

# Competition Rules

## Lake County Camera Club 2025 – 2026 Season

### Intramural Competitions

Lake County Camera Club (LCCC) runs intraclub competitions (Club Competitions) which are held four times per season in October, December, February and April. Competitions are designed to stretch the photographer's imagination and skills by judging one's work against the work of other photographers.

**Competitor Classes:** In order for all members to have a chance at winning, competitors may be divided into classes based on their experience and past performance. More experienced and historically higher scoring competitors will be placed in Class A (advanced); less experienced and historically lower scoring competitors in Class B (novice).

- Individuals who are new to the club will normally be placed in Class B unless a request for a higher class has been made and approved by the Competition Chair.
- Current members will be placed using the most recent one-year average from the previous year's competition. An individual must have submitted a minimum of six entries in a season and entered at least two months of competition for an average to be established. If these criteria have not been met, the member may remain in Class B.
- At the end of each competition season, when averages are available, the Competition Chair, along with Board Members, will determine a dividing point for each class.
- Once a member has been placed in Class A, he or she shall remain in Class A regardless of year-end average scores.
- No member may enter images in more than one class.

Competitions in the various photographic categories (divisions) may consist of a single class or may be divided into two classes of competition, depending on the number of entries per division. Class A and Class B members will not compete against one another, except in competitions for Images of the Month, unless there are too few entries from Class A or Class B to support separate competitions. Generally, a minimum of five images in each Class will be needed to support separate competitions for the two classes, subject to the discretion of the Competition Chair.

### **Club Competition Divisions:**

Club Competitions will be conducted in six divisions:

- Small Monochrome Prints
- Large Monochrome Prints
- Small Color Prints
- Large Color Prints
- Digitally Projected Images (DPI) Color
- Digitally Projected Images (DPI) Mono

If enough monochrome images are submitted to support separate color and monochrome competitions in a category (small and large prints, DPIs), monochrome images may NOT be entered into the color division for that category.

## Entries:

### Eligibility

- Competitions are open to fully paid members only. Dues are payable at the first meeting in September or prior to any competition.
- All images must be the work of the individual whose name appears for credit. Prints and digital images made by the individual may be commercially processed. If commercially processed, the only printing modifications allowed by the company printing the image are routine adjustments such as exposure, color correction, brightness.
- The maker cannot use a watermark to protect his or her image.
- Same or similar images previously submitted by the photographer and judged in the same division are ineligible. An entry is considered similar if it is almost identical in subject matter, composition, incidental props, lighting or technique. All images entered in the club competitions must be eligible to be entered in the CACCA interclub competitions.
- Same or similar images may not be entered in different divisions in the same competition.

Members who submit the same/similar images in more than one division on the same competition night will have the lowest scored image disqualified for that competition.

- Images earning either an Award or an Honorable Mention in a competition may not be entered in any other club competition in any division. However, if an image is entered into a competition and does NOT win any honor, it may be reentered into a different division than originally competed in. For example, an image that is entered into the small color competition in one month and does not win an honor may be reentered another month provided it is NOT in small color.
- Images that are photographic copies of paintings, drawings or of other photographer's works where those works are the main subject are ineligible. These items may, however, be included in a composition of the maker's own creation. The Competition Chair shall rule on the matter in the event an entry is questioned.
- Computer-imaging techniques may be used in all print and digital photo divisions. All entries must begin as a photographic image created by the photographer. The maker must do all computer manipulations, but output of the final print may be done commercially as stated in this Eligibility section.
- Completely computer-generated images including AI-generated images or the use of "clip art", traditional or AI-generated, are not permitted.

### Requirements

- **Number of Entries:** For each competition, members may submit up to a total of five images with no more than three images in one division. However, a sixth image can be entered if at least one image is monochrome.
  - Members who enter more prints/DPIs than are allowed and whose prints have been scored by the judges, will have their highest non-honor score(s) dropped to achieve the correct number of entries for that month.

- **DPI images** need to be submitted online via the Competition Assistant website by 23:59 on the Wednesday prior to the day of the competition.

**Requirements for a DPI file:**

- color or monochrome
- jpg format
- horizontal dimension cannot be greater than 1920 pixels, including any borders
- vertical dimension cannot be greater than 1080 pixels, including any borders
- **Print entries** must be handed to the Competition Chair a minimum of 15 minutes before the start of the competition, along with a completed competition card and label adhered to the upper left corner of the back for each image, to be eligible for that night's competition.
  - A small print's area shall not exceed 11x14 inches including any borders. All small prints are to be mounted on an 11x14 inch mat board. No exceptions will be made.
  - A large print's area shall not exceed 16x20 inches including any borders. All large prints are to be mounted on a 16x20 inch mat board. No exceptions will be made.
  - If images do not conform to these requirements, the image will not be eligible for competition.
  - To obtain mat boards, competition cards, and labels, please see the Competition Chair or any Board Member. Cost for small boards will be \$1 and cost for large boards will be \$2.
- **Make-ups:** Make-up images must be entered in the competition immediately following the competition for which they are make-ups.
  - If an image is eligible for the current competition, it will count towards the current competition and cannot be used as a make-up.
  - Make-up images must have been eligible in the original competition.
  - Make-up prints must be clearly marked as MAKE-UP on the label on the back and on the entry form. For make-up DPI, the title must start with MAKEUP.
  - Make-up images are eligible for honors in the competition to which they are entered.
  - Make-up images count as if from the original competition for year-end recognitions.
  - Make-ups cannot be carried over from one season to the next, so no make-ups are allowed from the last competition of the season.
- **Critiques:** After each competition, if time allows, judges will provide critiques.

## **Judging and Scoring**

### **A) Judging**

- Experienced and impartial area judges will judge the competitions. A total of 3 judges will preside. All 3 may be from outside the club, but 1 or 2 judges may be from LCCC. The non-LCCC judges are obtained from a listing that CACCA provides. LCCC judges may not judge their own images. LCCC judges may hold images they would have submitted to

a competition they are judging for submittal in the next competition as make-ups.

- The judges shall not preview entries prior to the start of a competition; however, they may review images eligible for honors based on their original scores before scoring honors rounds.
- In the initial scoring round, prints shall be displayed individually for scoring in a print box conforming to Photographic Society of America standards. In subsequent honors rounds, multiple prints may be displayed simultaneously, at the judges' request, to facilitate comparisons.

#### **B) Scoring**

- Individual scoring shall be based on composition, technique, and interest, with 1 to 3 points being assigned for each attribute.
- The judges shall score each entry from 3 to 9 points in half (0.5) point increments. The accumulated total from the three judges will be displayed and recorded. A maximum score of 27 is possible for each image.
- Each competition shall include all divisions. A minimum of 5 images is required for a competition for each division. If there are fewer than 5 images entered in a division, entries will be combined for Class A and B.
- Judging for honors, the judges shall score each entry with zero (0, out) or one (1, in) point. A maximum score of three (3) is possible for each image. Awards and Honorable Mentions will be awarded from a pool of the highest scoring images equal to the total number of honors to be awarded.
- When two images go head-to-head for an Award or Honorable Mention and the judges produce a tie, the Competition Chair will determine a tie breaker to award the Award and HM or increase the number of Awards and/or HMs to include tied entries.

#### **Honors**

At each competition, in each division and in each class, a minimum of 10% of all entries will be selected for Awards and a minimum of 10% of the entries will be selected for Honorable Mentions. Also, all images receiving Awards from both classes in each division will be combined and judged for a Division Image of the Month. Generally, the number of Awards and Honorable Mention will be as follows, but may be adjusted at the discretion of the Competition Chair:

Entries	Awards	Honorable Mentions
5	1	0
6 – 9	1	1
10 – 15	1	2
16 – 20	2	2
21 – 25	2	3
26 – 30	3	3
31 – 35	3	4
36 – 40	4	4
41 – 45	4	5
46 – 50	5	5
51 – 55	5	6
56 – 60	6	6

## **Awards**

### **A) Year-End Division Awards**

- An overall year-end award shall be awarded for each division for Print and for DPI at the year-end party and competition.
- The photographer must have submitted a minimum of six images in the given division and those images can be entered at any time throughout the competition season. Makeups will count for these awards.
- The awards will be awarded based on the average of all images submitted in that division. No award shall be given if this average does not equal or exceed the average of all the images in that division for the year.
- If in the event of a tie, a winner will be determined on the number of awards received in the competition season. If there is still a tie, a winner will be determined on number of honorable mentions in the competition season. If there is still a tie, the winner will be determined by highest score of the year in club competition in that division, second highest and down until a winner is decided.

**B) People's Choice Year-End Competition** will be held at the year-end party if the board decides to have the competition.

- Images may be entered into six categories of:
    - Nature Prints
    - Architecture Prints
    - Portrait Prints
    - Monochrome Prints
    - General Prints
    - DPI
  - Large or small prints can be entered in any of the print categories.
  - A minimum of three images will be required in a category for competition in the category to be considered viable. If fewer than three images are submitted in any of the first four print categories, the images submitted in those categories will automatically be transferred to the General Prints category.
  - Photos that have won an Honor (Award, HM or Place) in club, CACCA or PSA competitions are not eligible.
  - Members can enter two photos per category in up to three categories.
  - The member's choice of category cannot be challenged.
  - Club members attending the year-end party will vote by ballot on each of the viable categories (one vote per category).
  - Members do not need to attend the party to submit images to the People's Choice competition.
  - Up to two awards, a Winner and an HM, will be made in each viable category, depending on the number of images competing.
- Prints for the People's Choice competition should be brought to the Awards Dinner meeting where they will be assigned a temporary number and displayed for members consideration. DPIs should be submitted to the LCCC People's Choice competition via

the Competition Assistant website (<https://www.caccaphoto.org/411ClientLogin.html>). The online DPI competition will remain open until 23:59 the day before the Awards Dinner. DPIs will be viewed and voted upon by members at the Awards Dinner.

**C) Photographer of the Year**

- One award shall be awarded for the *Photographer of the Year* at the year-end party and competition.
- The award shall be awarded to the member having the highest average score in all divisions combined.
- The *Photographer of the Year* must have submitted a total of sixteen images with four images in each of the four competitions.
- If in the event of a tie, a winner will be determined on number of awards in the competition season. If there is still a tie, a winner will be determined on number of honorable mentions in the competition season. If there is still a tie, the winner will be determined by highest score of the year in club competition, second highest and down until a winner is decided.

**D) Rookie of the Year**

- One award shall be awarded for the *Rookie of the Year* at the year-end party and competition.
- The award shall be awarded to the member having the highest average score in all divisions combined. To be eligible the member must have joined the club after the print deadline for the first competition of the previous year and must have been in Class B for the entire year.
- The *Rookie of the Year* must have submitted a total of twelve images with three images in each of the four competitions with make-ups counting both towards the average and minimum requirements.
- If in the event of a tie, a winner will be determined on number of awards in the competition season. If there is still a tie, a winner will be determined on number of honorable mentions in the competition season. If there is still a tie, the winner will be determined by highest score of the year in club competition, second highest and down until a winner is decided.

**E) Award for Service**

- Additional awards can be nominated and recognized by the Board in a current season.

## **External (Extramural) Competitions**

The Lake County Camera Club (LCCC) is a member of the Chicago Area Camera Clubs Association (CACCA) and the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and participates in competitions conducted by both organizations. CACCA sponsors an Interclub Competition among member clubs as well as numerous competitions with a variety of themes among individual photographers. LCCC competes in the Interclub Competition as a single Class for Class A and Class B photographers combined. PSA also sponsors Interclub and individual competitions which LCCC competes in as well.

### **CACCA**

Each season CACCA conducts Interclub Competitions among its member clubs. These competitions are organized in multiple divisions and classes. The divisions include:

- DPIs – color and monochrome
- Small Prints – color and monochrome and
- Large Prints – color and monochrome

Within each of these divisions there are separate competitions for Class A and B photographers. LCCC competes in Class A as a single Class for LCCC Class A and B photographers combined. The maximum sizes of images competing in each division are the same as those specified for LCCC Intracub competitions described above. CACCA limits the number of images submitted by each club for each Division/Class combination to one image per maker and may not include images made by individuals judging a particular competition. Each club may submit up to 4 images in each Division/Class category. Club placings in each Division/Class are based on the total scores for all images submitted by each club throughout a season. See CACCA rules for further information. <https://caccaphoto.org>

### **Selection of Images for Submittal to CACCA Interclub Competitions**

LCCC selects images to be submitted to CACCA Interclub competitions from among the images scoring highest in LCCC's four seasonal competitions—October, December, February, and April. Since CACCA Interclub DPI competitions are held monthly and LCCC Club Competitions are held bimonthly, sufficient images must be selected from each Club Competition for two monthly CACCA Interclub competitions. Image selections will be made by the Competition Chair and any assistants, under the overall supervision of the Board of Directors respecting the CACCA rules concerning the number of images allowed per maker and judges' images described above.

### **PSA**

PSA conducts periodic competitions in four categories—Nature, Photojournalism, Projected Images, and Travel. The schedule for these competitions can be found on the LCCC and PSA websites. LCCC members wishing to have images considered for submission to these competitions should submit images in these categories to the LCCC website. Images will be selected from among these candidates for submittal to PSA competitions by LCCC's PSA representative and the LCCC coordinators for the various PSA competition categories. Rules for PSA competitions can be found on the PSA website.  
<https://psaphoto.org>