

SCC EVALUATION RULES

Effective Date, Jan. 1, 2023

1. The submission of entries in Suncoast Camera Club evaluations is limited to club members in good standing.
2. The entrant must have exposed or created all elements of the final image. Incorporating images or graphic art created by another person is not allowed. Any portion created with non-photographic methods shall be minor (a simple background would be considered minor). Except for the Assigned Subjects of NATURE, TRAVEL, and PHOTOJOURNALISM, there are no restrictions upon the equipment or materials used nor upon the manipulative techniques used to produce the entry unless specifically mentioned in the definition.
3. Entries in NATURE, TRAVEL, and PHOTOJOURNALISM must depict a subject based on reasonable fidelity to reality. The club shall use the PSA definitions, repeated here in paragraphs 4 & 5.
4. Additional Rules for Nature: Nature photography records all aspects of the physical world, both animate and inanimate, that have not been made or modified by humans.

Nature images must convey the truth of the scene that was photographed. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity that threatens the life or welfare of a living organism are not allowed.

The most important part of a Nature image is the story it tells. High technical standards are expected and the image must look natural.

Objects created by humans and evidence of human activity, are allowed in Nature images only when they are a necessary part of the Nature story.

Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domesticated animals, human-created hybrid animals and mounted or preserved zoological specimens are not allowed.

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Images taken with subjects under controlled conditions, such as zoos, are allowed.

Controlling live subjects by chilling, anesthetic or any other method or any other method of restricting natural movement for the purpose of a photograph is not allowed.

5. Additional Rules for Nature, Photojournalism and Photo Travel.

Editing Guidelines – Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible, except that conversion to grayscale monochrome is allowed.

Allowed editing techniques – Cropping, straightening and perspective correction.

Removal or correction of elements added by the camera or lens, such as dust spots, noise, chrome aberration and lens distortion.

Global and selective adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation, and contrast to restore the appearance of the original scene.

Complete conversion of color images to grayscale monochrome.

Blending of multiple images of the same subject and combining them in the camera or with software (exposure blending or focus stacking).

Image stitching – combining multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively (panoramas).

Editing techniques that are not allowed:

Removing, adding to, moving, or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening.

Adding a vignette during processing.

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Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.

All conversions other than to complete grayscale monochrome.

Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome, or partial toning, desaturation or over-saturation of color.

6. Photography is an art form and should reflect your own creative interpretation of any selected subject. Suncoast Camera Club discourages all photographic reproduction of paintings and the photographs of others as well as mere record shots of monuments, sculpture, and buildings. Such entries will not score highly in monthly evaluations.
7. CATEGORY: Suncoast Camera Club evaluations will be conducted in the following photographic categories:
 - a) Electronic Imaging (EI), Color
 - b) Electronic Imaging, Monochrome
8. The principal purposes of club evaluations are:

To encourage friendly comparison of members' current photographic efforts and to serve as a proving ground for new work. Therefore, a member's entry is not eligible for entry if they have received an Award or an Honorable Mention in a prior Suncoast Camera Club evaluation or the entry is substantially identical to a previous winning entry by that member in the same photographic category. A color image may be submitted as a monochrome image or vice versa. The Evaluation Review Committee recognizes the difficulty in the enforcement of this rule; therefore we rely on the personal integrity of each member to reduce the need for active enforcement.
9. CLASS: Each category shall be divided into classes based on the relative skill of the photographer, as follows:
 - Class AA - For highly effective, experienced photographers.
 - Class A - For photographers of proven ability.
 - Class B - For beginning, or relatively inexperienced photographers.

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10. The Membership Chairman shall assign each new member an Evaluation Class in each Category in which the new member intends to participate.
11. An Evaluation Review Committee will annually review every member's classification and may reclassify approximately ten percent of each Class. In making reclassification decisions, the Committee will consider the following factors:
 - a) Accumulated point totals.
 - b) Ratio of successful entries to total number of entries with a minimum of 60 percent.
 - c) Consideration of previous years ratio percentage.
 - d) A minimum of six months in Class B or two years in Class A.
 - e) Exceptions may be made on an individual basis at the discretion of the Evaluation Review Committee.
12. Number of Entries
 - a) A member may submit a maximum of five entries in Electronic Imaging, three in Color and two in Monochrome. Monochrome images shall always be judged in the GENERAL subject.
 - b) In months without an Assigned Subject, you may enter three color images.
 - c) Months with an Assigned Subject shall be divided into General Subject and Assigned Subject areas. Not more than two of the maximum three Color entries may be submitted in any one Subject area, e.g. two entries in the General Subject and one entry in the Assigned Subject, or vice versa.
 - d) The GENERAL Subject is open to all subjects. Each entry will be judged for its aesthetic value using the criteria of composition, impact and technique (including lighting).
 - e) The ASSIGNED Subject will be judged to the degree that the entry meets the photographic assignment description as well as composition, impact and technique.
13. Electronic Imaging (EI)
 - a) Electronic Imaging Evaluations for all Classes shall be held once each month.
 - b) Electronic Images may originate from a digital camera or from scanned traditional film.

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- c) Images will be projected onto a screen using an Electronic Projector for judging. A TV monitor may also be used for judging.
 - d) Images must be in the JPG format.
 - e) Images must be no larger than 1400 pixels (horizontal) by 1050 pixels (vertical). Maximum file size 1MB
 - f) Images must be submitted electronically. Detailed instructions will be accessible from the club website.
 - g) Images must be submitted at least 1 week prior to the meeting when they will be judged.
14. Evaluations shall be performed by three judges on a mandatory nine-point system. The maximum score for each entry shall be 27 points.
15. Merit points shall be awarded as follows:
- a) Each entry ----- One Point
 - b) Honorable Mention ---- Additional Three Points
 - c) Award ----- Additional Five Points
16. Merit points will be awarded on the basis of judges' scores as follows:

CLASS	HM	AWARD
B	18-19	20-27
A	19-20	21-27
AA	20-21	22-27

17. A club member serving as a judge shall score a zero for his/her own entries and any entries for which he/she has advance knowledge. The total score for that entry will be the sum of the scores recorded by the other two judges plus the average of these judges' scores. When this does not result in a whole number, the score will be rounded up to the next higher number.
(Example: $5+6+((5+6)\div 2) = 16\frac{1}{2} = \text{score } 17$).
18. Entries submitted which either violate an evaluation rule or which do not comply with the Assigned Subject definition shall be disqualified. The disqualification shall be the result of any one or more of the judges refraining from entering a score and summoning the competition chairman. The judges

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and the competition chairman will discuss the possible disqualification and reach a consensus. If the entry is disqualified, the reason will be announced. Disqualified entries shall still earn a Merit point.

19. Mini essays may be presented during the year during special meetings. Members entering a mini essay shall be awarded 10 points. The points shall not be added to any Category.
20. Cumulative Point Totals shall be recorded and kept by the Records Chairman.
21. The Charles Read Memorial Award is presented to the most improved photographer each year as decided by the Evaluation Review Committee. There may not be a winner every year.
22.
 - a) The Suncoast Camera Club shall not be responsible for loss of, or damage to, any entry. Any member who enters in competition assumes the risk of loss or damage, and the Suncoast Camera Club disclaims liability for its own negligence or the negligence of its members or agents in the handling of images.
 - b) The Suncoast Camera Club reserves the right to reproduce winning competition entries for use in Suncoast Camera Club publications, for historical presentations, or for the club web page **or for club competitions**. Proper credit will be given when used. Members may deny reproduction rights by notifying the Board of Directors in advance, in writing.
23. The Board of Directors reserves the right to modify rules in an effort to improve evaluations or competitions. Any changes will be announced at club meetings and published on the club web page at least one month before the change takes effect.