

2018-2019 NECCC INTERCLUB ELECTRONIC PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION GUIDELINES AND RULES:

{These rules have been edited by the BCC to include only those considered of interest to the photographer considering submitting an entry to this competition. The full set of rules are available at: <http://neccc14.neccc.org/Interclub/Electronic-Photograph-Interclub-Competition-Rules%20and%20Regulations.pdf>}

Photography should be viewed as an art, not a science. That's why it is hard to write competition "rules" dealing with what's allowed and prohibited with any precision. Additionally, digital photography is exploding and keeps moving forward at a remarkable pace."

The Co-Directors made their best attempt to allow creative expression as well as make the rules consistent for participating clubs.

Please read the following rules and regulations carefully. It is important to follow the rules so that your entries are not disqualified and to make the Competition Director's job and that of the host clubs as smooth as possible.

1. The Electronic Photograph Interclub Competition is open to all New England Camera Club Council Member Clubs in good standing (dues must be paid).
2. There are **two categories** of competition, **Pictorial (open) and Nature**. Each club may enter four photographs in Pictorial and/or four photographs in Nature in each of three competitions for a total of 12 in each category during the competition year.
4. Each photograph in each of the two categories (pictorial and nature) of a single competition must be by a different maker. Also, an individual may compete from only one club in each category FOR ANY SINGLE COMPETITION. In the event that two photographs from one maker are entered in the same category of a single competition, the club having the maker's permission retains the score and the other score is nullified. A maker may be represented once in each category; however clubs are urged to include the work of as many members as possible in each competition.
7. All photographs **must have a title**. Note that titles are only for identification; titles **may not be read** during the judging.
8. Electronic photographs will not be returned.
9. By entering these competitions you give NECCC **permission** to reproduce your photographs in connection with the activities and publicity of the Council including display on the NECCC Internet site. You also give NECCC permission to use your photographs in competitions that the Council enters such as the PSA Council Challenge. The copyright, however, remains with the photographer and the photographer will receive credit when his/her photograph is used. If a member of your club objects to this stipulation please do not enter his/her photographs.

10. Once a photograph has been entered into an NECCC Electronic Photograph Interclub Competition (either pictorial or nature), it **may never be entered again** regardless of score or award received. Entering a photograph into the pictorial category means it may never be entered in the nature category; also, a photograph entered in the nature category may never be entered in the pictorial category. An image **may not be renamed** so that it can be entered a second time. A maker is not allowed to enter a second image similar to one already entered regardless of title. Photographs that have been entered into other types of NECCC interclub competition (slides or prints) are eligible for entry into the electronic competition, again regardless of score or award that may have been received in the other competition.

12. Capture of all photographs as well as any manipulation must be performed by the competitor. Note that all participants have an obligation to act in an ethical manner when preparing images for use in these competitions. There is a rule that prohibits adding, moving, or deleting an element in the nature category. There is a rule in the pictorial category that states that all elements of a composite image must have been captured by the photographer. There is a rule that a photograph may not be renamed so that it can be entered a second time. There is no objective way that we can enforce these rules so we are relying on the **honesty** of the competitors and the club representatives.

Pictorial (Open) Category Restrictions

Keep in mind that NECCC-sponsored pictorial competitions are intended for photographers, not Photoshop (or other editing program) illustrators. We recognize, however, that part of the attraction and fun of digital photography is the ability to alter the pictures captured by the camera, but the emphasis should be on displaying your photographs to best advantage either naturally or after manipulation (even extensive manipulation) for creative effects.

14. The **Pictorial category is open**. That means that all subject types as well as a variety of different techniques (both in camera and computer manipulation) may be entered. However, remember that we have a diverse membership so please be sure that all photographs are in good taste.

15. The major part of each image must have been captured by light sensitivity, either digitally or on film. Slides or negatives may be scanned (by the photographer or commercially) for entry into the competition. Once captured or scanned, photographs may be modified using digital image editing programs. A scanner may also be used as a camera to capture photographs of objects placed on the scanner glass.

16. Entries may display a realistic rendition of the subject(s) or be creative, having been manipulated using in camera techniques before scanning or using a digital image editing program. The judges will be asked to judge the photographs for overall photographic quality and interest, not the amount of manipulation required to achieve the effect.

17. **Composite photographs** are acceptable in the pictorial category as long as all elements included are the entering photographer's own work. Commercial clip art, commercially available textures, parts of commercial photographic collections, or the work of another photographer may not be included. Artwork or computer graphics created by the photographer may be incorporated as long as the photographic content predominates.

Keep in mind that adding commercial stock elements such as clouds, lighting, moons, frames, or fractals generated by image editing programs or accessories, is not allowed. However clouds, frames, or moons photographed or drawn by the photographer may be combined with other photographs.

In this context, work of the maker means that the work does not include any material copyrighted by others or commercial clip art elements, including borders, graphics, or photographs. Use of filters, such as those in Photoshop or third party plug-ins such as those by NIK or TOPAZ to create or modify such elements are allowed and is not considered a violation of this ethics statement. However, when using plug-ins such as Topaz Textures any texture applied by the software must be one taken by the photographer; textures supplied with this plug-in are copyrighted by Topaz or other photographers who supplied them.

We recognize that the line between your own digital art and clip art is a gray one in many cases. A good rule to follow is that anything that changes an element you drew or photographed is allowed, but any action that adds an element other than from one of your own photographs, drawings, or digital art probably is not. Note that adding a mat or frame using the image editors drawing capabilities will normally be considered digital art by the maker and, thus, is allowed.

Nature Category Restrictions

18. All photographs must have been captured by light sensitivity, either digitally or on film. Slides or negatives may be scanned (by the photographer or commercially) for entry into the competition. The NECCC Electronic Interclub Nature Competition uses the PSA definition of nature that is posted on the PSA Internet site at <http://www.psa-photo.org/index.php?nature-nature-definition>. Our nature competitions are open nature competitions and entries do not have to meet the additional authentic wildlife definition that is also posted on the same Internet page.

Preparing Images for Entry

19. Photographs **must be entered as JPEG images** with the .jpg extension using the form at <http://cgburke.com/neccc/>. There is a separate document available with instructions for using the site if required.

21. It is strongly suggested that all photographs be converted to the **sRGB color space**. That color space most closely approximates the capability of monitors and projectors to display color and usually results in the best presentation of your image.

22. Photographs will be projected using a projector having **1024 pixels in the horizontal direction and 768 pixels in the vertical direction**. Photographs must fit

within those dimensions. The software on the entry web site will enforce those dimensions and will notify you if the dimensions are too large, even by a single pixel. Unless your photograph's proportions are in the exact ratio of 4 to 3, one of these dimensions will be less than the maximum. For example, if you have a vertical photograph, the height will be 768 pixels, but the width will be significantly less than 1024 pixels. A square photograph will be 768 pixels by 768 pixels under these rules. Smaller photographs are acceptable.

23. It is suggested (though not a requirement) that entries be **saved with the proper amount of compression** so that the file size does not exceed 600-800 KB. If saving from Photoshop, a quality setting of between 7 and 9 is usually sufficient to produce a high quality file. Keeping the file size small makes e-mailing and handling easier.