



# THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL ZOOLOGICAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY RULES OF COMPETITION ( Revised July 2009)

---

## ELIGIBILITY

Only members in good standing whose membership dues are current are eligible to enter competitions. Dues must be paid by October 31<sup>st</sup>. If dues are not paid by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 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
- A member shall be in the same competition group for all media – slide, print and digital.

## COMPETITION CATEGORIES

### **Projected Images - Digital**

- Theme
- Black and White
  - 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 category.
- Group B
- Group A
- Group AA

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. 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 that 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.**

For Example:

A slide submitted and scored in a previous competition may not be resubmitted as a print or 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 be resubmitted as a slide or 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 resubmitted 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 club 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:**

- Digital Images must be the maker's own work. Copies of photographs, artwork, statues, etc. which are not the maker's are not eligible for competition. However, an exception may be made if the maker has contributed substantial originality of his or her own.
- 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: see 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 made at Amherst, Cosmo, workshops, etc. are not eligible for competition.

### **Themes:**

- Images must be the maker's own work. Copies of photographs, artwork, statues, etc. which are not the makers are not eligible for competition. However, an exception may be made if the maker has contributed substantial originality of his or her own.
- 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. Conversely, images used in Regular competition may be used in Theme competition in the same or subsequent years.**
- **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.**
- 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.
  - List to 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.

### **SUBMITTING IMAGES**

#### **Digital:**

- Each member may submit two (2) color digital images and two (2) black and white digital images for the regular competition and two (2) digital images for the theme competition.
- Entries for the digital Competition must be submitted to our club's entry site at [www.photocontestpro.com](http://www.photocontestpro.com) in the proper category folder.
- All entries must be uploaded by the **Monday before the competition.**
- Each entry must be titled in the following format:  
**YYYY\_MM\_LLLLF\_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 2010 then the year would be 2010.

**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 name initial.

**GG** = Group

B, A, AA

**C** = The Competition Category

T = Theme

M = Black and White

C = Color

**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 2010.

2010\_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 title. (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](http://nybzps.org), for additional information

## **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.**
- **EXCEPTION:**
  - 1- A member (any level) who joins the club after the first competition.
  - 2- All B-Group workers.Then the same rules for make-ups that apply to slides will be in effect for that member. 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:**

- Images will be scored from 6 to 9 with half points.
- No Bonus points will be given for on time submission.
- The judge will select an Image-of-the-Month from images awarded a (9). This image will receive an additional bonus point.
- If an image is submitted in an incorrect group or category, it will be removed from the competition. It may be resubmitted in a future competition with no loss of points.

### **Theme:**

- Images will be scored from 6 to 9 with half points.
- No Bonus points will be given for on time submission.
- The judge will select an Image-of-the-Month from images awarded a (9). This image will receive an additional bonus point.

## **PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS:**

- **In order to be eligible for Photographer of the Year Award in any category, a member must have participated in a minimum of six (6) competitions (12 entries) during the competition year.**
- 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, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. In the event of a tie, each person will an award for that place, i.e., if there is a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> then those tied will receive a first place award and the next highest score will receive 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

## **Advancing from Group B to A and A to AA**

- **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 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.

A member’s average yearly score is determined at the end of the competition year by dividing a member’s total score, including bonus points, by the required number of images (18) in a competition year.

### **END-OF-YEAR COMPETITION**

Eligibility:

**In order to be eligible to enter year-end competitions (slide or print), members must have participated in a minimum of six (6) competitions (12 digital entries) during the competition year.**

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 slides. 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 Folder as noted on the Photocontestpro website.

**EVALUATION FORMS ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR YEAR-END COMPETITIONS.**

**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.

**Selection of Themes for the Following Year**

- Members may suggest a subject and given to the President or First Vice President IN WRITING by the last regular competition of the year.
- The subject should be general and challenging.
- The subject may not have been used in the past 2 years.
- Themes will be selected at the last meeting of the year.

**Selection of the Print to be Presented to Fordham Prep**

- All EOY 1<sup>st</sup> Place winners 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.**