

SYRACUSE CAMERA CLUB MONTHLY COMPETITIONS  
Rules and Guidelines for Judges

1. Any questions a judge may have will be gladly answered by the judges' chairperson or co-chairperson or by the digital or print chairperson(s).

2. All prints and digital images must be judged on their individual merits, even if this means picking as a first, second, third, or H.M. award, pictures of the same or similar subject matter. No picture is to be out simply because of a familiar or trite subject, but only if in the judge's opinion it cannot compete with other images in the competition which in the judge's mind are better. The best images in the competition are the winners regardless of subject matter in an open competition.

3. Closed Competitions: Competitions for the months of January, March and May have assigned topics.

Attention must be paid that the subject matter conforms strictly to the category of the closed competition. Any other image must be disqualified. An image may be disqualified by the print or digital image chairperson when the image is submitted, or it may be disqualified when the image comes up for viewing by the judges' chairperson or co-chairperson. If none of those persons objects to an image, the judge has the responsibility to decide whether the image conforms to the category definition. The photographer has the right to challenge the decision of the print or digital chairperson, or the judges' chairperson (but not the judge). In the event of a challenge, a final decision will be made by a group consisting of the print and digital image chairperson(s), the judge's chairperson(s), and the president or acting president.

4. Print Competition: Members must have all prints labeled and placed for viewing before the meeting starts at 7:30, which provides an opportunity for the judge to view all prints before competition begins. The judge may move in for a closer look at the prints but may not touch them. It is preferred that prints not be laid down on a table for final judging, but they should be held up so that members may watch the final selection.

The first print viewing will be the comment phase, in which the judge comments on pros, cons, etc. In the next and succeeding phases the judge must select if the image is in or out of the competition. The judge is asked to silently refine their choice for the award candidates during this phase. When the number of prints has become small enough, the judge may choose to line up the final choices to view them together, or may run through them as before as many times as necessary. Only when the number of images has been reduced to the number of awards will the judge start awarding the prizes.

5. Digital Competition: The digital chairperson will first provide a run through of all images, with no comments from the judge, since the judge will not have had an opportunity to view the images beforehand. The second viewing will be the comment phase, in which the judge comments on pros, cons, etc. In the next and succeeding phases the judge must select if the image is in or out of the competition. The judge is asked to silently refine their choice for the award candidates during this phase. The digital chairperson, at the discretion of the judge, may show all the images together when they have reached a sufficiently small number to fit the screen. Only when the number of images has been reduced to the number of awards will the judge start awarding the prizes.

6. Having once made a selection of winners, the judge cannot make changes, such as taking a named winner out from the winning group and replacing it with another that had been called an "out" or which had not placed.

7. Judges may announce winners in either order, from first place to honorable mention or from honorable mention to first place.

These rules are designed to give a fair judging to all members of the club and at the same time to make it easier for the judge to make decisions and have a good all-around competition.