

# Monthly Competition Rules

These rules apply to competitions from 1st February 2022

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# Monthly Competition Rules

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## Aim

To encourage members to improve their photography through participation in regular competitions.

## Eligibility

All financial members of the Club are eligible to enter monthly competitions.

## Types of Competitions

In each month from February to October there are two competitions: Print and PDI (Projected Digital Image). The Print competition is held on the second Thursday of each month and the PDI competition is held on the fourth Thursday of each month.

Each competition has two grades – A Grade (for more experienced photographers) and B Grade (for less experienced photographers, or photographers that are not experienced with entering competitions).

Within each grade there are two sections – Open and Set Subject. A list of Set Subjects is provided at the beginning of the year and photographers are expected to enter images that are inspired by the current month's subject. In Open competition there are no constraints on the subject matter provided that the images are the work of the photographer and conform to the Ethical Guidelines ([link](#)).

In addition to the graded competitions, there is an additional section – Image Critique. In this section photographers may enter images for feedback to be given by the judge without the competitive element. This provides a means for photographers to receive feedback and constructive criticism on their images.

## Judging and Grading

Judges are asked to assess each image with regard to artistic merit, creativity, imagination, impact, emotion and story where relevant. Technical quality of an image is important, but it should not override the consideration of its artistic merit. Judges are also asked to comment briefly on each image.

## Graded Competitions

### Aims of B Grade Competitions

- To foster development of members' technical photographic skills.
- B Grade photographers generally have less exposure to photography, especially competitions, so benefit from technical and aesthetic guidance. Judges' comments should be aimed at helping the photographer develop both technical, composition, lighting and aesthetic skills.

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## Aims of A Grade competitions

- To recognise photographic excellence.
- A Grade photographers are expected to produce photography of a high technical standard, but will benefit from a critique on the aesthetics, originality and creativity of their images.

## Image Critique

### Aim of Image Critique

- To provide encouragement to members who want feedback on their images without the competitive context.
- Entrants can be of any standard but typically are relatively new to photography or are experienced members experimenting with different techniques. They will benefit from both technical and aesthetic advice depending on the images entered.

## Members' Grades

New members should start in the grade which is relevant to their experience so far – for example, beginning-intermediate photographers should start in B Grade. Experienced photographers will generally start in A Grade but this should first be discussed with the Competition Committee.

Note: Experienced new members that have had their photographic skills recognized by the Competition Committee under the section 'Promotions and Determining Grade of Members' below, start immediately in A Grade.

A member will have the same grade for both the Print and PDI competitions. And the same grade for both Open and Set Subject.

## Entries

### Rules for Competition Submission

#### A Grade and B Grade Open competitions (Print and PDI)

- one (1) entry per member in each competition

#### Set Subject competitions (Print and PDI)

- one (1) entry per member in each competition

#### Image Critique competitions (Print and PDI)

- up to five (5) entries per member in each competition, however if that member has also entered images in Open or Set Subject, then they are limited to one (1) entry in Image Critique

Entries in any competition must be, for each particular competition, in the same grade as the member's ranking.

There are specific rules concerning the format and presentation of entries for the Print and PDI competitions.

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## Format and Presentation of Entries

### Rules covering format and Presentation of Entries

These rules apply to all A and B Grade competitions as well as the “Image Critique” section.

### Format and Presentation of Prints

1. Entrants must be financial members of the Club.
2. The entry must be 100% photographic in origin and all elements in an entry including post production and digital manipulation must be the sole work of the entrant.
3. The use of third party imagery such as stock photography (such as but not limited to Photoshop skies, borders, backgrounds or textures) is prohibited.
4. All entrants must be able to supply a copy or proof of each element used to create the final image (to prove its photographic origin) if requested. Failure to provide such proof may result in the disqualification of the entry.
5. Negatives or slides from which a print is produced may be commercially processed.
6. Prints may be either commercially or home processed.
7. For all A Grade and B Grade Print competitions and for prints for Image Critique: Prints must be mounted and it is strongly recommended that a backing board be used to stiffen the matted print for the new display arrangements.
8. All prints must be marked with the entrant's name and grade on the back. The entrant's name and image title (if included) must not be visible when viewing the image.
9. Framed prints are not permitted.
10. The maximum size of prints, including mount, in any competition including “Image Critique”, is 50.8 x 40.6 cm (20 x 16 inches). Note, this will allow prints to be entered in interclub competitions and photographic salons.
11. It is recommended that the maximum thickness of a print, including mount, is 5mm.  
Note: Prints exceeding 5mm could be ineligible for entry in interclub competitions and photographic salons.
12. A digital copy of each print entered into the A and B Grade competitions must be uploaded to the MCC website by 8:00pm on the day after the print competition. If an image is not uploaded, then no points will be awarded for that image. Image upload is through a separate portal on the MCC Competitions page “Print Upload”. The digital format of the image must comply with PDI rules for upload. Any analogue print entries must be a digital image (photograph or scan) to be uploaded.
13. Entrants may not enter the same or a substantially similar image in both the Print and PDI competitions in the same month.
14. Entrants may not enter the same or a substantially similar image in a monthly competition if it has previously received an Award:
  - a. in a monthly competition; or
  - b. in an End of Year Competition.
15. By submitting an image into a monthly or End of Year competition the Entrant is deemed to agree to and/or comply with these rules; and conditions of entry.

### Format and Presentation of Projected Digital Images

1. Entrants must be financial members of the Club.
2. The entry must be 100% photographic in origin and all elements in an entry including post production and digital manipulation must be the sole work of the entrant.

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3. The use of third party imagery such as stock photography (such as but not limited to Photoshop skies, borders, backgrounds or textures) is prohibited.
4. PDIs must be in the JPEG file type.
5. PDIs must be in the sRGB colour space.
6. The maximum size of a PDI is 1920 pixels (maximum width) by 1200 pixels (maximum height) and be contained in a file of 2Mb (2,048Kb) or smaller.
7. Entries will be anonymous and presented to the judge without a title or maker's name.
8. Entrants may not enter the same or a substantially similar image in both the Print and PDI competitions in the same month.
9. Entrants may not enter the same or a substantially similar image in a monthly competition if it has previously received an Award:
  - a. in a monthly competition; or
  - b. in an End of Year Competition.
10. By submitting an image into a monthly or End of Year competition the Entrant is deemed to agree to and/or comply with these rules; and conditions of entry.

## Registration and Upload Times

- Print entries must be uploaded via the Club's website by midnight on the Wednesday evening prior to the Thursday Print night, and be placed on display by 8:00pm on the evening of the Print competition.
- PDI entries must be uploaded via the Club's website by midnight on the Wednesday evening prior to the Thursday Print night. This is two weeks prior to the PDI competition unless otherwise advised by the PDI Competition Steward.
- It is the responsibility of the entrant to ensure that all entries are submitted before the nominated closing time and that entries conform to these rules.
- Late entries will not be accepted.

## Judges

The Judging Coordinator is a member of the Competition Committee who is responsible for inviting suitable judges to each monthly competition.

The Print and PDI stewards or their delegates may direct a judge to limit their comments on images, for example, if the number of entries is too high for the judge to reasonably comment on all entries, due to time limits or it is considered that the task would be too taxing.

In all competitions the judge's decision shall be final.

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## Awards

The following rules apply to all Print and Projected Digital Image (PDI) competitions.

## Competition Sections

Each competition shall have the following Sections:

1. In the case of Print competitions:
  - a. Open A Grade
  - b. Set Subject A Grade
  - c. Open B Grade
  - d. Set Subject B Grade
2. In the case of PDI competitions:
  - a. Open A Grade
  - b. Set Subject A Grade
  - c. Open B Grade
  - d. Set Subject B Grade
3. In the case of Image Critique:
  - a. There are no sections (or awards) for Image Critique

## Award Categories and Point Scores

1. Entries in Open and Set Subject will score points as follows:

• Best Image	6 points
• Highly Commended	5 points
• Commended	3 points
• All other entries	1 point
2. Approximately 33% of images are awarded either Commended or Highly Commended in each section for each grade. The competition judge makes the awards and has the discretion to distribute the awards (Commended, Highly Commended) as they see fit from the 33% of awards. The judges will be asked to comply with this instruction as it provides consistency over the years' results.
3. The Best of each section is chosen by the judge from the Highly Commended images. In the event that there is only one Highly Commended Image, this will automatically be deemed the Best Image and scored accordingly. If there are no Highly Commended images in a section, there will be no Best Image.
4. An image receives points for Highly Commended (5) or Best (6) but not both.
5. There must be at least two entrants in a section for images to be awarded. In other words, in the event that there is only one entrant in a section, there will be no awards made.

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## End of Year Trophies

1. The following rules refer to points acquired by entrants in each of the monthly Print and PDI competitions.
2. An Aggregate Trophy will be awarded to the entrant who gains the highest total aggregate of points during the year, in:
  - a. Print Open (A Grade)
  - b. Print Set Subject (A Grade)
  - c. Print Open (B Grade)
  - d. Print Set Subject (B Grade)
  - e. PDI Open (A Grade)
  - f. PDI Set Subject (A Grade)
  - g. PDI Open (B Grade)
  - h. PDI Set Subject (B Grade)
3. A Photographer of the Year Award will be made in both A Grade and B Grade. The awards will be made in each grade to the entrant with the highest combined total points from all monthly Print and PDI competitions for that year.
4. In the event of a tie for any aggregate trophy, or the Photographer of the Year Awards, the winner shall be determined by reference to the following procedure:
  - a. A countback of Best Image awards over the relevant sections shall be conducted, with the winner being the entrant with the most Best Image awards.
  - b. If a tie still exists, a countback of Highly Commended awards over the relevant sections shall be conducted, with the winner being the entrant with the most Highly Commended awards.
  - c. If a tie still exists, a countback of Commended awards over the relevant sections shall be conducted, with the winner being the entrant with the most Commended awards.
  - d. If two or more entrants are still tied, then each will win the relevant award.

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## Promotions and Determining Grade of Members

The Competition Committee shall consider all re-grading of participating members and new members to the competition and make recommendations to the Board.

Promotion to A Grade, or direct admission of new members to A Grade, will be determined by the MCC Board on the recommendation of the Competition Committee. In making such recommendations, the Competition Committee may take into account any or all of the following:

1. a folio of ten or more recent Prints or PDIs submitted for assessment, or
2. evidence that the member has been awarded ten or more acceptances of Prints or PDI's in APS or FIAP accredited national or international exhibitions or salons, or
3. evidence of awards in other national or international competitions, or
4. outstanding performance in B Grade competitions as recommended by the relevant PDI and Print stewards.

## MCC Policy on Use of Member's Images

In consideration of submitting photographs to any competition of The Melbourne Camera Club ("The Club"), the maker grants The Club a limited license to exhibit the submitted works on its premises during the competition and any associated exhibitions. It is also a condition of entry that photographs or facsimiles of photographs awarded with a commendation or higher award ("Awarded Photographs") may be used by The Club for the purposes including, without limitation, documenting, reporting and promoting the competition into which Awarded Photographs are entered or a similar competition or exhibition ("Agreed Use"). The photographer grants to The Club the right to reproduce Awarded Photographs for the Agreed Use. The Club undertakes to appropriately credit images to the maker when Awarded Photographs are used.

The photographer retains full copyright of his or her photographs and The Club undertakes not to sell members' photographs without the consent of the photographer.