



Mississauga Camera Club
Print Competition Handbook
2019 – 2020
(updated October 2019)

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1. Introduction to Competitions

Overview

Welcome to the Mississauga Camera Club! Competitions are the best way to improve your photography and take it to the next level. The Mississauga Camera Club offers various avenues for you share your photography and compete with your fellow members in a friendly atmosphere. You are encouraged to enter every competition and many members are willing to assist you with any aspect of competitions if required.

The Club offers two main presentation mediums which count towards advancement within the club: Digital Image and Print. Other competitions are also available (described later in this document) but are optional and do not count towards advancement. You are encouraged to enter them as well.

There is a great deal of information on competitions to be communicated and documented. Every effort has been made to make this Handbook as clear as possible; however, changes to the information are inevitable. If you have a suggestion on how to improve any aspect of this Handbook or its content, please feel free to contact the Print Competition Team Leader (printchair@mississaugacameraclub.ca).

2. Competition Image Category Definitions

2.1. Creative

Creative images will display a departure from realism consisting of experimental and imaginatively creative images that tend toward the abstract in the interpretation of a subject. Further, these images are not normally seen by the naked eye and may engage the viewer in finding the meaning of the photograph. They will have been manipulated either in the camera via conventional means (multiple exposure, special effects, filters, etc.) or by using more intensive digital editing or application of the following types of techniques:

- composites
- digital Filters
- colour Toning
- orton effect etc.
- motion blur
- combination of BW and colour
- solarization
- brush strokes
- photograms
- texture
- masking
- montage
- negative images
- distortion
- HDR
- multiple images
- collage
- posterization

There is a persistent misunderstanding about the definition of a “creative image”. Since at times there is disagreement over the meaning of “departure from reality”, a new procedure for dealing with images that the judges consider “misclassified” was implemented in 2013-14 (see *Section 4.4 - Category Placement*).

2.2. Pictorial

Pictorial images include any image that the viewer would see as reality, inclusive of black & White images. Images in this category typically will include but are not limited to landscapes, people, and everyday life scenes. Also included are subjects such as architecture, still life, tabletop, seascapes, people at work or play, portraiture, flowers, etc.

Note that photographs containing images of other peoples’ art, paintings, sculpture, stained glass windows, body art, etc. will not be considered competition material and will be removed from competition (without notice) by the Print Competition Team Leader. Possible exceptions are cases where such elements are an integral part of another overall composition of the type considered “art photography”. If you believe that

your image is such an exception, you must obtain approval from the Print Competition Team Leader prior to submitting the image.

Regarding nudity in images, it will be the responsibility of the Print Competition Team Leader to decide on the admissibility of images on a case-by-case basis with the objective of distinguishing nudity from pornography. If the creator of an image objects to the decision of the Print Competition Team Leader, then an appeal can be made, first to a committee composed of both Print and Digital Competition Team Leaders together with the Director, Competitions. If that appeal result is not satisfactory, then an appeal can be made to the Board of Directors. The decision of the Board will be final.

2.3. Nature

***** The Nature Category is a separate category for DIGITAL competitions only *****

***** For PRINT competitions, Nature subjects are submitted as pictorial images. Therefore, the more relaxed rules describing pictorial apply to prints. *****

3. Competition Rules and Guidelines

Every Member is eligible to submit entries in each of the Print categories. We are an honor-based club and have no desire to police Member submissions. We assume the reason for choosing to participate in club competitions is purely for the enjoyment of fair competition with club peers. The following guidelines apply to all competition entries.

- An image may be entered in one competition only in any year. An image is considered the same as another if it was produced from the same original image or one substantially the same, notwithstanding that its overall appearance may be substantially different.
- All entries must have been exposed by the submitter, including all negatives, transparencies or digital camera files used in the making of images. The submitter's images that incorporate electronic enhancement are acceptable and may be entered in any appropriate category, unless noted otherwise, provided that the original photographic image and any imaging enhancement is the work of the submitter. Digital art in which there is no original photographic image, and images or enhancements involving images (whole or in part) taken from commercial libraries, are not eligible.
- Any images or source material used to create your image (particularly in the Creative category) MUST be your own. If found in violation of this rule, you may be asked to leave the club.
- It is desirable that entries reflect recent work. Entries must be new work not entered into any previous MCC Competition.
- All entries to the Mississauga Camera Club's competitions must be family oriented and in good taste. Images may be disqualified at the discretion of the Competition Team Leaders.
- The Mississauga Camera Club may use winning entries from club competitions for promotional purposes. The Member will retain copyright to these images and the photographer will be acknowledged. Typically this could include the posting of winning images on the Mississauga Camera Club's web site or the cover of the club newsletter.
- All possible care will be taken to safeguard entries; however, the Mississauga Camera Club assumes no liability for loss or damage to submitted files.

4. How Images are Judged and Scored

Three Judges will each independently award up to 10 points per entry, with a maximum total of 30 points for each entry. In judging, both technical and artistic factors are taken into account and the final score will not be altered by the club.

Awards in each category are on the basis of the points awarded by the judges. (First, Second, Third, and Honourable Mention). The Judges will resolve ties for the ranking of award winners; however, they may award ties at their discretion if they are unable to come to a consensus.

Entries receiving 18 points or less are generally not considered for awards unless the situation requires them to. The number of Honourable Mention awards in a single competition will generally not exceed 10% of the total entries in the category being judged unless the judges insist on recognizing the competitor with a HM. The maximum number of awards made will not exceed half the number of entries in that category.

If there are less than four images entered in any category, the relevant competition team leader will, if possible, assign the entries to the Pictorial Category, otherwise the entries will be judged and scored, but awards may not be given. This will be at the discretion of the respective competition team leader.

A record will be kept of the points earned in all competitions for each Member. At the end of each year, Mississauga Camera Club Achievement Award Certificates will be given to those Members whose accumulated scores exceed a pre-set level. Seals will be used to differentiate this level. The current schedule of awards is listed in Appendix I: Competition Level Advancement at the end of this document.

In Print judging, the primary factor is the quality of the print. The overall presentation, including choice of mounts and matting may also be taken into account. The choice of matt or not, is up to the maker according to his/her judgment.

4.1. Pictorial Scoring

In the Pictorial category, the prime consideration for judging is the artistic and technical merit of the image. An image that is technically well done (correctly exposed and focused) and has few or no compositional attributes should score 15-18 out of 30. Points beyond this relate to the artistic attributes of the image, impact, composition, simplicity, quality of lighting, textures, crop, colour harmony, storytelling, etc. There are severe penalties for technical imperfections that are under the maker's control such as tilted horizons, insufficient depth of field, the image cutting the frame, incorrect exposure, poor borders, etc. Hence an image that has strong artistic merit but is technically flawed will not likely score more than 18 points.

4.2. Creative Scoring

In the Creative category, judges will look for clear signs of image manipulation. Generally the more "obviously" manipulated an image has been, the higher it will score. These images are scored more often on their own merits.

4.3. Category Placement

It is the responsibility of competitors to make sure that their entries are submitted to the correct category. If you find the description of each category within this document to be insufficient, please let us know how to improve upon it. Team Leaders may notice images that appear obviously out-of- category and contact the submitter with a suggestion about a more suitable category; however, there is no obligation to do so.

If an image is considered to be out-of-category by the judges then they will score and comment on it accordingly. That is, it will likely have a lower score than if it was in the correct category. The option to re-submit an image is being discontinued.

5. Types of Print Competitions

There are four (4) Print Competitions in each club year that count towards level advancement. There is also one optional flower competition that does not count towards level advancement.

Print Competitions 1, 2, 3 & 4 are open competitions and members may enter up to two (2) images in total. The images may be entered in any category (Pictorial, Creative)

During Digital Competition #4, you have the option to enter a third image to our Jim Cranston flower competition. Points awarded in the flower competition do not count towards level advancement.

The competition is sponsored by Mrs. Marjorie Malloy in memory of Jim Cranston, who was a long-standing and enthusiastic member of the Mississauga Camera Club.

The **Competition Submission Schedule** for the current club season, including applicable categories and deadlines, is summarized in *Appendix III: Schedule for Digital competitions*.

6. Expertise Levels

Unlike the Digital Image competitions where there are three levels, Print competitions are divided into two levels, L1 and L2, to allow members to compete with their peers of similar skills and experience. Beginners are automatically considered level L1.

As with the Digital Image competition, members generally progress from one expertise level to another as they gain experience. A change from level L1 to L2 may be based upon:

1. Acquisition of points (see Appendix I: Competition Level Advancement);
2. A request made by the Member to the Print Competition Team Leader; or
3. A request made by the Print Competition Team Leader to the Member.

With options 2 and 3, the Print Competition Team Leader will examine the performance of the Member and decide upon a tentative assignment to a different level (higher or lower).

The Print Competition Team Leader will monitor the performance of the Member in the new level and, based on consultation with the Member and feedback from other Members, decide whether the level is appropriate and what to do if it is not.

Note: With options 2 and 3 a member should normally be at the Advanced level for the Digital Image competitions in order to be considered for level L2 in the Print competitions. To confirm this, the expertise level of a new member will therefore need to first be assessed by the Digital Advancement Review Committee as described in the Digital Competition handbook.

If dissatisfied with the decision of the Print Competition Team Leader, a Member may appeal to the Competition Committee (consisting of the Director, Competitions; Digital Competition Team Leader; and Print Competition Team Leader). As a final appeal, the Member may appeal to the Board of Directors of the Mississauga Camera Club.

7. Submitting Prints for Competition

7.1. Submission of Images

The Print competitions that have been run in the Club for many years are designed to stimulate new work. Every Club Member is eligible to submit mounted but unframed entries up to the announced competition entry maximum, in any combination, in the Creative and Pictorial categories defined above.

7.2. Mounting Requirements for Images Submitted to the Print Competition

- Minimum mounted: 7.5" x 9.5"
- Maximum mounted: 16" x 20"
- Recommended maximum mounted thickness: 3/16" or 5mm, plus the print

The image must be exposed by entrant and all digital manipulation must be done by the entrant, but printing and mounting may be done either by entrant or commercially.

A digital copy for slideshow purposes must accompany all print entries. (See below)

Each print is to be mounted on a flat photographic board (e.g. matt board or 1/8" or 3/16" foam core). Glass mounting is unacceptable. Note that the use of a matt over the print is optional. Prints mounted with no front matt have won firsts and other awards

Place a label on the back (upper left preferably) giving the following information:

1. Year and Competition Number
2. Name of entrant
3. Image Title
4. File name of corresponding digital image (e.g. *L1_PP_JXS_Weathered Barn.jpg*)
5. Class: Level 1 or Level 2
6. Category: *Pictorial (PP)*, *Creative (PC)* or *Jim Cranston (PJ)*
7. Judges' Comments Requested: Y/N
8. Use an arrow to indicate the top of the image.

7.3. Judges' Comments

- Judges Comments will be limited to one of the two images submitted in each category.
- Write "Y" for Judges' Comments and "N" for no comments.
- The Competition Chair will ask for judges' comments when the scores have a 2 point gap between the highest and lowest scoring judge (e.g. 6 and 8).

7.4. Naming Your File (including Jim Cranston entries entries)

Your actual final file name is to be the same as your title. All other elements such as category code, division and membership number will be picked up automatically by the system and your file will be renamed.

Example

If your image is **Bluebird Preening**, you should name your file **Bluebird Preening**

Once Uploaded into the form, your file will be automatically renamed by the system as:

L1-P-123-Bluebird_Preening.jpg

- L1 = Your Division. Either L1 (Level 1) or L2 (Level 2)
- P = Category Code (P - Pictorial, C – Creative, J – Jim Cranston etc.)
- 123 = Your unique numeric ID Number, generated by the EW software
- Spaces in your file name will be replaced with an underscore

7.5. File Naming Convention and File Format

Image Title	The name of the image: e.g. Bluebird Preening Only use letters (A – Z) and numbers (0 – 9) in the image name with space between words, if required. DO NOT use symbols (like #, &, -, @, \$) in name or leave any space before or at the end of the name. DO NOT add the .jpg file extension.
Image Format	JPEG only. The “.jpg” file extension will be inserted automatically when the image is uploaded in the JPEG format.
Colour Profile	sRGB, 8bit. For best colour compatibility, your colour profile should be changed to sRGB from Adobe RGB or ProPhoto as all images are judged online.
Screen Resolution	Recommended 72ppi. Higher resolutions will increase the file size with no discernible improvement in display quality.

7.6. Image Size

Makers should be aware that images will be projected for judging at a resolution of **1920 wide x 1080 high** and while virtually any image submitted to the competition can be presented in its original form, smaller images will occupy a smaller portion of the screen which may affect overall impact.

The recommended image size is: **1920 wide x 1080 high**. If the horizontal width is 1920, the vertical height would be 1080 or less. Conversely, if the vertical height is 1080, the horizontal width would be 1920 or less.

Square images MUST not be larger than **1080 wide x 1080 high**.

Images may reasonably exceed, or be less than the above recommended dimensions, without concern. The objective is to maintain the highest image and presentation quality.

The Entry Wizard software will display the dimensions of the image when the image is uploaded. Please ensure this conforms to the above requirement.

7.7. Tips for sizing your images

- If you have a landscape image, set your application to size the image to 1920 pixels wide and to “maintain proportions”. The vertical dimension will be set automatically. If your vertical dimension ends up being greater than 1080 pixels, then set your vertical dimension to 1080 pixels and let the horizontal dimension calculate automatically.
- If you have a portrait image, set your application to size the image to 1080 pixels tall and to “maintain proportions”. The horizontal dimension will be set automatically. If your horizontal dimension ends up being greater than 1920 pixels, then set your horizontal dimension to 1920 pixels and let the vertical dimension calculate automatically.
- If your image is closer to being a square than it is a rectangle, set your vertical dimension to 1080 pixels, maintain proportions and let the horizontal dimension calculate automatically.
- It is best to size your images to provide the maximum number of pixels possible within the 1920 horizontal x 1080 vertical constraints. That is, if the image is taller than a 16/9 aspect ratio (width/height=1920/1080), such as with a portrait, then be sure to make the vertical dimension 1080 pixels, with the width then being less than 1920 pixels.
- In addition to the many image manipulation applications that include image resizing features, you may find dedicated applications. For example, “Free Image Resizer” (Windows) from iWesoft, that is available from many software repositories.

8. The Jim Cranston Print Flower Competition

The Jim Cranston Award is sponsored by Mrs. Marjorie Malloy in memory of Jim Cranston, who was a longstanding and enthusiastic member of the Mississauga Camera Club. Mrs. Marjorie Malloy established an Endowment Fund to provide prizes. Originally, the Jim Cranston Award was open for slide and print submissions but is now for prints only.

This competition has a separate award and, therefore, does not contribute to the total point score.

8.1. The Competition

This is an annual competition designed to promote excellence in flower photography, and is open to all Members of the Mississauga Camera Club, in good standing. It is not necessary that Members compete in the other club competitions to be eligible. The subject is FLOWERS (live), whole or in part, either wild or cultivated.

Although creative techniques may be used, any manipulations used must not destroy the realism. Images of non-flowering plants, paintings, artificial flowers, sculpture, etc. will be disqualified. Images entered in previous Maurice De Cunha competitions or Jim Cranston print competitions are not eligible. Whenever possible, results will be announced and the images displayed at the Mississauga Camera Club's Annual Banquet.

At least two competitors are required to validate the competition. Each competitor may submit a maximum of one print entry. All images entered must have been exposed by the entrant. Prints of the image may be either commercially printed or printed by the maker. The print must be mounted and meet the criteria established for print competitions.

8.2. The Awards

One *First Prize* and up to three *Honorable Mention Prizes* will be awarded. Commemorative certificates will be awarded to the *Honorable Mention Prize* winners. In addition, a monetary amount may be awarded.

8.3. Naming and Submitting Entries

The procedure described in Section 7 above will need to be followed.

Appendix I: Certificates of Achievement

Certificates will be awarded based on the total number of points accumulated in the current digital competition season, on an annual basis as follows:

Seal Awarded	Number of Points
RED	111 to 119.5
GOLD	120 to 131.5
DOUBLE GOLD	132 to 143.5
TRIPLE GOLD	144+

Appendix II: Competition Level Advancement

Following the end of a competition season (typically at the end of May), members will be advanced from level to level based on the following criteria, when the Member meets or exceeds any of the following scores:

Advancement Type	Total of 12 images: 6 best images from the Current and Previous seasons	Total of Best 6 images of the Current Season
Print Level 1 to Print Level 2	252	132

Appendix III: Mississauga Camera Club Trophies

Achievement	Trophy	Criteria
Prints Level 1	The Simmonds Print Trophy	Highest total points of 6 images submitted in that print class.
Prints Level 2	Jerry Soltys Trophy	Highest total points of 6 images submitted in that print class.
Best Print	Wilf Natrass	Highest score for a Print across Level 1 and 2.

Tie Breaking

In the event that the above criteria for trophy awards results in tie, the following method will be used to determine the winner:

1. A list of the tied participants' images will be arranged in descending order of image score.
2. A comparison of the 1st images, (i.e. their top scoring image) is made and the top score breaks the tie.
3. Failing that comparison, the 2nd best image scores will be compared, again the top score breaks the tie.
4. This procedure carries on until all 8 prints have been compared but is very unlikely to get that far.
5. If a tie situation remains after all the submissions have been compared, then the trophy will be awarded to all tied competitors.

Appendix IV: Print competition schedule for 2018 - 19

Competition	Image Submission Deadline	Category code	Category name	Entry information
1	October 18 , 2018 11:59 pm	PC	Creative	Up to two prints can be submitted. For example: two Pictorial; two Creative or one Pictorial and one Creative.
		PP	Pictorial	
2	December 20, 2018 11:59 pm	PC	Creative	
		PP	Pictorial	
3	February 21, 2019 11:59 pm	PC	Creative	
		PP	Pictorial	
4	April 4, 2018 11:59 pm	PC	Creative	
		PP	Pictorial	
		PJ	Jim Cranston	One print may be submitted

Appendix IV: NAVIGATING THE COMPETITION WEBSITE

PART I: How to LOG IN to the Club's secure, 'Members Only' website

PART II: How to change your PASSWORD and verify your profile

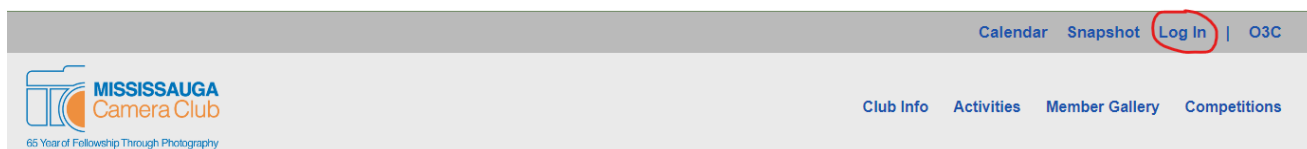
PART III: How to submit images for competitions

PART I: HOW TO LOG IN

❖ **Step 1:**

- Open the club website: <http://mississaugacameraclub.ca/>

Note the tab called '**Log In**' on the extreme right of the status bar



❖ **Step 2:**

- Select the Log in tab and LOG IN page will open

A screenshot of the login page. It features the club's logo at the top left. Below the logo are two input fields: 'Username' and 'Password'. There is a 'Remember Me' checkbox and a green 'Log In' button.

OPTIONS:



User Name: Enter, in UPPER CASE, your unique three digit Club ID



Password: Enter, in UPPER CASE, your three digit Club ID for first time access.

This will need to be changed as described in the next section.

Remember Me: This enables easy access. We suggest you select this option after you have changed your password.

If you experience any difficulty in your first login, send an email to: comphep@mississaugacameraclub.ca with your member information.

❖ Step 3:

- LOG IN: Enter your 3 digit Club ID in both 'User Name' and 'Password' fields.

When you have successfully logged in, the following page will appear:

SUBMISSIONS LANDING PAGE



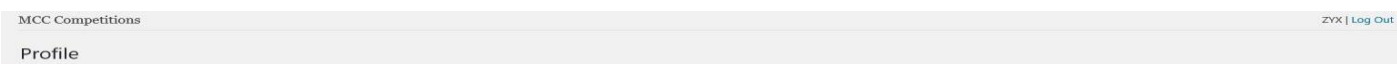
OPTIONS:

1. **RESET PASSWORD:** This takes you to the PROFILE page
2. **LOG OUT:** We recommend you LOG out of the system when you have completed your visit. System auto logs out if there is no use for 30 minutes.
3. **Submit Images to Digital / Print Competition** To be used to submit images

PART II: HOW TO RESET YOUR PASSWORD

❖ Step 1:

- Select RESET PASSWORD: This takes you to your PROFILE PAGE:



❖ Step 2:

- REVIEW YOUR PROFILE: Verify the information. Notify us by email to comphelp@mississaugacameraclub.ca if there are any discrepancies. We will make the necessary changes for you.

**INFORMATION ONLY NEEDS TO BE VERIFIED AND NOTIFIED FOR DISCREPANCIES
DO NOT MAKE ANY CHANGES**

Profile

Personal Options

Name

Username

First Name

Last Name

Nickname


Display name publicly as

Contact Info

Email

About Yourself

Share a little biographical information to fill out your profile. This may be shown publicly.

Profile Picture 

You can change your profile picture on [Gravatar](#).

❖ Step 3:

- CHANGE PASSWORD: Select ; the system will auto generate a 24 character password. You may overwrite this and choose a new Password that you find easier to remember.

Account Management

New Password

Sessions
You are only logged in at this location.

Extra Fields

Level

ID

Group Membership

id	Name	Description
9	11	Intermediate/Level1

- **CONFIRM PASSWORD:** If the system considers your new password weak, you need to check the box directly under the password box that says "confirm weak password".

New Password Very weak

Confirm Password Confirm use of weak password

- Verify the other information on the page and **NOTIFY** us of any discrepancies
- Select after you have changed your Password.
- LOG OUT by selecting **ZYX | Log Out** at the top, right of the page after you have finished.

CONGRATULATIONS!

YOU ARE NOW READY TO SUBMIT IMAGES FOR COMPETITIONS

[SUBMITTING IMAGES FOR PRINT COMPETITIONS](#)

❖ **Step 1:**

➤ Choose: [Submit Images to Print Competition](#)

The following page will appear:

*Category	*Title	*Image File	Request Comments (One Image Only)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> Browse...	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> Browse...	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> Browse...	<input type="radio"/>

Verify that your Name, Competition # and Level is correctly displayed.

OPTIONS:

Category: Choose one of the categories in the drop down list

Title: Provide the name of your image

Image File: Upload the image from your computer. The image will be renamed by the EW software to the following format: **L1-P-123-Image_Title.jpg**

Review section 7 of the Handbook for guidance

Request Comments: Select the image you would like comments from the judges

[Instructions](#)


The guidelines for Navigating the Competition Website are available here.

❖ Step 2:

- Complete the information – Category, Title - in the table and upload your image.
- Verify that the image size conforms to the submission rules. (**Section 7.6**)

The button on the right will remove the image.

MCC Member
2017/18 Print Competition 2 - Level 1

*Category	*Title	*Image File	Request Comments (One Image Only)
<input type="text" value="Pictorial"/>	<input type="text" value="Sunrise at Sarawak"/>	<input type="text" value="F:\MCC Comp\Handbooks 2"/> <input type="button" value="Browse..."/> Name: Sunrise at Sarawak.jpg Size: 480.8 KB Type: image/jpeg Width: 1400 Height: 777 	<input type="button" value="Clear"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Browse..."/>	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Browse..."/>	

- Images may be submitted at any time. When submitted, the screen changes:

MCC Member
2017/18 Print Competition 2 - Level 1

Currently stored on the server for Member MCC:

Category	Title	Image File	Request Comments (One Image Only)
Pictorial	Sunrise at Sarawak	 L1-P-218-Sunrise_at_Sarawak.jpg	-

- After a successful upload, you will be presented with your entries and thumbnails of each file.

The summary will also show Category entered, Image Title and if a Comment has been requested. Please review to make sure that all data corresponds to the category and you haven't submitted a file in the wrong category.

You will get errors if your file does not meet the size requirements or if it has an incorrect file format (file should be a jpeg saved with a .jpg extension). If you are still having problems, please contact the Competitions Director.

The images will be stored in the server till the image submission deadline.