

Competition Issues and Proposed Changes NVPS Rules of Competition

The NVPS Board met on February 8, 2017 to consider modifications to the monochrome print category, and issues regarding long competition nights. In discussing these issues, the Board sought solutions which provide the most equitable and flexible approach to competitions, while ensuring adequate time for constructive comments by our judges, and the goal of having competition nights of reasonable duration.

Issue 1. Monochrome Prints

The single monochrome print category, which is currently open to all three classes of photographers, has recently attracted a large number of entrants, complicating the final judging decisions. For example, in recent months we have had approximately 30 entrants with 3 award winners and 5 honorable mentions. Having all classes compete together puts entrants in class 3 at an advantage over the other two.

Proposed Competition Rule Change #1

Divide the monochrome print category into three classes in the same manner as digital images and color prints.

Issue 2. Competitions Run Very Long

The Board discussed various issues regarding the long duration of competition nights. These include:

- The meetings result in very long days for members who work or live long distances from firehouse.
- It is difficult for judges and club members to keep their focus throughout the night.
- Judges have too little time for constructive comments.
- Many members leave before the competition ends.

There are several reasons for the long nights:

- The large number of images submitted (now over 100 a competition).
- Slow or indecisive judges
- Less than optimal time management.

The Board discussed a full range of measures to shorten the competitions including: Improving the efficiency of the competition review through better time management. Improved guidance to judges, etc. (changes are currently being implemented). Setting aside part of a second night each month for competitions, allowing us to keep the same number of categories and number of member submissions. (This would require finding more judges, which is already a challenge.)

After considering these the options, the Board felt that reducing the number of images club members can submit to each competition was the most efficient way to significantly reduce the duration of competition nights. As a result, the Board voted to

propose the following change.

Proposed Competition Rule Change #2

The total number of images each member may enter in any one monthly competition is limited to two (2).

Members competing in each Class (1, 2, and 3) can enter a maximum of two (2) images. One image may be entered into any two of the three competition categories: Color Prints, Monochrome Prints, and Digital Images.

This approach provides maximum flexibility to members to pick which categories they want to compete in; is relatively easy to implement; and, and keeps the digital, color prints, monochrome prints categories for themed and non-themed competitions the same through out the year.

Pursuant to Article IX of the Club bylaws, notice of these changes is provided to all Club members via this e-mail and by posting on the NVPS website.

We will hold an Up / Down vote by members present at the beginning of the March 14 meeting. A majority of the general membership present at the meeting is required to ratify the changes.

The Co-VPs for Competition will be available to discuss these changes at the March 7 Club Meeting. You may also contact us at competitions@nvps.org.