

COMPETITION RULES

CLUB COMPETITIONS

Competitions are designed to improve the photography of members by encouraging submissions of their photographs for assessment by nominated judges.

1. The **competition year** runs from November to October.
2. Images submitted for competition must be the **original work** of the member.
3. Images may be enhanced or processed using image editing software. The member shall have made the original image and any subsequent manipulation. **Using AI to create images is not acceptable**, however the use of AI tools within image editing software is allowable. See the document ... for details. Prints may be commercially or home printed.
4. Each competition is divided into two categories, Prints & EDIs (electronic digital images):
 - a. **Prints** must be submitted to the Competition Secretary at the second meeting of the month for the following month's competition. Prints must be accompanied by a digital version of the same photograph uploaded via the club website as detailed below.
 - b. **EDIs** must be submitted via the club website by 12:00 midnight on the second meeting of the month for the following month's competition. Details below.
5. EDI entries, and the digital files supporting print entries, need to be submitted via the [entry upload page](#) on the club website, found under the Competition tab on the main menu. See the section 'Electronic Digital Images (EDIs)' below for detailed instructions on file preparation and upload.
6. Each monthly competition is nominated as either:
 - a. **Open:** for images based on any subject of the member's choice
 - b. **Set Subject:** for images based on a specific nominated subject, as defined in the [syllabus](#) for the relevant month. Set subjects are generally published for a full competition year, providing ample time for members to create their images.
7. A **maximum of four entries** per person may be submitted for each **competition**, with a maximum of three images in any one category (e.g. 3 x prints and 1 x EDI, 2 x prints and 2 x EDI, or 3 x EDI and 1 x print). In the rare case that over 110 entries are received for a single competition, the Competition Secretary will contact those who have submitted 4 images and ask them to retract one entry (i.e. leaving them with three entries each).
8. **Image names** must be no longer than 24 characters. To eliminate confusion with images, no two images are to have the same title within the competition year.
9. Members may not enter the same or a substantially **similar image** in both the Print and EDI competitions in the same month.
10. Members may not enter the same or a substantially **similar image** in a monthly club competition if it has received any award in a previous club competition or won an award in an end-of-year competition.
11. An image that has been submitted into a previous competition but that did not receive a placing or merit in that competition may be **resubmitted**, in the same format as original submission, in one other monthly competition within that same competition year.
12. **Date eligibility:**
 - a. An image submitted for a Set Subject competition must have been taken within the two years prior to the competition in which it is submitted.
 - b. Images for Open competitions have no date restrictions
13. Images taken on club outings are eligible for entry into competitions.

14. Images taken at club workshops are eligible for entry into competitions.

CLUB COMPETITIONS (cont.)

15. Late entries cannot be accepted unless prior arrangement has been made with the competition secretary.
16. Only **financial members** may enter club competitions.
17. Entries in each club competition are assessed by an invited external **judge** (i.e. from another club or from within the photographic industry) or, occasionally, by an invited club member. See **Judging** below for more details.
18. Where there is any doubt about the **eligibility** of an image (e.g. whether an image fits within a set subject definition), the competition secretary will refer the situation to the Club Committee for a determination. If it is decided that the image is ineligible, the member will be notified via email and, if time permits, given the opportunity to resubmit.
19. Entry of an image into a club competition is taken as an **authority** to use that image on our website, social media or in club promotions in printed media. If a member does not want their images used in these ways, they are required to advise the competition secretary by email to competitionsecretary@bellarinecameraclub.org.au
20. **Copyright** of all images remains with their maker.
21. Any image that does **not adhere to competition rules** will not be eligible for competition.

GRADING

1. Monthly competitions are run for two grades of proficiency:
 - a. A Grade: for more experienced photographers.
 - b. B Grade: for novices or new photographers to the club.
2. New members will commence in B Grade unless they specifically elect to compete at A Grade level or it is deemed by the Club Committee that the new member is at A Grade level.
3. Members will remain in their particular grade, A or B, for the entire competition year.
4. A club average will be determined annually, at the end of each competition year. Members must have submitted images to at least five competitions for the year before reassessment of their grade can be determined. Reassessment will be made as follows:
 - a. A Grade members whose aggregate judges' score for the year is below the club average may, at the Club Committee's discretion, be moved into B grade for the following competition year.
 - b. B Grade members whose aggregate judges' score for the year is above the club average will be promoted to A Grade for the following competition year.
5. The Competition Secretary will maintain records of members competition grades and scores for the purposes of reassessment.

JUDGING

1. For each club competition, an external judge (i.e. from another club or from within the photographic industry) is usually invited to assess members' work. Occasionally this role may fall to an invited club member.
2. A judge from within the club is unable to submit images for the competition they will be judging. In this case, so as not to disadvantage the member judge for annual aggregate awards (see below), the judge will be awarded an allowance equivalent to the average score of all that member's entries in the competition year. This calculation will be made at the end of the competition year.
3. The judge will be asked to assess and score each entered image out of 15.
4. Based on the judge's scores, first, second and third places will be awarded in each of A and B grades. At their discretion, judges may also present up to two merit awards. Where two or more winning images are given the same score, the judge will decide on the order of placings.
5. The judge will also select, at their discretion, an 'image of the competition' – one image, print or EDI and from any grade, that they deem the most outstanding image of that competition.
6. If there are insufficient entries in a particular grade, or if the highest score awarded is below the club average, there will be no placings awarded for that grade. Merit awards may be made as above.
7. If there are insufficient prints (being six or less), print entries will be sent to the judge in their EDI formats. The prints will be available on the night for the judge to view in person, after which the judge has the option to review the score they have awarded.

Judging can be very subjective. Given the opportunity, two different judges would potentially give very different critiques and scores of the same image. Club members are asked to respect each judge's views and accept advice on improving their images. The judge's decision is final in every instance. Any disputes or concerns following a judge's remarks are to be directed to the Competition Secretary, and will be discussed at the following Committee meeting.

COMPETITION IMAGE SIZING AND PRESENTATION

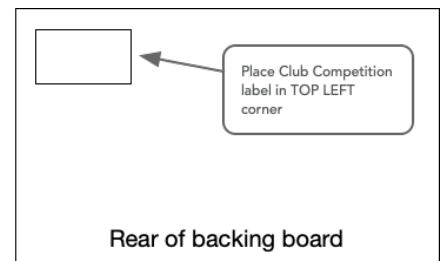
Print Section

1. All submitted prints must be mounted on a matt board, with a maximum mount board size of 40cm x 50cm. Any print size or aspect ratio, including panorama, is acceptable provided it fits within that maximum size. Submitted works that fall outside the maximum mount size will not be accepted for entry into the competition.

Mounting boards precut to accept 20 x 30 cm (8 x 12 inch) photographs are available for sale at low cost at all club meetings.

2. A solid backing board is to be used behind the mounted photo to protect the print. *This is included with the boards sold by the club.* Good quality tape must be used and securely adhered to keep backing board in place and ensure damage to other images does not occur. Do not use masking tape as it peels away too easily. If unsure about mounting, ask any committee member for assistance.
3. All mounted prints must be clearly marked on the back, top left-hand corner* of the backing board using a club competition label. These labels are available for [download from the Club website here](#). There are to be no marks to identify the maker of the image, other than their competition number.

The label position is important, especially for abstract photographs for which the 'right way up' is not necessarily clear. Positioning the label in the top-left corner ensures the judge will understand the photographer's intentions.



4. A digital version of each print entry must be uploaded via the club website using the same specifications as EDI entries (see below).
5. Framed prints are not permitted.
6. Members are responsible for the collection of all their own prints after a competition.

Electronic Digital Images (EDIs)

The following specifications must be followed when creating digital images for competition entries, whether for entries in the EDI section or as supporting files for print entries. *Details for resizing images to meet these specifications are available [on the club website](#).*

1. Digital images may be either created with a digital camera or created with a conventional film camera and scanned into electronic format. Any camera can be used, including those on mobile phones.
2. Maximum image dimensions are 1920 pixels horizontally and 1080 pixels vertically. Image dimensions may be less than these specifications, but must not exceed them. (A portrait-oriented image must be no higher than 1080px, regardless of its width; a panoramic image must be no wider than 1920px regardless of its height.)
3. Images may include a border, however that border must be included within the maximum dimensions.
4. Images should be saved as JPG/JPEG files in the sRGB colour space. Files must be no larger than 5MB in size. (The upload facility will reject any file that is too large.)
5. Metadata must be included with all EDIs submitted or entries will not be accepted for competition. Do not select any option in your software to remove metadata on export.
6. Image files must be named using the format below:
 - a. EDI entries: yyyymm_Title_nnn EDI.jpg
 - b. Print entries: yyyymm_Title_nnn PRI.jpg

Note the use of underscores, not dashes or hyphens, between parts of the title. An example file name is as follows: 201902_My Image Title_009 EDI.jpg

The components of the file name are defined as follows:

yyyymm	Competition year and month (eg 201809 = September 2018 competition)
Title	A unique image title, max 24 characters. (Multi-word titles may include spaces between words, which are included in the maximum character count.)
nnn	Member's three-digit competition number (for numbers below 100, examples of numbering are: 009; 032)
EDI or PRI	Use 'EDI' for images entered into the EDI Section. Use 'PRI' for files supporting entries into the Print Section.

8. To submit digital files, follow these instructions:

- a. On the club website, visit the [Upload Competition EDI's and Print images](#) page found under the Competition tab on the main menu. The password is 'BCC'.
- b. Follow the detailed instructions on that page (which reiterate the file size and naming requirements above). Please note that images must be uploaded one at a time, and the process repeated for each subsequent image.
- c. After an image is submitted via the website, a notification should appear confirming that the image has been successfully received. If that message is not displayed, your image has not been uploaded successfully and will require resubmitting. You will also receive a confirmation email directly from the competition secretary within seven days of uploading. If not, contact the competition secretary by email at competitionsecretary@bellarinecameraclub.org.au

ANNUAL AWARDS

Annual awards are made on the evening of the Annual General Meeting in August, and at the final meeting of the year in December each year.

Members Choice Award – AGM

Members will be invited to submit 1 x Print and 1 x EDI image taken during the period from the previous July 1 in the previous year (e.g. 2024) up to June 30 in the current year (e.g. 2025). Images will be submitted in the usual Competition manner no later than the 3rd Monday of July of the current year (e.g. 2025). Images will be judged on the night of the AGM (the first Monday of August) by members attending that meeting awarding each image a score out of 15. Members will judge each image using a scoresheet provided by the Competition Secretary. First, second and third places for each of the Print section and EDI section, in both A Grade and B Grade, will be calculated by the Competition Secretary and awarded on the night with certificates. A trophy for the 1st Place image may also be Awarded.

Image of the Year – Awards Night

In December, an overall 'Image of the Year' is selected by an external judge and announced at the end-of-year awards night. For this award, the judge is asked to consider, together, all first and second placed images in both the Print and EDI sections, in both A Grade and B Grade, for the whole competition year.

1. Images will be considered in their original submitted format (print or EDI). Images may be resubmitted with enhancements recommended by the original judge.
2. There is no maximum quantity of images per member. Images can be all prints, all EDIs, or a mix of both, but must be the same format as originally submitted. Images may be submitted with enhancements recommended by the judge at the time of original judging.
3. 1st and 2nd placed prints during the year will be collected and kept by the Competition Secretary for re-entry in the Image of the Year competition.
4. Winning prints for November will be included in Image of the Year judging for the following year. For these prints only, the competition secretary will remove existing label and re-label for IOY.
5. Digital images for prints and EDIs do not require resubmission as they are on file from their previous competition entry. When an image has been adjusted (within competition rules), the digital file is to be resubmitted for both print and EDI.
6. The creator of the winning image will be awarded an engraved trophy and a certificate.

Aggregate Awards – Awards Night

Two Aggregate Awards, one for each of A Grade and B Grade, are calculated by summing, for each member, the individual scores awarded in each competition throughout the year. This task is performed by the Competition Secretary. Awards are based on the highest aggregate scores in each grade, combining scores earned in both Print and EDI sections. Each winner will receive a framed certificate.

Photographer of the Year – Awards Night.

Photographer of the Year in each of A Grade and B Grade are awarded to the member in each grade who has accrued the highest number of points during the competition year, based on the number of places they have achieved. Scores are calculated based on the following scale: 4 points for each first place, 3 points for each second place, 2 points for each third place and 1 point for each Merit certificate. Each winner will receive a trophy plus a certificate.

Photographer of the Year (Set Subject Awards) – Awards Night

Similar to the overall Photographer of the Year, separate Photographer of the Year awards are made in each of five categories: portraits, black & white, scapes (land, sea, city), nature/wildlife and open (all other possible subjects). One other subject may be included by the committee based on the set subjects of the current competition year.

1. In each category, there will be one award for A Grade and one award for B Grade.
2. Award scores are calculated based on the number of places earned during the year, using the following scale: 4 points for each first place, 3 points for each second place, 2 points for each third place and 1 point for each Merit certificate.
3. These awards will only be made if the highest point scorer in any category has submitted a minimum of 5 images during the year in that category.
4. Each category winner will receive a certificate.

Countbacks in case of a tie

In the event of a tie in an Aggregate or Photographer of the Year award, a countback will be made using the following in sequence until a single winner is determined: number of 1st Places; 2nd Places; 3rd Places; number of Merits; total number of images submitted in that set subject; total number of images submitted throughout the year in any/all competitions. In the unlikely event that there is still a tie, the final decision will be determined by the Committee.

Most Improved Award – Awards Night

The Club Committee, at its discretion, may choose to make an award to the one member who has demonstrated the greatest improvement in their photography over a period of time. Reference will be made to competition participation and scores achieved, however the award will only be made where the committee determines there is a standout candidate. Where this award is made, the winner will receive a certificate.

Club Member of the Year – Awards Night

The Club Committee, at its discretion, may make a Club Member of the Year award to the member they believe has shown the best attendance, helpfulness, willingness and commitment to the club over the competition year (as determined by the Committee). Where this award is made, the winner will receive a certificate.