2019

OCCC INTERCLUB OPEN CHALLENGE
RULES & GUIDELINES

Version	Release Date	Description of change
Version 19.0	November 4, 2018	Release of completed 2019 version.
Version 19.1	November 5, 2018	Correction to spelling of St. Catharines
Version 19.2	November 9, 2018	Modification to image sizing, awards
Version 19.3	November 9, 2018	Revision to Diversity POTY
Version 19.4	November 12, 2018	Removed reference to Wildlife on page 5
Version 19.5	November 13, 2018	Due Date for Entries confirmed on Page 3
Version 19.6	November 13, 2018	Updated Footer
Version 19.7	November 24, 2018	Added Haliburton Highlands to club list on p.13
Version 19.8		
Version 19.9		
Version 19.10		

NOTE:
When updating or correcting this file please document the change in this table together with affected page number. Also, update the version number and release date in the document footer.

Versions should be:
> *1.0 – DRAFT rewrite*
> *Version 19.0 – 2019 Rules, 19.1, 19.2, 19.3, etc. will represent changes within the same competition year.*
> *Version 20.0 – 2020 Rules, etc.*
> *Version 21.0 – 2021 Rules, etc.*

Questions and inquiries about contest rules can be emailed to president@o3C.ca

Recommendations for changes and modifications can be emailed to president@o3c.ca

INTRODUCTION:

Competition Purpose

The goal of this competition follows OCCC's mandate to promote the art of photography by encouraging clubs, and club members, to share and showcase their art among peers. Clubs, and their members, may be recognized through various individual and club awards.

Judging

- Images will be judged on overall impact, composition, technical excellence, originality and artistic merit.
- Prints will be judged on overall impact, composition, technical excellence, originality, artistic merit and overall presentation, including mounting and matting.
- OCCC strives to achieve excellence in judging. All judges are qualified by OCCC, CAPA or both.

Disclaimer

- The most current version of this document shall be considered the Official Rules. None of the Rules & Guidelines from previous competitions carry over to this year's competition. To ensure you always have the most current version, please reference www.o3c.ca.
- All decisions of the OCCC and its Judges are final.
- Disqualified images will not receive a reimbursement of the entrance fee.
- OCCC will take all reasonable steps to protect the integrity of all entries; however, we cannot assume responsibility for damage to any entry, howsoever caused.
- Any or all entries may be presented with or without entrant identification at the Awards Presentation. However, because of time and space constraints, the OCCC reserves the right to not display or present all images.
- By submitting an image to this competition, the entrant warrants that he or she is the rightful owner and exclusive author of the image and grants the following non-exclusive rights and permissions to the OCCC, specifically that:
    - The image may be displayed on any media for the purposes of competition judging and may be displayed without restriction in any subsequent presentations by the OCCC.
    - The maker retains ownership of the image and all other rights to its subsequent use.

Important Dates

May 31, 2019	Submission Date for digital images and for digital representation of print images. All digital files are to be uploaded by Club Reps to OCCC Dropbox account by 11:00 pm.
May 25, 2019 Final Rep Meeting	Physical Prints are to be delivered to the OCCC Council Rep Meeting. All fees are due at the OCCC Council Meeting together with two Printed copies of the Club's completed Consolidated Entry Form, plus a separate printed list of all Print entries
October 5, 2019	Print Judging Day
October 20, 2019	Competition Awards Gala. Please see www.o3c.ca for full details.
October 30, 2019	Pickup of physical prints from Toronto Camera Club For image accounting and physical security, under no circumstances will any images be returned to anyone immediately following the Awards Presentation.

CATEGORY SUBMISSION STANDARDS

Entry Eligibility

The OCCC Interclub Open Challenge (hereafter referred to as "the Competition") is open to members of OCCC Member Clubs.

Entry Fee

The entry fee for digital and print entries is $2 per image, to a maximum of $20 per entrant.

Number of Entries per Maker

The total number of allowable images for each entrant is limited to a **maximum of twelve images** constrained by:

- A maximum of 12 entries can be submitted into any category.
- No entrant shall submit more than 12 images regardless of the number of clubs to which the entrant belongs. If the maker exceeds these limits by submitting through more than one club the entrant will be disqualified from entering images for the current competition year.
- The maker is not required to enter multiple categories unless they are competing for the Diversity Photographer of the Year Award.

Digital Manipulation

- Some Competition categories allow Digital Manipulation, and some do not. Full details regarding digital manipulation are found in the category descriptions. It is recommended that makers read the descriptions carefully to obtain a clear understanding of how much, if any, digital manipulation is allowed in each category. Full details and examples of acceptable allowances are noted in the category description.

Image Qualification

- Images submitted may not be the same as, or substantially similar to, another image submitted to an OCCC competition in a current year or any previous year's categories either as a digital image or a print. This includes images submitted under OCCC's previous name, the Greater Toronto Council of Camera Clubs (GTCCC).
- Monochrome images are acceptable in all categories.

Honour System

- For all entries, the original image and all image elements including digital manipulation and post processing must be the work of the entrant. Original images made in workshops without significant ownership and control of the entrant may be disqualified from the competition, e.g. the maker must have directed the model, the lighting, positioning and had full control over camera settings.
- All winning and accepted entries may be reviewed to ascertain if an image is authentic to the maker or sourced from elsewhere, whether in whole or part. The OCCC reserves the right to request a maker's RAW, or other out of camera files, before awarding any prizes. If RAW files are not supplied in a timely manner, then the entry will be eliminated from the competition.
- It is the maker's responsibility to abide by the morals and principles of this competition.

Naming / Titling of Entries:

- Architecture, Pictorial, People, Creative Vision, Expansive Views, People in Action and Print Entries can be named as it suits the maker.
- For Birds, Animals, Botany and Landscapes/Geology the titles should be the common or scientific name of the subject. However, descriptive names as it pertains to the subject are allowed. Refrain from giving pictorial like names to images in Nature categories.
    - **Acceptable**: "Northern Blue Jay" or "Cyanocitta Cristata", or "Blue Jay Preening Chick".
    - **Not acceptable**: "Blue & White Splendor".
- No image may display any titling or maker identification that could serve to identify the maker or club.

Image Identification

- Each digital file and print must meet the OCCC Image Identification requirements and include your Club Code, Maker ID#, Category Code and Sequence Number. Category Codes can be found in the Category & Abbreviations section and Club Codes are on the last page of this document.
- Your Club Representative is responsible for applying the identifier for each image entry, but may request entrants apply the identifier to the filename before submitting the file to the rep.
- Image Identifier:
    - The image identifier consists of 9 upper case characters, for example, RH160PD01. The code structure consists of the following, sequentially:
        - **Club Code**: 2-alpha characters which identify your club [Reference: last page of this document],
        - **Entrant Number:** 3-numeric characters which is your individual maker # which your club rep assigns, and includes leading 0's as necessary,

- **Category Code:** 2-alpha characters [Reference: Categories & Abbreviations section]
- **Sequence #:** 2 numeric characters that identify your 1st to 12th image, includes leading 0's as necessary.

  Examples:
  - TP005PR02: Trillium PC, maker #005, Print, entry number 02,
  - CC028PR11: Chinese Canadian PS, maker #028, Print, entry number 11,
  - ET121PD12: Etobicoke CC, maker #121, Pictorial, entry number 12,
  - RH130AR01: Richmond Hill, maker #130, Architecture, entry number 01.

Image Sizing:

- Recommended image size is: 1920 wide x 1080 high.
  - Images may reasonably exceed, or be less than the above recommended dimensions, without concern. The objective is to maintain the highest image and presentation quality.
- Image format: JPG, sRGB colour space.

Use of Image or Keyline Borders

Digital Entries
- Decorative borders such as digital picture frames are only allowed in the Pictorial category where a decorative border may be an intrinsic part of the image and it adds to the image story.
- Artistic borders such as torn edges, antique edges, grunge borders, film edges, etc. are allowed in all categories except Nature categories (Birds, Animals and Botany and Landscape/Geology).
- Keyline borders such as 1 or 2 pixel borders are allowed in any category. However, they are usually only needed for images with dark backgrounds where they can help the viewer see where the actual image frame is to judge composition. The Keyline would usually be a lighter or complimentary colour to the image.

Print Entries
- Any type of image border is acceptable however, no actual framing is allowed. For further information reference: Mounting & Assembling of Prints

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Overview

- The Open Challenge has a total of 12 (twelve) categories comprised of digital images and prints.
- Any image that fails to meet the criteria of the category may be declared ineligible and could be disqualified from the competition.
- To maximize the scoring potential, the member should take care to ensure the image is strong in the category to which it is entered.
- The topic of the Theme Category will change each year and OCCC invites all members to submit topic suggestions.

Categories & Abbreviations

Category	Category Type	Abbreviation	Category Title
1.	Digital	BR	Nature Birds
2.		AN	Nature Animals
3.		BO	Nature Botany
4.		LG	Nature Landscape / Geology
5.		EV	Expansive Views
6.		PE	People
7.		PA	People in Action
8.		AR	Architecture
9.		PD	Pictorial
10.		CV	Creative Vision
11.	Theme (Digital)	TH	Theme Topic – **"Reflections"**
12.	Prints	PR	Prints

Category Descriptions

1. *Nature Birds*

- This category is open to any type of bird, domesticated or wild.
  - E.g. ducks, geese, herons, raptors, song birds, sea and shore birds, etc.
- Images may be shot in a studio, zoo setting or in the wild.
- Artificial backgrounds ARE permitted either in studio or the wild.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed as long as the results look natural.
- Large areas of black/solid/manipulated background are permissible.
- Hand of Man is allowed.
- No artificial or taxidermy specimens.

2. *Nature Animals*

- This category is open to any type of animal; domesticated or wild.
  - E.g. mammals, amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates, crustaceans, fish, insects, family pets, etc.
- Images may be shot in a studio, zoo setting or in the wild.
- Artificial backgrounds ARE permitted either in studio or the wild.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed as long as the results look natural.
- Large areas of black/solid/manipulated background are permissible.
- Hand of Man is allowed.
- No artificial or taxidermy specimens

3. *Nature Botany*

- This category is open to any type of botany subject whether wild or cultivated.
  - E.g. flowers of any type, mushrooms, trees, seed pods, etc.
- Image may be shot in a studio or in the field.
- Artificial backgrounds ARE permitted either in studio or the wild.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed as long as the results look natural.
- Large areas of black/solid/manipulated background are permissible.
- Hand of Man is allowed.
- No artificial or taxidermy specimens

4. *Nature Landscapes & Geology, no HOM*

- Landscapes, Seascapes, Skyscapes, Natural phenomena, Geology, Astronomy
  - Landscape is described as an expanse of scenery that can be seen in a single view.
  - Seascape is described as an expanse of water in which the water or waves predominate. Coastal features or the shoreline may be included.
- Natural Phenomena refers to an observable event which is not man-made
  - Examples include: sunrise, weather, tornadoes, biological processes, decomposition, germination, physical processes, frost, ice patterns, snowflakes, wave propagation, erosion, tidal flow and natural disasters such as electromagnetic pulses, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed as long as the results look natural.
- *No Hand of Man is allowed*.

5. *Expansive Views, HOM allowed*

- Landscapes, Seascapes, Skyscapes, Natural phenomena, Geology, Astronomy
  - Landscape is described as an expanse of scenery that can be seen in a single view.
  - Seascape is described as an expanse of water in which the water or waves predominate. Coastal features or the shoreline may be included.
- Natural Phenomena refers to an observable event which is not man-made
  - Examples include: sunrise, weather, tornadoes, biological processes, decomposition, germination, physical processes, frost, ice patterns, snowflakes, wave propagation, erosion, tidal flow and natural disasters such as electromagnetic pulses, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed as long as the results look natural.
- *Hand of Man is allowed*.

6. *People*

- This category is limited to images of human subjects only as the primary subject
    - E.g. Portraits, Group Portraits, Environmental Portraits, Photo Journalism, Posed or Candid, etc.
- Can be photographed in a studio setting or any other environment.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed as long as the results look natural. If the image is highly *or* creatively altered it may be more suitable in the **Creative Vision** category.

7. *People in Action*

- This category must include a person, or a group of people, engaged in an activity depicting physical motion. This can be related to sports, hobbies or leisurely activities where the activity is represented as the principle subject.
    - E.g. running, canoeing, bicycle riding, car or boat racing, etc.,
    - The intent is to show a person in obvious motion or action, not merely engaged in an activity in which the motion is passive or slow. Such images should be submitted to the People Category
- A physical person, or evidence of a person, must be present in the image.
    - It is not required that the person's face be visible if it is clear that there is a person engaged in an activity in which there is obvious action taking place. E.g. a skier in full gear, race car driver with helmet visible through window, a racing vehicle (such as a car or boat) would be eligible as long as there is clear evidence of a person.
    - If a driver is not visible, the entry would be ineligible
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed as long as the results look natural. If the image is highly *or* creatively altered it may be more suitable in the **Creative Vision** category.

8. *Architecture*

- This category is limited to images of any architectural manmade structure.
- The subject must be a significant aspect of a landscape or cityscape.
    - E.g. building exteriors/interiors, architectural details, bridges, piers, etc.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed although the intent is that images look natural. If the image is highly *or* creatively altered, including HDR images, it may be more suitable in the **Creative Vision** category.

9. *Pictorial*

- This category comprises subject matter that does not fall into any other category.
    - E.g. Still life and tabletop photography, food, man-made objects, transportation, urban or rural life
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed. If the image is highly or creatively altered it may be more suitable in the **Creative Vision** category.

10. *Creative Vision*

- This category is limited to highly creative and artistic images.
    - E.g. altered reality, abstracts, graphical designs, conceptual art, composites, montages, etc.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed.
- Use of artistic filters or processing is acceptable and is, of course, encouraged.

11.   Annual Theme – "Reflections"

- The subject of the 2018 Annual Theme category is "**Reflections**".
- Images to depict reflections on physical surfaces such as glass, water, chrome, metal, tile, plastic, mirrors, etc.
- Images created through post-processing techniques would also be acceptable, such as duplicated and flipped images or composited images.
- There is no restriction on subject matter.
- The reflection itself must be an intrinsic part of the image and/or a strong component of the composition.
    - Acceptable:
        - a landscape scene reflected on still water, urban glass faced buildings reflecting their surrounding, a person's face being reflected in a hand held mirror, still life objects being reflected on a shiny surface.
    - Not acceptable:
        - Cityscape with only a few lights reflecting on foreground water would be weak in category.
        - Metaphorical images of people reflecting on life are not part of this theme and are unacceptable. E.g. portraits of people thinking or looking pensive.

12.   Prints

General Information

- There is no limitation on subject matter.
    - Any form of image manipulation is allowed.
- Use of artistic filters or processing is acceptable.
- A digital file that is an accurate representation of the submitted print must be submitted with all print submissions. If the original media of the print was film, a scanned image of the print is acceptable. The tonality of the photographed/scanned digital image should accurately reflect the tonality of the submitted print. This is to facilitate our review process and for projection during the Awards Gala Presentation. Only the printed image will be used by the judges during the judging process.
- Digital files of print images must conform to the same naming conventions as specified for digital projection images. [Reference: Image Identification Section]
- An Arrow, showing which way is up must be included on the identification label. Use of the OCCC label template is encouraged and will include this arrow.
- Scoring will credit the inherent photographic qualities of the image together with its physical presentation.
- Submitted prints must conform to the Category Submission Standards in relation to physical sizing, mounting, etc. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

Number of Print Entries

- Up to 12 prints may be submitted.

Physical Print Sizing

- Maximum image size is 20 x 20 inches
- Minimum image size is 11 x 11 inches
- Maximum image size, with matting is 20 x 20 inches
- Minimum image size, with matting is 11 x 11 inches
- The finished thickness of the print, together with its backing board and matting, must not exceed 1 cm or 3/8".

Mounting & Assembling of Prints

- All prints MUST be permanently mounted on a firm backing board of either matt-board or foam core ONLY. Prints mounted on other materials such as metal, Masonite, wood, corrugated cardboard, etc. will be disqualified.
- All prints must have a full contiguous backing board. Entries submitted with only a front matt and a paper print are not acceptable.
- Prints may be matted but the physical size of the matt board must be exactly the same as the backing board.
- Prints separating from their matting or backing board will be disqualified.
- Prints with frames, glass, hooks, Velcro, other hanging devices or sticky substances of any kind, may damage other prints and will be disqualified.
- Prints which include titles, names or any other type of identifying markings on the front of the print or matt will be disqualified.
- The maker is encouraged to consider the overall finished thickness of the print when selecting materials to ensure compliance with the physical sizing requirements. Prints which are too thick will be disqualified.
- The maker is encouraged to use their best efforts to prepare the print with a pleasing physical presentation by trimming and mounting carefully. A component of the judges score will be based on the quality of the print's overall finished presentation.

Physical Print Labels

- Print entries are to be labeled on the back with the Maker, Title, Full Club Name, Image ID (the filename) and match the corresponding reference file. For this purpose, the OCCC Data Manager has created an Avery Label #5164 template. The template will be supplied in the competition package from the Data Manager. Alternatively, any self-adhering label is suitable as long as it contains all of the necessary information.
- Labels should be placed in the uppermost left position with the arrow pointing to the top of the print.
- Print labels cannot be taped in place. Any prints with taped labels may be disqualified.
- Prints with old, outdated or confusing labels may be disqualified. (It can be confusing trying to identify the current label on prints with many old labels. It's best to cross out any old labels.

AWARDS

All images are eligible for individual awards by category. Additionally, individual image scores are used to determine club awards, the Freedman Trophy for the top scoring club, the Diversity Photographer of the Year and Specialist Photographer of the Year winners.

Accepted Entries

- Accepted entries represent approximately the top scoring 25-30% of the entries in each category.
- Accepted entries will be included in the Awards Night video.

Honourable Mentions

- Honourable Mentions comprise approximately 10-15% of the accepted entries.

Individual Category Awards

In each of the 12 categories there will be a maximum of three top awards and a quantity of Honourable Mentions. A maker can only be awarded one top award per category. In the event of a tie, the judges will identify the winner. However, a maker will retain all points on images if a subsequent award has to be given to the next entrant with the next highest scoring entry.

- The three top awards in each category will be:
    o one first-place
    o one second-place
    o one third-place
    o plus, Honourable Mentions
- First, Second and Third place award winners will receive a Certificate and a Medal
- Honourable Mention award winners will receive a Certificate.

Club Category Awards

- Awarded to the top scoring club in each of the 12 categories. Top scoring clubs are determined by summing the highest score, from 6 different makers in each club, for each category. If there is a tie, then the highest score by 7 different makers determines the winning club, etc., until a clear winner is determined.
- Club category award winners will receive a Certificate.

The Freedman Trophy

- The **FREEDMAN TROPHY** is awarded to the top scoring club overall in the competition. The summation of the highest score by 12 different makers in each club, regardless of category, determines the Freedman Trophy winning club. If there is a tie, then the highest score by 13 different makers determines the winning club, etc., until a clear winner is determined.
- Freedman Trophy winner receives a plaque.

Photographer(s) of the Year

- **Diversity Photographer of the Year**
    - There are 11 digital categories, plus a Print category for a total of 12 categories. To be eligible for the Diversity Photographer of the Year award, the entrant must submit at least two prints, and at least one image in eight of the eleven digital categories. The winner is the entrant scoring the highest total point count for their top scoring 10 submissions (8 digital and 2 prints). If the entrant submits more than 10 images, only their top scoring 8 digital images and the two print images will be considered. Each top scoring digital image must be from a different category.
    - If two or more entrants tie for the highest total point count, as per the criteria, multiple entrants can win the title of Diversity Photographer of the Year.
    - *Diversity Photographer of the Year* winner(s) receives a plaque.

- **Specialist Photographers of the Year**
    - Recognizing that there are many outstanding photographers whose excellence lies in a limited sphere of categories; this award recognizes photographers with the highest total score based on their top 6 scoring images within one category.
    - Each of the 12 categories in the Open Challenge can have a Specialist for a total of 12 Specialists
    - If two or more entrants tie for the highest total score, as per the criteria, multiple entrants can win the title of Diversity Photographer of the Year.
    - It is possible for one entrant to win *Specialist Photographer of the Year* in two separate categories.
    - OCCC reserves the right to withhold awards if there are less than 3 candidates eligible in a category.
    - *Specialist Photographer* winners will receive Medals

OCCC MEMBER CLUBS & CLUB CODES

Note: *The following table is for quick reference and represents all OCCC member clubs at time of publication. New clubs should use their approved code in submissions.*	
Recent updates and changes are highlighted in yellow.	

#	Current Clubs	Club Code:
1	Ajax Photography Club	AJ
2	Barrie Photo Club	BA
3	Beach Photo Club	BE
4	Brampton Photo Group	BP
5	Chinese Canadian Photographic Society of Toronto	CC
6	Don Mills Camera Club	DM
7	Etobicoke Camera Club	ET
8	Focal Forum (Toronto)	FF
9	Georgian Bay Photography Club	GB
10	Guelph Photographer's Guild	GU
11	Halton Hills Camera Club	HH
12	Haliburton Highlands	HA
13	Hamilton Camera Club	HC
14	Jiahua Elite Photography Association	JE
15	Latow Photographers Guild	LP
16	Midland District Camera Club	MD
17	Mississauga Camera Club	MI
18	Newcastle Photography Club	NC
19	Northumberland Photography Club	NP
20	Oshawa Camera Club	OC
21	Photo Arts Club of Newmarket	NM
22	Photographic Historical Society of Canada	PH
23	Richmond Hill Camera Club	RH
24	Scarborough Camera Club	SC
25	St. Catharines Photographic Club	ST
26	Toronto Camera Club	TC
27	Toronto Digital Photography Club	TD
28	Trillium Photographic Club	TP