainder of the year. No awards will be given and no End of Year competition will be held in that category.

QUALIFYING IMAGES

All images MUST start with a photographic image made with a camera and made by the maker. All elements in a photograph must have been taken by the maker. Clip art or parts of an image made by someone else and placed in your image is prohibited.

An image submitted in a previous competition in any category and scored (except Theme), may not be reused in any other category. However, an image previously entered in any category (B, A, AA, Black & White, Theme or Altered Reality) may be reworked and re-entered in Altered Reality, provided the original image is substantially unidentifiable. In addition, an identifiable portion of an image previously entered in any category (B, A, AA, Black & White, Theme or Altered Reality) - not the entire image or entire subject of the image - may be reused as part of the composition in the Altered Reality category (i.e., the eyes only of a portrait).

For Example:

A slide submitted and scored in a previous competition may not re-submitted as a digital image in a future competition. Again the exception for use in theme competition applies.

A print submitted and scored in a previous competition may not re-submitted as a digital image in a future competition. Again the exception for use in theme competition applies.

An image submitted and scored as a color image in any category may not be re-submitted as a Black and White image and vice versa.

Similar Images

Same or similar photographs previously submitted by the entrant and judged (scored) are ineligible in any future competition except Theme. Similar is defined as almost identical in subject, composition, props, lighting or technique so that a reasonable person viewing the entries together would decide that the entrant is attempting to duplicate the previous entry except for minor changes. The intent of the rule is to encourage submission of new photographs.

Challenging Images Believed to not Follow the Guidelines

- It is the members' responsibility to challenge images that violate rules of competition.
- The challenge must be presented, in writing (email is acceptable), to the Competition Chair within 48 hours of the competition.
- The Competition Chair will render a decision before the next competition and notify the Board and the member(s) involved in writing (email is acceptable). The Competition Chair may seek the input of other Board members in making his determination.
- The decision of the Competition Chair may be appealed to the Board. This must be done in writing (email is acceptable) within 7 days. The Board will render a decision within 30 days of the appeal.

Images deemed to not follow the qualification guidelines and are disqualified will lose the points awarded, cannot be re-entered and no make-up will be allowed for that image.

Digital Images

- *This first bullet point below serves as a guide for what should be submitted in the General Pictorial Color Category. It is not a rule. All other sections in this group are rules.*

Digital B, A, AA and Black & White are the general pictorial categories. These images tend to portray the essential (but not necessarily the absolute) truth of the scene. Digital manipulation such as (but not limited to) cropping, adjusting of tone, color, saturation, contrast, sharpening, cloning elements in and out are acceptable. It is recommended that images where false color is added or distorting filters used be entered in the Altered Reality Category (see below).

- Digital Images must be the maker's own work. Copies of photographs, paintings, clip art, magazine and book pictures, which are not the makers, are not eligible for competition. However, sculpture and statuary are permitted.

It should be noted that images of sculpture and statuary that are essentially "record shots" do not show any real creativity by the photographer and may receive a low score. It is in your best interest to try to add substantially to the scene making it your own unique view.

- Digital Images entered in previous competitions which received a score of seven (7) or higher are not eligible for future competitions and may not be resubmitted in a subsequent competition (see exception for Theme competition below). Digital Images receiving a score of six (6) or lower may be reworked and resubmitted at a future competition. The Competition Chairperson will determine the eligibility of any image in question and the Board will be notified.
- Photographs taken with artificial lighting and which have not been arranged or set up by the maker (for example, images of set-ups made at Amherst, PFLI, workshops, etc.) are not eligible for competition.

Theme

- Images must be the maker's own work. Copies of photographs, paintings, clip art, magazine and book pictures which are not the makers are not eligible for competition. However, sculpture, and statuary are permitted.
- Theme entries will be digitally projected. Each competition will have an assigned theme. Only images depicting the assigned theme are eligible. This competition is open to all members, and there is only one group. Because there is a different theme each month, there are no make-ups. Questions regarding the eligibility of an image should be brought to the attention of the Competition Chair or the President before the competition begins.
- Images submitted for Theme competition **MAY** be used again in Regular competition in the same year or in subsequent years – but not at the same competition. Conversely, images used in Regular competition may be used in Theme competition in the same or subsequent years – but not at the same competition.
- An image submitted for **THEME** competition may **not** be used in another **THEME** competition in the **SAME** competition year. However, theme images may be reused in subsequent years, but not in the same theme if it is repeated.

- Images submitted in a THEME competition which are deemed by the judge to not fit the theme, will receive a score of “5”.
- Selection of Themes:
 - Call for submission of themes by members for the following year on the first meeting of February.
 - Members submit themes to Competition Chair by first meeting in March.
 - The subject should be general and challenging.
 - The subject may not have been used in the past three (3) seasons.
 - List of recommended themes will be posted on the website by first meeting in April.
 - Members submit their choices, nine (9) from the posted list, to the Competition Chair by second meeting in April.
 - Final approval and/or modifications will be made by the Executive Board and themes announced by the end of the season.

Altered Reality

- ***This first bullet point below serves as a guide for what should be submitted in the Altered Reality Category. It is not a rule. All other sections in this group are rules.***

The Altered Reality category is for images that would not go into the general pictorial color category. Images in this category may be worked on with any number of digital techniques so that the final product may be completely distorted and abstracted or still have recognizable elements. The goal here is create impact with color, shape and form in ways that one may consider outside the realm of reality. There are, of course, abstract images created in the camera through special lenses or reflections off of various materials. These may be submitted in this category or Digital Color pictorial (B, A or AA).

- For the 2011–2012 Competition Season there will be Five (5) Altered Reality competitions occurring in October, December, February, March and May.
- Images must be the maker’s own work and start with the maker’s original capture. Copies of photographs, paintings, clip art, magazine and book pictures which are not the makers are not eligible for competition. However, sculpture, and statuary are permitted. *Refer to rules on “Qualifying Images” on page 2 regarding use/re-use of images in the Altered Reality Category.*
- Altered Reality entries will be digitally projected. This competition is open to all members, and there is only one group.
- Images submitted in Altered Reality may not be used again in Regular competition in the same year or in subsequent years.
- Altered Reality Images entered in previous competitions, which received a score of seven (7) or higher are not eligible for future competitions and may not be resubmitted in a subsequent competition. Altered Reality images receiving a score of six (6) or lower may be reworked and resubmitted at a future competition. The Competition Chairperson will determine the eligibility of any image in question and the Board will be notified.
- Photographs taken with artificial lighting and which have not been arranged or set up by the maker (for example, images of set-ups made at Amherst, PFLI, workshops, etc.) are eligible for the Altered Reality competition ONLY if they have been altered beyond recognition of the original set up.

SUBMITTING IMAGES

Digital (All)

- Each member may submit two (2) color digital images for their respective group (B, A or AA); two (2) digital images for the Black & White competition; two (2) digital images for the Theme competition; and two (2) digital images for the Altered Reality competition. In the event more than two (2) images are submitted in any category (excluding make-ups), the highest score(s) will be dropped and those images will be disqualified from future competitions. If the disqualified image is the Image of the Month, the award will also be dropped and the point will go to the Honorable Mention. In the event both the Image of the Month and Honorable Mention images are disqualified, there will be no award for that competition.
- Entries for the digital Competition must be submitted to our club's entry site at **www.photocontestpro.com** in the proper category folder.
- All entries must be uploaded by the Monday before the competition.
- Images entered in the incorrect group (B, A, AA or Black & White) will have their scores dropped from that competition. However, they will be permitted to re-enter those images in future competitions as make-ups. If the error occurs at the last competition of the year, those scores will be dropped from the current season and those images may be re-entered in subsequent competition seasons.
- Each file must be named in the following format:

YYYY-MM-LLLLLF- GG-CE-Title

YYYY = Competition Year This should appear on all entries this year. The year is determined as to the FINAL competition month. i.e. if the last competition month is May 2012 then the year would be 2012.

MM = Competition Month i.e. Oct=10, Nov =11, Jan=01, Feb=02, etc.

LLLLL = The first 5 letters of your last name.

F = Your first name initial.

GG = Group [B, A, AA]

C = The Competition Category

T = Theme

M = Black and White (Monochrome)

C = Color

R = Altered Reality

E = The Entry Number [1 or 2]

Use 3 and 4 if entering a make up.

Example: Harvey Augenbraun is entering an image called "Bird" in Color AA for October where the final competition month will be May 2012: 2012-10-AugenH-AA-C1-Bird

Your entire file name should not have more than 36 characters. Use only letters and/or numbers.

No blank spaces, No underscores, No special characters are permitted in the file name. (For example, use "and" instead of the "&" symbol).

- The maximum dimensions of each entry must be:
Width: 1024 pixels - Height: 768 pixels - @ 300 dpi

See our website, nybzps.org, for additional information

It is strongly suggested that you keep your competition images, as submitted, in a separate folder(s) on your computer so that you can be assured not to enter duplicate images and will have them readily available for end-of-year submission.

NOTE:

The “Title” used in the photocontest.pro website is the title of your photograph – NOT the file name above. For the example above, the Title would simply be “Bird.”

MAKE-UPS

It is the member’s responsibility to keep track of the number of entries and what they entered. If the number of entries submitted by a member exceeds the allowed number for that month, the highest score(s) will be dropped and those entries will not be eligible to be resubmitted.

Digital:

- Since submissions for digital competition may be made at anytime before the cut off day of that competition, no make-ups will be allowed.
- **EXCEPTIONS:**
 - 1- A member (any level) who joins the club after the first competition.
 - 2- All B-Group workers.

Rules for Make-ups will be the same as those in effect for regular competition. The Competition chair should be contacted by the member to clarify the individual situation.

JUDGING

- Prior to a competition, the Competition Chairperson or the President will advise the judge of the scoring system and of any adverse conditions.
- A judge may revise the original score of an image at any time but prior to the announcement of the maker’s name.
- During the competition, members should not make comments to the judge. The Competition Chairperson or the President will answer any questions the judge may have.
- If an outside judge is unavailable, the Competition Chairperson and/or the Board will select a club member to act as judge. If this occurs, that member’s image(s) will be removed from the competition and may be resubmitted in the next competition with no loss of bonus points.

SCORING

Digital (B, A, AA & Black & White)

- Images will be scored from 6 to 9 with half points.
- The judge will select an Image-of-the-Month from images awarded a (9). This image will receive an additional bonus point. An Honorable Mention will be selected from the remaining 9's should there be more than one (9) awarded. This image will not receive any bonus points.
- If an image is submitted in an incorrect group or category, it will be removed from the competition; however, it may be resubmitted in a future competition without penalty. (*See section "Submitting Images" above.*)

Theme

- Images will be scored from 6 to 9 with half points.
- The judge will select an Image-of-the-Month from images awarded a (9). This image will receive an additional bonus point. An Honorable Mention will be selected from the remaining 9's should there be more than one 9 awarded. This image will not receive any bonus points.

Altered Reality

- Images will be scored from 6 to 9 with half points.
- The judge will select an Image-of-the-Month from images awarded a (9). This image will receive an additional bonus point. An Honorable Mention will be selected from the remaining 9's should there be more than one 9 awarded. This image will not receive any bonus points.

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

In order to be eligible for Photographer of the Year Award in regular Digital (B, A, AA or Black & White), a member must have participated in a minimum of six (6) competitions (12 entries) during the competition year; three (3) competitions and six (6) images for Altered Reality.

- At the end of the competition year, members with the highest number of points will be awarded first, second and third place in each category. If there are fewer than 3 competitors in a category, then the number of awards will be reduced accordingly.
- All members who meet the "minimum number of entries" requirement are eligible for awards.
- Three awards will be given, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. In the event of a tie, each person will win an award for that place. (For example, if there is a tie for 1st then those tied will both receive a first place award and the next highest score[s] will receive 2nd place, etc.).

ADVANCING FROM GROUP B TO A AND A TO AA (Digital Color)

- To move up in any category, you must have entered every competition (make-ups included) for that year.

Promotions to the “A” Group

- All first place and second finishers in the “B” group will advance to the “A” group.
- In the event of a tie, each member will be advanced to the “A” Group.
- A member may not decline advancement to the “A” Group.

Promotions to the “AA” Group

- All first place finishers in the “A” group will advance to the “AA” group.
- A member may not decline advancement to the “AA” Group.

Standards of Excellence for the AA Group

In order to maintain high standards of excellence in the “AA” Group, competing members must maintain the following:

- Participation in all competitions
- An average yearly score of 7.7

Any AA member who does not maintain a 7.7 average for two successive years will be rolled back to the A group. However, if there are mitigating circumstances that prevent the member from meeting these standards and if such circumstances are immediately brought to the attention of the Board, the circumstances will be given consideration.

An AA member’s average yearly score is determined at the end of the competition year by dividing the total score in the AA Digital Category, including bonus points, by the required number of images in a competition year (18, or less in the event of a cancelled competition).

END-OF-YEAR COMPETITION

Eligibility:

In order to be eligible to enter year-end competitions in regular Digital (B, A, AA or Black & White), members must have participated in a minimum of six (6) competitions (12 digital entries) in the respective category during the competition year; three (3) competitions and six (6) images for Altered Reality.

Images submitted for End-Of-Year Competition must be the EXACT image submitted during that year WITHOUT alteration to the image or its presentation.

Theme competition slides are not eligible for entry in the year-end competition. If you have any questions regarding the eligibility of an image, see the Competition Chair or the President before the competition begins.

Digital

- **General:**

Members will compete in their respective groups: “B”, “A” or “AA” and Black & White. There is no restriction as to subject. A member may submit a maximum of four images. Awards will be given to the first, second and third place finishers.

- **Nature:**

All groups are combined: “B,” “A” and “AA.” A member may submit a maximum of two images. A nature image is defined as an image that depicts observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology. Human elements should not be predominant. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable. Photographs of mounted specimens, or obviously set-up arrangements are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement. Images of captive animals (zoos, game preserves, aquariums, etc) are acceptable.

Only the first place finisher will receive an award.

- **Landscapes/Cityscapes:**

All groups are combined: “B,” “A” or “AA”. A member may submit only one image. An award will be given to the first place finisher only.

Digital Images for each category – General, Nature, and Landscape/Cityscape-- are to be placed in separate Folders as noted on the Photocontestpro website.

Judging:

Three (3) judges will preside at the End-of-Year Competition.

The selection process will consist of two (2) rounds.

- First round: the images will be “in” or “out.” Depending on the number of images, there may be more “in and out” rounds. The Competition Chair will make the determination
- Second round: scoring will be from “6” to “9” with no half points.
- Members with the highest combined scores are the winners
- In the event of a tie, the judges will discuss the images or rescore to determine the winner/winners.

SELECTION OF THE PRINT TO BE PRESENTED TO FORDHAM PREP

- EOY winners (1st, 2nd or 3rd place) in all categories are eligible for selection. The Board will make the final decision.

THE CLUB RETAINS THE RIGHT TO USE COMPETITION IMAGES IN INTERCLUB COMPETITONS, THE IRIS, ON THE WEB SITE AND IN OTHER PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS. IF A MEMBER DOES NOT WISH TO HAVE THEIR IMAGE(S) USED IN THIS WAY, THEY MUST NOTIFY THE COMPETITION CHAIR OR THE PRESIDENT IN WRITING.