

“B” Class Competition Rules 2016/2017

Photo competition provides an excellent opportunity to learn and grow in the photographic art. Obtaining objective feedback on your images from experienced photographers provides valuable input to help you hone your skills and see your work as outsiders see it. Since students and newer members to the Club may feel hesitant at the outset to participate in our regular competition series, CPS also offers a ‘Beginners’ class of competitions as an option to help them compete on a more level playing field.

While any member who is not a seasoned competitor may enter images in the ‘B’ series, the program is largely designed for our students and newest members. Conversely, there is no requirement that newer members **MUST** start in the ‘B’ series – especially if they have past photographic experience. The decision regarding which competition series to join is completely up to the individual.

In fairness to all, however, competitors are asked to choose one of the two competition series and stay in that series for the entire competition year – regularly competing in both series through the year is **NOT** an option. Competitors can choose to change after one competition in either series but must then stay for the remainder of the year.

‘B’ Competitions are designed to provide the full competition experience while retaining a more comfortable atmosphere, geared primarily as a learning experience.

Here’s how the two series differ:

- There are a total of 5 ‘B’ Competitions scheduled throughout the year, vs. 12 for the regular competition series
- While the regular competition series is based on a variety of specific categories (Nature, People, etc.), the ‘B’ series is an open-category competition – any image can be entered in the ‘B’ series on any competition night, regardless of subject matter. From time-to-time, suggested topics may be introduced to help spur creativity, but there is never a requirement to enter images related to those topics.
- Regular competitions are judged largely by people who are not affiliated with CPS. This provides true objectivity but can also lead to unpredictable – and sometimes harsh – critiques. In order to place the emphasis on learning and growing as photographers, the ‘B’ series uses carefully selected CPS members, who are trained to provide critiques that emphasize positive aspects of the photograph as well as ways it can be improved.
- While the regular competition series is divided evenly between print and projection competitions, the ‘B’ series concentrates primarily on print. While many people prefer to simply upload their digital images for projection, experience shows that having a physical print of the image available leads to

more thoughtful and in-depth critique. It also provides the photographers and the judges additional opportunities to discuss the image following the conclusion of the competition – thus extending the learning experience.

Additional information:

- Any competition rules not specifically listed as pertaining exclusively to ‘B’ competitions will defer to the CPS rules for the regular competition series. For examples, all rules regarding image size, naming, labeling, matting, mounting and entry deadlines are identical between the two competition series. Please review the competition rules for regular the regular competition series, which can be found on the Competitions page of the CPS website.
- Scoring of images and the awarding of ‘Places’ (1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention) are identical between the two competition series – details can be found in the regular competition series rules.
- Year-end awards – in both Accumulated Points and Image of the Year - are also presented for ‘B’ Category competitors – again, full details can be found in the regular competition series rules.
- Up to two images may be entered in each ‘B’ series competition. There are no distinctions regarding content, color vs. black & white, etc.
- At the beginning of each competition year, competitors are largely free to either continue in the ‘B’ series or move to the regular competition series, with the following exceptions:
 - o Anyone receiving a Perfect Score of 27 points in any ‘B’ competition will automatically be moved to the regular competition series
 - o Those who place First in Accumulated Points in each competition year will automatically be moved to the regular competition series

In addition to the regular competition rules, the CPS website Competitions page also contains ‘How to Compete’ and ‘How to Mat’ presentations that you can read and/or download. These presentations were designed to answer many of the questions that new and seasoned competitors may have, but please feel free to reach out to the Competition Chair on any given competition evening with any additional questions. You may also submit any questions in writing by emailing competitions@clevelandphoto.org.

Choosing to enter CPS competitions is one of the fastest ways to learn and grow in your photography. We sincerely hope you’ll enter – soon and often!