

ATTACHMENT #1 - BY-LAWS
NASHOBA VALLEY PHOTO CLUB (NVPC) COMPETITION RULES
(Revised 8 April 2016)

There shall be two types of competition: Print and Electronic. All competitions shall be governed by the following paragraphs.

1. All members compete on an equal basis unless a special competition has been prearranged.
2. Entries are accepted only from members who have paid dues.
3. A maker's entry is disqualified if his/her same image has previously been an award winner in the any category in an NVPC competition.
4. An entry that is almost identical to the same maker's previous award winner will be disqualified.
5. Competitions are conducted in five categories: Open, Open Avian, Nature, Nature Avian and Assigned. An assigned category subject will include singular and plural. For example, bridges or bridge are equally acceptable.
6. An entry will be considered in category only if the dominant subject of the image is consistent with the category topic. An entry's qualification to meet category will be determined by the Competition Coordinator or the Competition Judge(s).
7. A member may enter a specific subject in only one competition category on the same competition night. Multiple entries of a single subject but not the same object are allowed within a single competition category. The term "Subject" is defined as the generic meaning of the term.

7a Example (Open):

If the entry subject is a lighthouse, then up to the maximum number of images of different lighthouses are acceptable. There cannot be multiple images of the same lighthouse on the same night. If one or more lighthouse images appear in the electronic competition, there can be no other lighthouse entered in the print competitions, and vice versa.

7b. Example (Nature Avian):

Up to the maximum number of images of birds can be entered in the electronic competition but they must all be different species of birds such as a Great Blue Heron, a Red Shouldered Hawk and a Snowy Egret. Two Great Blue Herons are unacceptable that night. If a member submits a Great Blue Heron in the electronic competition, they cannot enter one in the print competition (or in Open Avian or Assigned categories that same night). You can have a different Great Blue Heron in a different composition setting on a different competition night but not one similar to a previous winning entry of a Great Blue Heron (similar composition setting, pose, etc.).

7c Example (Assigned – Hot Air Balloons):

If multiple images are entered they must be of different balloons. Different shots of the same balloon aren't acceptable. If an image of a balloon is put in the electronic competition, no balloon may be entered in a coincident Print competition or in the Open category competition.

7d Example (Assigned – Broken):

If more than one image is entered, it must be a shot of a different subject reflecting the assigned topic. More than one shot of the same subject illustrating the topic is not appropriate. If you enter a shot of a broken window, no other shot of that broken window can be entered. You could enter images of different broken windows. If an image of a broken window is put in the digital competition, no broken window may be entered in a coincident Print competition or in the Open category competition.

(This is to promote more diverse entries by each maker and to allow balanced competition from other makers within the same class. It will also align the various Open, Nature, and Assigned categories to the same entry guidelines.)

8. Single Member Entries

When there is only a single member's entries within a division, all of that member's entries will be judged and scored.

9. NVPC Digital Image Salons

Salons are usually held at the first meeting of the month. Members compete in the Assigned Category, the Open Avian Category, the Open Category, the Nature Avian Category and the Nature Category. Generally, each salon will feature entries in each of these categories.

Members are limited to a maximum of four (4) entries per salon, and are further limited to a maximum of two (2) entries in any one category and one (1) entry in each of two (2) of the remaining four (4) categories. (Note: 2 entries in each of two categories is prohibited.) In no instance shall a member exceed a total of four (4) entries per salon except for special occasions when the maximum number will be announced in advance.

10. NVPC Print Salons

A member may submit a maximum of one (1) entry in Color and a maximum of one (1) entry in Black & White. The number of entries allowed may be changed for special situations but will be announced in advance. Prints may be derived from either digital or film photography.

11. Print Sizes and Presentation

Minimum print size shall be 5" x 7". Larger prints may be any size that will fit in a matte or on a matte or foam mounting board sized such that the sum of the height and width does not exceed 42". Framed prints are excluded. For the annual Mini Print Salon print size is limited to 5' x 7" and matte or mounting board size is limited to 8" x 10"

12. Special Variations

Print salons are generally limited to the "Open" category. However, the Club President or the Competition Coordinator may announce any changes in advance of the salon. Any definition of categories would be the same as described for other types of images. The number of entries, digital or print, may be adjusted in advance by the Competition Coordinator or the Club President, as would be dictated by certain circumstances.

13. Acceptable in Salons

Black & White and Color Prints. Shall originate from film or digital cameras. Enhancement or manipulation of an image is acceptable provided that the final image is the work of the club member. Color or black and white prints may be either commercially made or made by the

Club member. However, the image must be the work of the member.

14. Time Restrictions & General Eligibility

To be eligible for salons all images must have been made within eighteen months preceding the date of the salon. Any entry that has not scored at least 22 points can be re-entered in future salons as long as it falls within the 18 month time limit preceding the competition.

15. Digital Salon Rules

15a. Submitted Images

Images submitted for a digital salon must originate as photographs taken with either a digital or film camera. The photograph and any digital processing of the image must be the work of the person submitting the image. However, scans to convert an image to a digital file may be performed by a person other than the photographer. Processing of the digital image using Photoshop, or any other photo processing software, is allowed. The adjustment and manipulation of the digital file that is allowed is dependent on the category of the image as defined below:

15b. Categories

There shall be five categories for electronic competition:

(1) Nature and (2) Nature Avian

All images must meet the following Nature Definition of Nature Photography, which has been taken from the PSA definition and modified to meet NVPC objectives:

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from 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 to certify as to its honest presentation. The **story telling** value of a photograph **must** be weighed more than the pictorial quality. Human elements shall not be present, except on the rare occasion where those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, zoo specimens, or rehabilitated or captive birds or animals posed at "animal farms" are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation, manual or digital, that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

Images must also meet the requirements for electronic images, as follows:

All images must be considered "Digital Realism", where a photographer may perform any 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. The image may be cropped, flipped or reversed. Altering between horizontal and vertical is allowed. Adding elements to your image, removing elements from your image, combining separate images or rearranging and/or cloning elements in your image are not acceptable and can lead to disqualification of your image in the competition.

The distinction between **Nature** and **Nature Avian** categories will depend on the existence and significance of a bird or birds in the image. When one or more birds function as the main feature, as a significant feature or as a supporting feature of the image, the image *must* be entered in the **Nature Avian** category. Otherwise, if the image does not contain a

bird, or a bird is present but does not add to the intended interest of the image, the image must be entered in the **Nature** category.

** The NVPC interpretation of the allowed enhancements and modifications that improve the digital presentation include adjustments to color, saturation, luminosity, exposure, color balance, sharpness and adjustments that affect the distribution of the pixels as displayed in the histogram. NVPC further allows the use of filtering to remove noise from the image and cloning to remove flaws resulting from dust on the sensor.

Nature or Nature Avian images that incorporate enhancements and/or adjustments beyond those allowed herein must be entered in the Open or Open Avian Category respectively.

(3) Open and (4) Open Avian

Images of any subject, including nature subjects* and images that have creative content***, may be submitted in the **Open** or **Open Avian** category. The primary objective is that the image should first be a quality photograph that demonstrates the photographer's ability to obtain a decent initial image (photography) and then adjust it to achieve a decent final image (digital editing). The image may be cropped, flipped or reversed. Altering between horizontal and vertical is allowed. There is no limit to the digital enhancements that may be used to improve image characteristics such as color, saturation, luminosity, exposure, color balance and sharpness. The following practices may be used to modify the taken image:

- Cloning to remove distracting characteristics
- Moving objects within the image
- Inserting objects from another photographic image
- Combining images of the same subject, such as a series of bracketed images, to increase the dynamic range of the image
- Combining images to create a panorama

*For nature subjects in Open and Open Avian – The only nature subjects permitted in Open or Open Avian must have content or digital manipulation that is precluded from the Nature or Nature Avian categories. The distinction between **Open** and **Open Avian** categories will depend on the existence and significance of a bird or birds in the image. When one or more birds function as the main feature, as a significant feature or as a supporting feature of the image, the image *must* be entered in the **Open Avian** category. Otherwise, if the image does not contain a bird, or if a bird is present but does not add to the intended interest of the image, the image may be entered in the **Open** category.

***Images with creative content are those where the photographer makes an artistic presentation by combining different photographic images, by combining photographic images with computer graphics or by the use of filters to create brushstroke, watercolor, palette knife and other such effects in the image. Photography must be the dominant element of the presentation. All of the components of the image, photography and graphics, must be the work of the person creating the image. Clip art and other such images may not be included.

(5) Assigned Topic

Rules for the Assigned Topic Category are the same as for the Open Category (or Open Avian if the assigned subject happens to involve birds) except that the dominant feature of the

entry must be the assigned subject. The subject for an Assigned Topic will be announced for that competition. Entries may be disqualified if, in the opinion of the Competition Coordinator or the Competition Judge, the image does not meet the category definition.

16. **Scoring**

Salon entries shall be considered by one or more judges, who shall award a score, generally from 17 – 30 points.

Each time a judge is requested to review and rate salon images, he or she should be advised that the NVPC requests that each of its submission categories be appraised on its own merits within that category and specifically not against images in any other category. A copy of the category definitions calling attention to the distinctions between them must be given to the judge for each salon.

17. **Benchmark System**

Each member shall compete each year against a set of benchmark criteria as follows.

For DIGITAL IMAGES:

BENCHMARK 1, Competent Photographer: Nine (9) images that score 22 points or higher.

BENCHMARK 2, Accomplished Photographer: Nine (9) images that score 24 points or higher.

BENCHMARK 3, Distinguished Photographer: Nine (9) images that score 26 points or higher.

For COLOR and BLACK and WHITE PRINTS:

BENCHMARK 1, Competent Photographer: Four (4) prints that score 22 points or higher.

BENCHMARK 2, Accomplished Photographer: Four (4) prints that score 24 points or higher.

BENCHMARK 3, Distinguished Photographer: Four (4) prints that score 26 points or higher.

The number of images and prints required to meet each benchmark may be revised year to year by the Board of Directors to represent approximately one third of the maximum annual number each of digital images and prints allowed to be submitted by each member. Currently the maximums are:

Digital Images – 27

Color Prints – 10

Black and White Prints – 10

18. **DIGITAL AND PRINT IMAGE OF THE YEAR SALON – FIRST JUNE MEETING**

18a. Eligible digital images are those scoring 26 or higher. Makers may submit no more than three (3) images with a maximum of two (2) per Assigned, Open, Open Avian, Nature and Nature Avian categories. A 1st, 2nd and 3rd place award will be made in each category.

18b. Eligible prints are those scoring 26 or higher. Makers may submit two (2) color and two (2) black and white prints. A 1st, 2nd and 3rd place award will be made in each print category.

19. **AWARDS**

The following certificate and plaque awards will be made to those members qualifying IF THEY ELECT TO RECEIVE THEM. A list of all annual achievements and awards will be published in June.

19a. Annual Awards – The following annual awards shall be made. The methodology for determining these awards is defined in Para. 20.

- **Digital Image of the Year** – A certificate awarded to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd place images.
- **Color Print of the Year** – A certificate awarded to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd place prints.
- **B/W Print of the Year** – A certificate awarded to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd place prints.
- **Best in Open** – A certificate awarded to a member in each Benchmark group.
- **Best in Open Avian** – A certificate awarded to a member in each Benchmark group.
- **Best in Nature** – A certificate awarded to a member in each Benchmark group.
- **Best in Nature Avian** – A certificate awarded to a member in each Benchmark group.
- **Best in Assigned** – A certificate awarded to a member in each Benchmark group.
- **Photographer of the Year - Digital Images** – A plaque awarded to the member demonstrating the highest level of craftsmanship across all categories.
- **Photographer of the Year – Color Prints** – A plaque awarded to a member in each Benchmark group.
- **Photographer of the Year – Black and White Prints** – A plaque awarded to a member in each Benchmark group.
- **New Member Participation Recognition** – A certificate is awarded to each new member who actively participates in the club's Salon competitions during the year.

The methodology of determining the above awards is detailed in paragraph 20.

- **The Marshall J. Van Etten Memorial Service Award**

This award was established in the memory of Marshall Van Etten, an initial member of the club and, until his untimely death, a steady contributor to the club. A plaque is awarded.

20. **DETERMINATION OF AWARDS**

20a. **The Digital Image and Print of the Year** awards are self-determining by virtue of the scores attained in the June salon. Ties will be broken.

20b. **Best in Open, Open Avian, Nature, Nature Avian and Assigned.** These are determined by the highest average of the top X images where X depends on the lowest number of qualifying images among several top contenders. Top contenders are those members in a given benchmark group with the higher number of qualifying images. Example – The four members having the higher number of qualifying images have respectively 14, 12, 10 and 9 qualifying

images. The winner would be that member with the highest average of their top 9 scoring images.

20c. Photographer of the Year – Digital Images – To be eligible a member must have entered a minimum of 14 digital images in aggregate in at least 4 of the 5 categories. The winner is determined by calculating the sum of only the top 4 scores in each of the 5 categories. Ties will share the distinction and award.

20d. Photographer of the Year – Color Prints –The winner is determined by taking the average of a member’s top seven (7) prints. Eligibility for this award requires entry of at least 7 prints.

20e. Photographer of the Year – B/W Prints - The winner is determined by taking the average of a member’s top seven (7) prints. Eligibility for this award requires entry of at least seven prints.

20f. New Member Participation Recognition Award –A certificate will be awarded to each new member who actively participates in the club’s salons defined by having submitted entries in digital and print categories an aggregate of at least 9 entries during the new member’s first competition year defined as 9 consecutive monthly salons from the date their membership dues are paid.

20g. The Marshall J. Van Etten Memorial Service Award – The winner is nominated by the Board of Directors applying the following criteria. The underlying concept of this award is to select a member of the club who has contributed his/her time and effort to the success of NVPC over a year or more. It can be someone who has served in several elected or coordinator roles over a period of several years, or it can be someone who has contributed a great deal of time, productivity, and enthusiasm, in a relatively short period of time. This service award exemplifies an effort to help improve the success of our club and the recipient of this award is chosen each spring by Board members. A special plaque is awarded at the annual banquet in June.
