Sioux City Camera Club

Competition Rules and Information

Effective September 2026

Purpose: This booklet explains the Club's current competition rules in simple language. It replaces the September 2024 contest rules. If a question comes up, the adopted Policies, Procedures & Competition Manual and the Board of Directors control the final decision.

Quick rule: Enter your own work, use the correct category, follow the size and naming rules, and meet the deadline.

General Rules

Who may enter: Only a current member whose dues are paid may enter a Club competition.

Competition year: The competition year runs from September 1 through August 31.

Your own work: You must take the photograph and own the rights needed to enter it.

No identifying marks: Do not put your name, watermark, signature, copyright notice, logo, website, social-media information, or other identifying mark on the front of an image.

Photographs of photographs: A photograph of another photograph is not allowed. Entering a photograph of someone else's artwork is discouraged.

When an Image May Be Entered Again

- If an image has never won First, Second, or Third Place, you may enter it again.
- An image that receives Honorable Mention may be entered again.
- A digital image that has not won First, Second, or Third Place may later be entered as a print, and the same rule works in reverse.
- Once an image wins First, Second, or Third Place, it may never be entered again in any Sioux City Camera Club category.

> **Remember:** Changing the crop, color, title, or category does not make a winning image eligible again.

Competition Categories

Digital	Print
Color Pictorial (DP)	Color Pictorial Print
Black and White Pictorial (DB)	Black and White Pictorial Print
Altered Reality (DA)	Altered Reality Print

What the Categories Mean

Color Pictorial: A color photograph that emphasizes beauty, composition, and artistic presentation. The subject may be anything. HDR, exposure blending, focus stacking, stitching, and similar methods are allowed when the result still looks like a recognizable real scene.

Black and White Pictorial: The same general idea as Color Pictorial, but the image must be monochrome. Gray, sepia, selenium, split-tone, or another single-color tint is allowed. You may not add a special color to only one part of the image.

Altered Reality: The image is clearly meant to show something that is not real. It must begin with one or more photographs taken by you. It may be color or black and white.

Altered Reality and AI

- You may combine or strongly change your own photographs to create an unreal scene.
- Brushes and textures made by other people are allowed.
- Software and AI tools may create subjects, objects, backgrounds, textures, or other visual parts, but the final image must originate from photographic content you created.
- The Club may ask for your original files, RAW files, or layered editing files. If you cannot provide them, the image may be disqualified.

Not sure where it belongs? If the scene contains software-generated parts or obviously does not represent reality, enter it in Altered Reality.

Monthly Competition Schedule

Month	Type of Competition
September	Print
October	Digital
November	Print
December	No competition
January	Digital
February	Print
March	Digital
April	Print
May	Digital
June	Print
July	Digital
August	No monthly competition; Annual Awards Banquet

Number of Entries

You may enter up to nine images in each monthly competition.

- Up to 3 Color Pictorial images
- Up to 3 Black and White Pictorial images
- Up to 3 Altered Reality images

> **Example:** You may enter 3 Color, 3 Black and White, and 3 Altered Reality images for a total of 9. You may also enter fewer images, but no category may contain more than 3.

Deadline

All entries are due by 5:00 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month.

A late entry may be refused by the Competition Coordinator or the appropriate Judge Chair.

How Judging Works

Three judges score every image. Each judge gives 1 to 5 points in each of these areas:

- **Technique:** focus, lighting, color, exposure, and print quality.
- **Composition:** how well the parts of the image are arranged and balanced.
- **Interest:** originality, imagination, subject, impact, mood, humor, and emotional appeal.

The three judges' scores are added together. An image can receive from 9 to 45 total points. If scores are tied for an award, the judges review the tied images again. There are no ties.

Judging decisions are final. A member may still ask whether an image followed the rules or was entered in the correct category. The Board of Directors makes the final decision on rule questions.

Print Rules

Print Size and Preparation

- **Minimum size:** 8 x 10 inches.
- **Maximum size:** 11 x 14 inches.
- Prints must be unmounted. Do not use a mat, backing board, or frame.
- The print must be suitable for judging and display.

Print Label

Place a clear label on the back of the print in the upper-left corner. Include:

- Category
- Your name and member ID number
- Print title
- Club name: Sioux City Camera Club
- Telephone number

Example label: Category: Color Pictorial Print | Name and Member ID: John Doe SE000 | Title: Beautiful Sunset | Club: Sioux City Camera Club | Phone: 555-555-5555

How to Submit Prints

- Deliver your prints to the Print Judge Chair's home by 5:00 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month; or
- Give them to the Print Judge Chair at a regular Club meeting held before the deadline.

Digital Rules

Image Requirements

Item	Requirement
File format	JPEG (.jpg)
Longest side	No more than 1920 pixels
File size	No more than 750 KB
Color space	sRGB

File Name

Each file name has five parts separated by commas and ends in .jpg:

> **Example:** 01,SE000,DP,Beautiful_Sunset.jpg

- 01 = the image's number within that category
- SE000 = your Club member ID number
- DP = the category code: DP for Color, DB for Black and White, or DA for Altered Reality
- Beautiful_Sunset = the image title; use an underscore between words
- .jpg = the file extension

> **Number each category separately:** If you enter three Color images and two Black and White images, use 01, 02, 03 for DP and 01, 02 for DB.

How to Email Digital Entries

- Attach your finished JPEG files to an email.
- Send the email to digi.entries@gmail.com.
- Use this subject line: SCCC Digital Entries - [Month]. Example: SCCC Digital Entries - October.
- Send the email before 5:00 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month.
- Check that the email and attachments were sent successfully.

Awards

Monthly Awards

About 25% of the entries in each category receive an award.

- The three highest scores receive First Place, Second Place, and Third Place.
- The remaining award winners, up to about 25% of the entries, receive Honorable Mention.
- Honorable Mention receives a ribbon but no Sioux City Camera Club Photographer of the Year points.

Best of the Best

- Every monthly First, Second, and Third Place winner automatically qualifies for the annual Best of the Best competition.
- Honorable Mention images do not qualify unless they are re-entered later and win First, Second, or Third Place.
- Best of the Best is held before the Annual Awards Banquet.
- First, Second, and Third Place are awarded in each Digital and Print category. No annual Honorable Mentions are awarded.

Photographer of the Year Awards

The Club presents Photographer of the Year, Print Maker of the Year, and Digital Image Maker of the Year awards. Points from Sioux City Camera Club and N4C monthly competitions are counted.

Award	SCCC points	N4C points
First Place	4	4
Second Place	3	3
Third Place	2	2
Honorable Mention	0	1

If members tie, the Club compares their number of First Places, then Second Places, then Third Places, and then Honorable Mentions. If they are still tied, they share the award.

Questions

Ask the Competition Coordinator or the appropriate Judge Chair before the deadline if you are unsure about a file, print, category, or rule. The Board of Directors has final authority to interpret the competition rules.