

(Attachment 4)

OFFICIAL SCHEDULED INTERCLUB DIGITAL PROJECTION COMPETITION RULES

(Last Revised: 10.04.21)

A **"DIGITAL PROJECTED IMAGE"** shall be any image where the image shall be displayed using a digital projector or monitor. The images must originate from a camera. This includes both film and digital cameras, which also includes mobile phones and tablets. A digital copy of an original film image is also acceptable. The major components of an image must be generated from a camera.

THE DIGITAL PROJECTION DIVISIONS ARE:

Monochrome General (MG)

- Images that are black and white with shades of gray.
- Images that are "toned" (1 color).

Note: Monochrome images that have added one or more color(s) are acceptable in Color General or Creative.

Color General (CG)

- Any color digital image except those images in which a wild animal, bird or insect fills more than one-third (1/3) of the frame and there are no factors that prevent that image from being accepted in the Nature Digital Projection Division. Those color digital images that are NOT acceptable in the Nature Digital Projection Division may be acceptable as Color General Digital Projection images. Any modification to an image that results in an image that still appears to a casual viewer to be un-manipulated is acceptable.
- Examples of acceptable modifications include:
 - Cropping and horizontal flipping (equivalent to reversing a slide), straightening, keystone, noise removal, dodging and burning, exposure adjustment, color balance, color correction, white balance, saturation, and sharpening, "HDR" (High Dynamic Range). A stitched panoramic is also allowed.

HDR images that do not appear to be natural are not eligible and should be entered in the Creative category. These are typically referred to as grunge images.

Nature (NA)

- Any color digital image that contains "Nature", where "Nature" is defined as, Nature in all its forms, including the many facets of Botany, Geology, and Zoology. Human elements, if present, should be unobtrusive and enhance the nature story. Those depicting cultivated plants, domestic animals or pets, still-life studies, mounted specimens, museum pieces or groupings, or similar subjects are NOT eligible. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable. Zoo shots and Game Farm shots are eligible provided the artificial habitat is not apparent in the image. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as are some forms of manipulation manual or digital (see below) that alters the truth of the photographic statement.
- The photographer may perform enhancements and modifications that improve the presentation of the image that could have been done at the time the image was taken but that does not change the truth of the original nature story. Adding an obvious vignette not originally produced by the camera is not allowed
- Cropping and horizontal flipping (equivalent to reversing a slide), straightening, keystone, noise removal, dust spot removal, dodging and burning, exposure adjustment, color balance, color correction, white balance, saturation, and sharpening, "HDR" (High Dynamic Range), are examples of acceptable modifications. A stitched panoramic is also allowed.
- Adding elements to your images, combining separate images or rearranging and/or cloning elements in your image, removing major elements from your image other than by cropping, are not acceptable and will lead to disqualification of your image, other than stitched panoramic images.
- See the Nature Appendix for additional guidelines

Creative (CR) [Altered Reality and almost Anything Goes]

- Any digital image that contains "Any Subject", that is not eligible in another category. This includes images where all or part of the image is manipulated, created, edited, fixed, duplicated, or imported from another image (see below). All the components of the image must be original work created by the maker. The

photographer must have performed all manipulation. The image should appear to be a manipulated image to a casual viewer.

- Cropping and horizontal flipping (equivalent to reversing a slide), straightening, keystone, noise removal, dodging and burning, exposure adjustment, color removal, adding one color, white balance, saturation, and sharpening, extreme or grunge “HDR” (High Dynamic Range), are examples of acceptable modifications. Images are not limited to only these modifications.
- Adding elements to your images combining separate images or rearranging and/or cloning elements in your image, removing major elements from your image, are examples of acceptable modifications.
- Added Text is allowable, but shall not be used to identify brand names or identify the maker in any way.
- Any added element must come from other images created by the maker. Adding elements from other sources is not allowed and will disqualify the image.
- Images that meet the definition for Color General, Monochrome General or Nature are not eligible for Creative.
- Note: the amount of time used to create the image does not, in itself, make it eligible for Creative.

THE DIGITAL PROJECTION CLASSES ARE:

- **BEGINNER** (BE) is defined as a member who has not attained five (5) points in GDCCC competition.
- **ADVANCED** (AD) is defined as one who has attained five (5) points in the GDCCC beginner class.
- **SALON** (SA) is defined as one who has attained seven (7) points in the GDCCC advanced class.
- **STAR** (ST) is defined as one who has attained seven (7) points in the GDCCC salon class.
- **GALAXY** (GA) is defined as one who has attained fourteen (14) points in the GDCCC star class.
- Exhibitors new to council competitions will, as a general rule, start in the Beginner Class, but, if they enter a home club as an accomplished photographer, the club may ask the division’s director for permission to start them in another class. Once they have competed in council competition, they must then abide by the rules for moving up in class.
- An exhibitor cannot compete in classes lower than the highest class in which he or she has previously submitted.
- For newly created divisions, at least three (3) makers must be eligible for a new class beyond Beginners before that class shall be created.
- The Exhibition Directors may create a new class by declaring at least three (3) makers “eligible”, even though those makers have not attained the minimum points defined for that class.

ADVANCEMENT TO NEXT HIGHER CLASS: (12.12.12)

- When a maker has been awarded the appropriate number of points, i.e., one (1) each for first, second, third, or HM in the six (6) scheduled interclub council competitions, they **will** advance to the next class the following January.

GENERAL RULES:

- All work, computer images, photography and image manipulation must have been created by the author. Clipart is **not** allowed.
- Images will be projected or displayed on a judges calibrated monitor as received by the Digital Projection Division director. A best effort will be made to calibrate the digital projector consistently for each competition, but the DPD director cannot guarantee that the received image will display the same as another digital projector or computer screen.
- It was the consensus at the 11/08/05 GDCCC Council Board meeting that the maximum size be equal for both vertical and horizontal images.
- Maximum image size will be 1200 x 1200 pixels. Smaller images are acceptable. The Visual Pursuits system will downsize images larger than this limit.
- Square images using the maximum for both horizontal and vertical are acceptable.
- sRGB is recommended. (submitted images that have a different color space will be changed to sRGB)
- Save as JPEG File Format. (Use compression of 10 to 12)

- Do not use / ? < > \ : * | " in the "Title of image" section of the filename. Especially watch out for "/" and "\" in dates and the "#" that's often used for numbering. Those characters are used by the PC and the digital projection software for special purposes and may cause the image file to not be displayed or not accepted.
- Words such as "Untitled" and "No Title" are not acceptable as part or all of an image's title, nor are camera capture filenames or titles consisting of only numbers and letters. (i.e. does not contain pronounceable words).
- No title or identification of the maker shall be visible anywhere on the face of the image.
- Do not put your name in the image title.
- Titles longer than 25 characters (includes spaces) will be truncated if EOY award medals are produced for the maker.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Six (6) scheduled interclub Digital Projection competitions will be held yearly for each division.
- Each member club is required to maintain an online membership using *Visual Pursuits* online image competition system.
- All images must be submitted through their club's *Visual Pursuits* online system.
- Each affiliated club may submit up to twelve (12) images per division per competition for five (5) out of the six (6) scheduled interclub Digital Projection competitions. The images may come from any one of the division's classes or be divided among the division's classes as desired by the home club.
- No individual may have more than one (1) image per division per competition.
- An image that is or has been successful as a 2¼ Slide or a Nature Slide or a Color Slide or a Digital Projection Image (MG, CG, NA and CR), including Honorable Mention (HM), becomes ineligible for future Council competition in the 2¼ Slide Division, the Nature Slide Division, the Color Slide Division and the Digital Projection Division (MG, CG, NA and CR). 2¼ Slides, Nature Slides, Color Slides and Digital Projection Images (MG, CG, NA and CR) that are so similar to a successful 2¼ Slide, Nature Slide, Color Slide, or Digital Projection Image (MG, CG, NA and CR) by the same maker that a casual observer would think they are the same image are not allowed and will be disqualified.
- The title of an image that is or has been successful as a 2¼ Slide or a Nature Slide or a Color Slide or a Digital Projection Image (MG, CG, NA and CR), including Honorable Mention (HM), becomes ineligible for future Council competition in the 2¼ Slide Division, the Nature Slide Division, the Color Slide Division and the Digital Projection Division (MG, CG, NA and CR). Any 2¼ Slide, Nature Slide, Color Slide or Digital Projection Image (MG, CG, NA and CR) entered using the same title as a previously successful 2¼ Slide, Nature Slide, Color Slide or Digital Projection Image (MG, CG, NA and CR) by that maker will be disqualified.
- Any unsuccessful image may be entered again at any time.

JUDGING FOR INTERCLUB COMPETITION:

- There shall be three (3) qualified judges, all members in good standing selected from the hosting club.
- All images shall be previewed before judging. However, when judging is completed using Visual Pursuit Remote Judging feature, then a preview is not required.
- Each judge will vote on a basis of up to nine (9) points.
- The points of the three (3) judges will be totaled.
- They will take into consideration:
 - Subject material
 - Composition
 - Technical quality
- The Digital Projection Division Director shall decide whether or not an image is eligible for judging.
- Awards:
 - In each of the classes, at least twenty-five (25) percent of the entries shall receive awards.
 - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons will always be awarded.
 - HM ribbons will be awarded until twenty-five (25) percent of the entries have received awards.
 - All images with the same score as the one at the twenty-fifth (25) percentage point will receive the same award.
 - If 25% of the images shown should be greater than 0.5 of the next number, this number will be considered as part of the 25%. Example: For 43 images submitted, $43 \times 0.25 = 10.75$ ~ Top eleven images would receive awards.

INTERCLUB ANNUAL AWARD COMPETITION:

Eligibility:

- Images that placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd or HM in the six (6) scheduled interclub Digital Projection competitions within a given year may be entered in the "Digital Projection Image of the Year" competition for that year.
- The GDCCC DPD Director shall create EOY DPD competitions in the online Visual Pursuits system. The Honor images will be entered into the EOY DPD competition.
- A maker competing for one club may compete for a different club in the same year, retaining the same Council class rating, but cannot return to compete for the first club for the remainder of that year.

Judging:

- The Digital Projection Division Director will select a panel of three judges.
- None of these judges will be members of the affiliated clubs in the GDCCC Council.

Awards:

- In each class, at least twenty-five (25) percent of the entries shall receive awards. These shall consist of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies and the remainder shall be awarded HM ribbons. All images with the same score as the one at the twenty-fifth (25) percentage point will receive the same award.
- The judges will be instructed to select a 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place in each class or the online system of Ranking will determine the 1st-4th place positions. The Digital Projection Image of the Year for each division will be selected from the 1st place images from each of the classes for that division. From whichever class the Digital Projection Image of the Year is chosen, the 2nd place becomes a 1st, the 3rd place becomes a 2nd and the 4th place becomes a 3rd, and in the remaining classes, the 4th place becomes an HM.
- In each of the classes, a minimum of twenty-five (25) percent of the entries shall receive awards, which must include 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. If 25% of the images exhibited should be greater than or equal to 0.5 of the next number, this number will be considered as part of the 25%.

Example: For 43 images submitted, $43 \times 0.25 = 10.75$ ~ Top eleven images would receive awards.

- A maker is eligible to receive only one (1) trophy per division, either the Digital Projection Image of the Year Trophy, or a 1st, 2nd or 3rd trophy. A maker is eligible to receive more than one Honorable Mention ribbon in a division.

Nature Appendix

With regard to the definition of Nature Photography:

The definition prohibits human elements that are not an integral part of the nature story. Human elements are not limited to people or parts of people in the image. Human elements that can cause images to be disqualified, or at best scored low, include but are not limited to:

- Roads, paths, vehicle tracks, or trails
 - Fences and fence posts
 - Signs
 - Power Poles
 - Wires
 - Buildings (or parts of buildings)
 - Walls or parts of walls
 - Mowing and plowing patterns in fields
 - Cut tree stumps, cut off limbs, branches or stems
 - Jesses and thongs on legs of raptors and other birds (these are not scientific banding)
- The definition does include some examples of human elements that **are** integral parts of the nature story. Other examples of allowable human elements include:
- Birds nesting or feeding young on or in man-made objects.
 - Barn owl in barn
 - Insects depositing eggs or egg sacs in man-made objects.
 - Animals eating fresh kills on fence posts, pilings, in roadways, etc.
 - A flood with raging water with a house or other human element floating in the flood.
 - A tornado ripping apart buildings or throwing around human elements. Such “natural force” examples show nature stories where the natural forces are out of control.
- The keys are whether the judge considers the human element integral to the story, the habitat to be adopted, and the nature story to be strong.
- The definition specifically lists domestic animals, including those that have gone feral, as not being allowed. Domestic animals are animals, such as horses, cats, dogs, poultry, cattle and sheep, that have been tamed and kept by humans as work animals, food sources, or pets, especially members of those species that have become notably different from their wild ancestors through selective breeding.
- This particular restriction does eliminate just about all the “wild” horses in the world since those in the Americas, Europe and Western Asia are feral domestic horses, not true wild horses. The only true eligible horse is the rare Przewalski’s Horse also known as the Mongolian Wild Horse. Zebras, kiangs and onagers (wild asses) are also valid eligible members of the horse family.
- It also reinforces the exclusion of any Llamas and Alpacas because those have always been domestic animals and have no ancestors that were never domesticated.
- All Koi and goldfish are hybrids and are not allowed.
- Cultivated plants are those that are grown specifically in decorative gardens and for food. Wildflowers (that are not hybrids) planted in botanical gardens are allowed subjects in Nature Open in the same manner that wild animals in zoos are allowed subjects.
- Hybrid flora – including wildflowers - in general are hard to distinguish from native varieties and vice-versa, so it is often very difficult for most entrants and judges alike to determine whether flora are indeed hybrids. Entrants are advised that one or more judges may DQ an image containing flora believing in good faith that it is hybrid when in fact it is not. Entrants are therefore cautioned of the risk taken when entering any image containing flora into a Nature competition, and are advised to check carefully before entering such an image.
- Most roses, for example, are hybrids. Native roses do not have multiple swirls of petals and come in simple shades of light red through white.
- "Slow" water (longer exposures) is allowed.
- Star trail images created through the superimposition of multiple images (such as circumpolars) are not allowed, regardless of whether any human-created lighting is present. This is eligible in Color General. (Rule currently under GDCCC board review)

With regard to digital processing in Nature Photography:

- The definition does not allow replacing the background of the image, adding additional content from another image, or cloning out content from your original image. This restriction of cloning out content includes what may appear inconsequential, such as a blade of grass in front of an animal's face. Also cloning elements already in the image and making additional copies of those elements is the same as adding elements and is not allowed.
- Removing minor distracting elements from the background or non-subject area is allowed.
- Adding pictorial elements to the image or removing pictorial elements from the image is not permitted.
- **Adjustments are allowed that enhance the image without changing the content, including:** exposure (globally and selectively), color balance, contrast, sharpening (globally and selectively), noise reduction, conversion to greyscale monochrome (with no color added), straightening, resizing, and cropping.
- Deliberately blurring the background is not allowed.
- **Adding an obvious vignette not originally produced by the camera is not allowed.**
- **The overriding requirement for any of the allowed adjustments is that the results must appear natural to the viewer** (the maker is not the viewer – the viewer is the judge!)