

Shenandoah Photography Club Bylaws

I. Club Organization

- A. The “Club” shall be known as the “Shenandoah Photography Club.”
- B. Mission Statement—to promote photographic art and skills through the friendly exchange of knowledge, competition, and critiquing for the benefit of the individual, club, and community.
- C. Membership is open to anyone interested in the art of photography.
- D. Meetings will be held on the third Monday of every month starting at 7:00 pm. This may be adjusted by the Board members.

II. Officers and Duties

- A. The Board consists of the five officers, President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, and Webmaster.
- B. All officers can seek volunteers.
- C. All officers are volunteers and do not receive any pay for their services. They shall not be held liable for any actions that may be taken against “The Club”.
- D. President
 - (1) Presides over meetings.
 - (2) Keeps meetings on time schedule.
 - (3) Assists other officers.
 - (4) Maintains the club’s by-laws.
 - (5) Organizes committees, as needed, to establish
 - (a) Rules and changes
 - (b) The following year’s schedule, with lists of topics
 - (6) Assists the Treasurer, with the ability to sign checks, make deposits, etc.
- E. 1st Vice President
 - (1) Assists President and fills in as necessary.
 - (2) Arranges for presenters at meetings.
- F. 2nd Vice President
 - (1) Assists President and fills in as necessary.

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- (2) Maintains year-to-date point list.
- (3) Compiles the winning images from the monthly and year end competitions.
- (4) Holds and maintains club's equipment and supplies.

G. Treasurer

- (1) Maintains the club's financial records.
- (2) Collects dues.
- (3) Maintains the club's membership roster.

H. Webmaster

- (1) Maintains the club's website.
- (2) Posts the winning images to the website.

III. **Dues Structure**

- A. Dues are determined by the Board and are collected annually no later than January 31st.
- B. Members who have paid their dues are Members in Good Standing.
- C. New members will pay full price until after the August meeting. New members joining after the August meeting will pay half price. This only applies to new members—renewals are at full price.
- D. Immediate family members living in the same household may join for half price.
- E. Only Members in Good Standing are permitted to vote or participate in Club competitions.
- F. The Board may set reduced rates for students (24 years and under).

IV. Dissolution - The Club may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of members in good standing, with at least 45 days' notice. Upon dissolution, all debts will be settled, and the remaining assets will be sold or donated to a nonprofit organization recognized by the IRS. No portion of the Club's cash or assets shall be distributed to any member.

V. **Club Rules**

A. Definitions

- (1) Topics — two types, open and assigned.
- (2) Awards — 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention (HM).

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- (3) Categories — Color, Monochrome, Category 3.
- (4) Class — Class A (Advanced), Class B (Intermediate), and Class C (novice).
- (5) Club Year — Runs from January through December.
- (6) Entry — an individual image.

B. Class determination

- (1) At the beginning of each club year, members choose the class in which they wish to compete. The member must compete in the same class for all three categories.
- (2) During a club year, members may switch classes only once. Members must obtain Board approval to move down a class.
- (3) The Board is empowered to move Class B and C photographers up to Class A and B as they deem appropriate.

C. Scoring

- (1) Members in Good Standing may vote in all categories and classes and may vote for their own entries.
- (2) Year-to-date point totals are kept by the 2nd Vice President and are used to determine Photographer of the Year in each category and class. Points for the monthly competitions are awarded as follows:
 - (a) 1st place award winners will receive 5 points.
 - (b) 2nd place award winners will receive 4 points.
 - (c) 3rd place award winners will receive 3 points.
 - (d) Honorable Mention (HM) award winners will receive 2 points.
 - (e) Any entry not placing 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or HM will receive 1 point.

D. General Conditions

- (1) Only Members in Good Standing may compete in monthly contests.
- (2) Open and Assigned topic entries will be no older than 24 months at the time of showing. The Board may waive this requirement for certain competitions.

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- (3) There must be two competitors in a Class to hold a competition in that Class.
- (4) The number of awards in a Class shall not exceed the number of photographers submitting entries in that Class on that date.
- (5) A maximum of two entries per category per photographer per meeting will be accepted. For example, a photographer who competes in Class B would be allowed two entries in Color B, two entries in Monochrome B, and two entries in Category 3. This rule may not apply to special competitions or events. The Board may adjust this rule as necessary.
- (6) If an entry is not awarded 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in a monthly competition, it may be reentered in a later competition providing it meets all other entry criteria.
- (7) Monthly 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place and HM entries qualify for the "Photograph of the Year" competition. Photographers determine which of their qualifying images they wish to enter in the annual Photograph of the Year competition. A photographer may enter no more than three qualifying photographs per Category.
- (8) Outside judge(s) may be used for the Photograph of the Year Competition.
- (9) Club sanctioned special competition events will not accumulate points toward Photographer of the Year unless so approved by the Board prior to the event.
- (10) The Photographer of the Year will be awarded to the person in each Category and Class with the highest year-to-date point totals as determined in V.C.2 above.
- (11) Class A, B, and C photographs will be separated for judging purposes. Separate awards will be made for each Class and Category.
- (12) Election of the following year's officers shall be held during the October meeting and shall become effective during the January meeting.
- (13) A December meeting will be held, if approved by vote at the October meeting.
- (14) During a November meeting of new and old officers, the next year's schedule and competition topics will be announced and then posted to the website.

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- (15) A financial report detailing the club's spending over the previous year will be issued at the beginning of each new club year.
- (16) Proposed changes to the club bylaws will be published on the website or by email and voted on by those members in attendance at a predetermined meeting. Absentee voting must be arranged between the member and the President prior to the meeting and may be submitted by email.
- (17) Members agree to not hold the officers or the club responsible or liable for physical accidents or injuries or damage to or loss of equipment incurred while attending a club meeting, showing, field trip, or any sponsored or non-sponsored event.

E. Competition Image Categories

- (1) Definition of Photograph — An image obtained using a light capturing process. This includes a film or digital camera, or by scanners or similar light-capturing devices.
- (2) Within the Color and Monochrome Categories there are commonly used techniques, both in-camera and in post-processing, which can enhance/alter/manipulate an image but that do not make the final image appear significantly different than the image captured in camera. Examples include, but are not limited to exposure, contrast, saturation, sharpening, white balance, color adjustments, cropping, resizing, eliminating dust and scratches. Additionally, techniques such as dodging, burning, toning, selective adjustments through masking, conversion to monochrome, rotating (if applied to the entire image rather than particular elements in the image), electronic filters that are equivalent to glass filters (e.g., color, blur, neutral density, or lens flare), in-camera multiple exposures, panorama stitching, focus stacking, long time exposures, HDR processing and cloning to remove insignificant but unsightly items within the image (so as not to affect the subject of the image), are fairly conventional and fall within the Color and Monochrome categories. A few other areas which fall within these two categories are:
 - (a) Intentional camera and lens movements at the time of image capture.
 - (b) Astro photography techniques which stack images to reduce noise, or which highlight foreground, or which create star trails.
 - (c) Application of AI techniques in post processing which do not make the final image appear significantly different than the image captured in camera.

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- (3) Color Category – Final, processed images within the bounds of paragraph E.(2) above, and that are displayed in a range of colors, fall within the Color Category.
- (4) Monochrome Category - Final, processed images within the bounds of paragraph E.(2) above, and that are displayed in only one-color, fall within the Monochrome Category. For example, a black and white image is eligible as it is dark gray (black) to the very clear gray (white) with the various shades of gray. Since white is the absence of color, “black and white photography” is considered one color. The Monochrome category can also include images that are toned entirely in a single color, such as sepia or any single color where that color has replaced black. Images that include two or more colors, in addition to white, are polychrome and shall be entered into Category 3.
- (5) Category 3 – This category shall include those images where the processing/manipulation/alteration efforts described in paragraph E.(2) above, or other processes not described, have been applied in post processing such that the final image is significantly different than the image the photographer captured in the camera. While this category is the most difficult to define, in general, Category 3 images do not represent the scene at the time of capture. Examples include, but are not limited to, adding artistic and texture filters, adding objects or elements through AI or layering, creating a new image from multiple images, creating digital artwork, adding digital “coloring,” or multi-layer composites (beyond those described in paragraph E.(2) above) or collages.

These Bylaws were approved by general membership on October 21, 2024