

# ACCC Competition Rules (revised 2019-08)

## 1 Introduction

Historically, competition has been an important element in ACCC Roundup meetings. A principal goal of the Roundups is to provide club members a broader base for competition than can be provided by individual clubs. Each Roundup includes both individual competitions and special awards made by the member clubs. For some members, this may be the only opportunity for competition. Participants in this competition not only have an opportunity to win awards, but also an opportunity to see their own work displayed with a variety of others. Such a comparison, coupled with the views of the judges involved, may provide guidance toward future growth in a member's photographic work. Images may also be used for educational purposes, for example in slide shows distributed to ACCC member clubs. **Participation by all club members is encouraged.**

Competition is open to all members of ACCC member clubs, and to individual members of ACCC who do not belong to an ACCC member club. As explained below, entries in the Projected Images Division are submitted online, and entries in the Print Division are made through the Club Representative for each ACCC member club.

## 2 ACCC Divisions and Categories

ACCC competition takes place in two Divisions: Print and Projected Images. Each Division is further divided into multiple Categories. Note that some Categories have a Color and a Monochrome version. If not specified in the Category name, both color and monochrome images may be entered into a Category. Following are the definitions of the two Divisions.

### 2.1 Print Division

Entries are limited to **2 entries per Category**. The Categories are:

- Color Open
- Color Nature
- Monochrome Open
- Monochrome Nature
- Rotating
- Creative

### 2.2 Projected Image Division

Entries are limited to **2 entries per Category**. The Categories are:

- Open
- Nature
- Rotating
- Creative
- Monochrome

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## 2.3 Categories

All photos entered shall adhere to the following Category definitions.

- **Open**

Can be any subject, and any treatment of the subject.

- **Nature**

The ACCC definition for Nature Categories is based on the PSA Nature Division definition. Where differences exist, the following ACCC definition shall be used:

*“Nature Photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation. The **story telling** value of a photograph **must** be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible. Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.*

*No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted, including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. Stitched images are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grey-scale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed.*

*Images entered in Nature Photography, meeting the Nature Photography definition above, can have landscapes, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant organisms as the primary subject matter. This includes images taken with the subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food.”*

- **Monochrome**

A monochrome image is typically a black & white work, ranging from the very dark (black) to the very clear light (white) with various shades of gray.

Monochrome may also include works toned entirely in a single color (e.g. sepia). A black & white image modified by partial toning, or by the addition of any color

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to only a part of the image becomes a color image that cannot be entered in a Monochrome Category.

- **Rotating**

ACCC establishes a Rotating theme for each Roundup. Images entered into the Rotating Category should strongly reflect the theme. The Rotating themes for upcoming Roundups are as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Spring Roundup</i>	<i>Fall Roundup</i>
<i>2019</i>	Humor (title announced)	High Key
<i>2020</i>	City Scene	Break rule-of-thirds
<i>2021</i>	Street Photography	Motion Blur
<i>2022</i>	Portraits	Food
<i>2023</i>	Nightscapes	Bridges
<i>2024</i>	Photojournalism	Sports
<i>2025</i>	Flowers	Cityscapes

- **Creative Expression**

All elements of a Creative Expression image must be derived from the photographic images of the maker. The maker must, through their own efforts, accomplish **obvious** creative modifications of the original photo or photos.

### 3 Preparing Your Photos

#### 3.1 General

- **Own Work**

All elements of an image must be derived from the photographic images of the maker.

- **Repeat Entry Disqualification**

Any image that has received an award of **Honorable Mention (HM)** or higher in ACCC competition shall not be submitted again in the same Division.

Any image that differs only slightly in minor detail from any image for which that entrant has previously received an award of **HM** or higher shall not be submitted in the same Division. This includes a monochrome rendering of a color image.

Any image that is identical to, or that differs only slightly in minor detail from another image shall not be submitted to the same Roundup competition, regardless of Division. This includes a monochrome rendering of a color image.

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- **Entry via One Club**

An individual who is a member of more than one club may enter the Print Division through one club and the Projected Images Division through another club. The individual must enter through the same club(s) throughout the calendar year.

- **Adherence to ACCC Competition Rules**

To help assure fair and friendly competition, ACCC has adapted the following from the PSA conditions of entry.

ACCC retains the right to investigate in any way all complaints of breaches of the ACCC Competition Rules and void the acceptances and awards of any image found to be in violation of these rules. Such investigations may include, but are not limited to, discussions with any entrant and requiring the submission of RAW files or other digital files representing the original capture of the submitted image(s). Entries that are still questionable after the entrant has presented evidence may be considered in breach of the ACCC Competition Rules.

Entrants acknowledge that the decision of the Competition Chair or the judges is final, and automatically agree to these terms by the act of entering the Exhibition, and agree to cooperate with any investigation.

### 3.2 Print Division

All prints shall adhere to the following specifications. At the discretion of the judges, any image that does not adhere to these rules may be disqualified, or have its score reduced.

- **Strokes & Borders**

Any image, in any category, can include a thin line called a “stroke”, or a “border” which would be wider, to separate the image from the background. If, in the judge’s opinion, the stroke or border detracts from the image, the score could be affected.

- **Name or Identifying Marks**

The photographer’s name, signature, watermark, or other identifying mark shall not be visible.

- **Media**

All prints shall be made on paper media. No other media is permitted.

- **Print Sizes and Mounting**

- Prints can be any size up to 16”x20”.
- Each print shall be securely mounted on a single mounting board with dimensions of 16”x20” and from 1/16<sup>th</sup> to 1/8” in thickness (e.g. 4-ply mat board).
- Over-matting is permitted, and only a single 4-ply mat may be used.
- Allowable mounting combinations are:
  - 16 x 20 mounting board + print

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- 16 x 20 mounting board + print + over-mat
- No other mounting combination may be used.
- Foam Core may **not** be used for mounting.
- Prints and labels shall be firmly attached (e.g. no masking tape, Post-It notes, etc.) and can be disqualified if they do not stay securely attached to the mounting board.

### • **Print Preparation**

All prints shall carry an **ACCC Print Label** on the back, near the upper left-hand corner. Labels shall use the most recently published ACCC Print Label template, which can be downloaded from the ACCC web site:

<http://www.arizonacameraclubcouncil.org/>

### 3.3 Projected Image Division

All Projected Images shall adhere to the following specifications. At the discretion of the judges, any image that does not adhere to these rules may be disqualified, or have its score reduced.

#### • **File Format**

- Must be formatted as JPEG (.jpg) files.
- Must be sized to a maximum of 1400 pixels wide by 1050 pixels high.
- Must be sized to a maximum file size of 1.5 MB.
- It is recommended that images be converted to sRGB.

#### • **Strokes & Borders**

Any image, in any category, can include a thin line called a “stroke”, or a “border” which would be wider, to separate the image from the background. If, in the judge’s opinion, the stroke or border detracts from the image, the score could be affected.

#### • **Name or Identifying Marks**

The photographer’s name, signature, watermark, or other identifying mark shall not be visible.

## 4 Submitting Your Photos

### 4.1 Print Division

#### • **Entry Deadline**

All prints shall be submitted by Club Representatives at the ACCC board meeting held approximately one month prior to the Roundup. Late submissions shall not be accepted. Specific dates for board meetings are published in advance on the ACCC web site. Each club determines their own deadline for members submitting prints to the Club Representative.

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- **Fees**

Entry fees are \$1.00 for each print entry. The Club Representatives shall submit the fees at the Board Meeting.

- **Return of Print Entries**

Prints shall be picked up at the conclusion of the Roundup by the maker or Club Representative. ACCC is not responsible for Print entries that are not picked up by the maker or Club Representative.

### 4.2 Projected Images Division

- **Entry Deadline**

All entries shall be submitted via the online Digital Entry Form no later than the Friday preceding the ACCC board meeting approximately one month prior to the Roundup. Specific dates for board meetings are published in advance on the ACCC web site. Late submissions shall not be accepted. The Digital Entry Form can be found on the ACCC web site:

<http://www.arizonacameraclubcouncil.org/>

- **Fees**

The fee for each image entered into the Projected Images Division is \$1 per image. Entry fees for Projected Images shall be paid online as part of the submission process.

## 5 Awards and Honors

### 5.1 Individual Competition Awards and Recognition

A variety of awards are made at each competition. The following awards are made for each Category in both Print and Projected Images Divisions:

- Best of Show, chosen by the judges from the first place winners in each Division, will receive a rosette.
- First Place will receive a ribbon and an ACCC Medal.
- Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention, and Acceptance will receive ribbons.

All Print entries will be displayed during the Roundup with the **First Place** and **Best of Show** award prints displayed separately and prominently.

Entries in the Projected Images Division will be projected as part of the program during the Roundup. Award winning images are projected separately and given special attention.

### 5.2 Special Awards

At each Roundup, ACCC member clubs can recognize individual members' special accomplishments. These awards, which can be made to color and monochrome entries unless otherwise stated, are listed in the table below. For each award, if it is deemed that

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no image meets the award criteria established by the ACCC member club, then an award will not be given. Special awards will be presented to the individual recipients during the ACCC Roundup.

In 2018, the Trilogy Photography Club replaced its Portrait award with “The Great Southwest”. The new award applies only in the Projected Images Division. This award is presented to a Projected Image ONLY in any category. Most importantly, the image must communicate to the viewer “This is great photo of the American Southwest.” The subject matter may be the amazing geography of the arid desert to the deciduous woodlands and evergreens, or the wide variety of flora such as saguaro cacti, Joshua trees, cottonwoods to name just a few, or the many critters and creatures in our midst like rattlesnakes, scorpions, roadrunners, wild horses and the like, or the Southwestern people such as Native Americans, ranch hands, agricultural workers and others. In addition, the image must be well-composed and tack sharp, and have good lighting, appropriate exposure, and strong impact.

In 2019, Grand Photos began sponsoring the new Human Interest award for a Projected Image which depicts a person or persons in an interactive, emotional, or unusual situation. The image may be color or monochrome. Judging will be based on the image telling, depicting or illustrating a story while maintaining high technical quality. The image must have a significant impact on the viewer. Sports action, as the main subject, (recreational or organized sport activity) is not allowed. Setups (posed, staged or otherwise contrived images) are not allowed. Images eligible for this award must meet all of the qualifications of the category in which it was originally submitted. The selection will be made from all Acceptances and above in categories in keeping with the Human Interest definition.

<i>Award</i>	<b>Presented By</b>	<b>Print</b>	<b>Projected</b>
<i>Bob Metz Distinguished Monochrome</i>	Camera Guild of Sun City	X	--
<i>Creative Expression</i>	Sun Lakes Camera Club	X	X
<i>Best Nature Story</i>	Saguaro Camera Club	X	X
<i>Excellence in Landscape Photography</i>	Phoenix Camera Club	X	X
<i>Distinguished Travel Photo</i>	Photography West	X	X
<i>The Great Southwest</i>	Trilogy Photography Club	--	X
<i>Human Interest</i>	Grand Photos	--	X

### 5.3 Cumulative Awards (Star and Galaxy Awards)

In order to recognize quality photographic work over a period of time, a system of awards based on ranking in competition over multiple ACCC Roundups is in use. It is also hoped that these “Star” and “Galaxy” awards, which are given at the Fall Roundup, will encourage members to continue participating in the Roundup competitions.

Points toward “Star” and “Galaxy” are accumulated for the Print Division and Projected Images Division as follows:

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2 points for each First or Second place

1 point for each Third Place or Honorable Mention

- **Star Awards, or “ratings” are awarded based on point accumulations as follows:**

1 Star = 4 Points

2 Star = 6 Points

3 Star = 8 Points

4 Star = 10 Points

5 Star = 12 Points

- **Galaxy Awards, or “ratings” are based on the following criteria:**

1 Galaxy = 16 Points

2 Galaxies = 20 Points

3 Galaxies = 2 First or Second Places after receiving two Galaxies

4 Galaxies = 2 First or Second Places after receiving three Galaxies

5 Galaxies = 2 First or Second Places after receiving four Galaxies

6 Galaxies = 3 First Places after receiving five Galaxies

7 Galaxies = 5 First Places after receiving six Galaxies

8 Galaxies = 5 First Places after receiving seven Galaxies

- **Cumulative Awards for Clubs**

Club Plaques for Prints and Projected Images are presented annually at the Fall Roundup to recognize club achievement. The winning club in each Division is determined by taking each club's top 13 scores in the Print Division and the top 11 scores in the Projected Images Division. Scores are calculated separately for each Roundup, and then added for the overall annual score.