



**Cincinnati Division 7, MCR, NMRA**  
**Monthly Contest Rules & Guidelines**  
**December 6, 2014 (clarified Sept 15, 2022)**



1. The schedule of topics for the upcoming year will be published in the November issue of the Division 7 monthly newsletter, the *Oil Can*, as well as on Division 7's website. This will allow contestants to begin preparation for the contests to be held early in the year. In addition, each month the newsletter and website will also carry the topics for the next month's contests.
2. There will be two separate contest divisions: Senior and Youth.

The Youth Division is open to anyone who is 15 years of age or younger for the entirety of the calendar year. Members who are eligible for the Youth Division may choose at any time to move to the Senior Division for a particular contest. During the year of a member's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, he/she will automatically be moved to the Senior Division for that entire calendar year.

Scoring will be kept separate for each division. Any youth entering a Senior Division contest will accumulate points in the Senior Division, and those points cannot be transferred to the Youth Division. Points earned in the Youth Division cannot be transferred to the Senior Division.

All rules and methods of scoring will be the same for both divisions.

3. There will be two separate contest categories: **Modeling** and **Photography**.
  - A. The **Modeling** category is sub-divided into three separate categories as follows:
    1. **Modeling: Kit-Built** (formerly Box Stock) This category covers any models that are assembled from a manufacturer's kit. Minor improvements such as different couplers, painted handrails, different trucks, etc. still come under this category. Purchased or Ready to Run (RTR) models are not allowed. The model must have been assembled by the entrant.

As an example, an Athearn diesel locomotive would qualify for entry in the category because assembly of the handrails, horn, headlight glass, etc. was required.
    2. **Modeling: Kit-Bashed** This category covers those models which comprise at least 2 of the following three elements:
      - a) Significant quantities and levels of super-details
      - b) Splicing parts of 2 or more models to create one unique model
      - c) Custom painting and/or weathering
    3. **Modeling: Scratch-Built** This category covers those models where the basic model is constructed from scratch. No splicing of commercially available models can be incorporated into the model. However, commercially available super-detail parts can be used.
    4. **Display** If desired, models may be displayed on a plain or ballasted piece of track. No model may be displayed on a diorama, or in a similar fashion to enhance the model's presentation in order to provide an unfair advantage with respect to other contest entries.
  - B. The **Photography** category is sub-divided into two categories as follows:
    1. **Print: Prototype** This category covers those photographs taken by the contest participant with the subject matter consisting of the prototype matching the contest category. The contest topic cannot be an item in the background of the photo.
    2. **Print: Model** This category covers those photographs taken by the contest participant with the subject matter consisting of a model matching the contest category. The contest topic cannot be an item in the background of the photo.
4. The monthly contest is open to all NMRA members.

5. A contestant may enter up to three entries in each of the two main categories, Modeling and Photography, in any month's contest. This could result in a total of six entries, three in Modeling and three in Photography.
  6. Any model or photograph may be submitted more than once in the monthly contest until such time that it is awarded a first place finish. After achieving a first place finish (blue ribbon), the model or photograph is ineligible for entry in any future monthly contests. This will be enforced via the honor system. It is up to each NMRA member/contest participant to abide by this code so as to maintain the spirit of friendly competition within the membership.
  7. Points will be awarded as follows:
    - 1st place – 3 points
    - 2nd place – 2 points
    - 3rd place – 1 point
    - A. In the event of a tie for 1st place, a total of only three awards will be presented: two 1st place awards and one 3rd place award. No 2nd place award will be given.
    - B. In the event of a tie for 2nd place, a total of three awards will be presented: one for 1st place and two for 2nd place. No 3rd place award will be given.
    - C. In the event of a tie for 3rd place, a total of four awards will be given: one for 1st place, one for 2nd place, and two for 3rd place.
    - D. In the event of a three-way tie for 1st place, three 1st place awards will be given. No 2nd or 3rd place awards will be given.
    - E. In the event of more than a three-way tie, the number of awards given may vary according to the circumstances as follows:
      1. A four-way tie, or more, for 1st place would result in four or more awards for 1<sup>st</sup> place. In that case there will be no 2nd or 3rd place awards.
      2. If there is one 1st place award and a three-way tie or more for 2nd place, it would result in three or more 2nd place awards. In that case there would be no 3rd place award.
      3. If there is one 1st place award, one 2nd place award and a tie for two or more 3rd place awards, then four or more awards could be given.
  8. The contest results and current standings will be published as soon as is practical in the *Oil Can* and on the Division 7 website. Additionally, the contest rules will be continually available on the website.
  9. All Division 7 members and guests are eligible to vote. Only one vote per person in each of the ten subcategories (five Senior & five Youth) is allowed.
  10. At the end of the year, awards will be given to both the Senior and Youth Divisions as follows:
    1. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in modeling and photography in both the Senior and Youth Divisions
    2. **First Place Overall** in the Senior Division.
- NOTE:** In order to win a **First Place Overall** award, the competitor must have earned at least three points in each of the Modeling and Photography categories.