

**MONMOUTH CAMERA CLUB**  
**Judging & Scoring Guidelines**

**General Competition Rules**

- All images are to be judged on their own merit.
- All images will be judged on impact, and technical perfection.
- Images for themed competitions have been pre-screened to comply with the theme.
- For themed competitions, how well the theme is conveyed should be a significant factor in determining the score.
- Do not give an image a score of 5 or 6 so that it can be fixed and re-entered.
- There will not be an initial viewing of the images.

**Scoring**

- For a score of 5, has significant technical and compositional deficiencies that cannot not be addressed by editing.
- For a score of 6, has technical and compositional deficiencies that may or may not be addressed by editing.
- For a score of 7, must meet all of the technical criteria but has compositional and/or artistic deficiencies.
- For a score of 8, must meet all of the technical criteria but has minor compositional and/or artistic deficiencies.

- For a score of 9, must meet all of the technical criteria, has no compositional or artistic deficiencies and has visual impact.
- An image should be disqualified (DQ) if it was entered into the wrong contest, e.g. a mono image entered into a color competition.
- The club requires that the entire content of an image originate from the maker. If a component such as the sky, texture, background, etc. did not originate from the maker, the image should be disqualified (DQ).

### **Critiquing**

- Provide a brief description of the positive aspects of the image followed by constructive criticism to improve the image.
- Provide a more detailed critique for the Beginner and Advanced images than for the Salon and Master images.
- For prints, base your comments and score only on the print image. Use the projected image of the print for explaining your comments.

**NOTE:** The club likes to use NJFCC and PSA judging criteria. If you are unfamiliar with these, a brief description of some of the main points are below. More information can be found at <https://www.nmra.org/national-photo-contest-judging-guidelines>

### **Technical Criteria**

1. Is the photograph properly exposed - too light or too dark?
2. Is the main subject in focus?
3. Is the depth of field shallow or deep? Does the depth of field work or should more or less of the image be in focus?

4. What type of color do you see? Are the colors too vivid or not vivid enough? Are the colors true?
5. Is the color balance correct?
6. Is there enough or too much contrast?
7. Is the horizon straight?
8. Are there visible traces of image manipulation?

### **Composition**

9. What is the center of interest in the photograph?
10. Did the photographer get close enough to the subject or does the photo include wasted parts that do not add to the message of the photograph?
11. Are there compositional elements that draw you into the photograph (leading lines, "S" curves)?
12. Is the composition dynamic (rule of thirds, diagonal lines)?
13. Is the background compatible with the main subject?
14. Are reflections, patterns, contrast, shadows, etc. properly dealt with?

### **Art**

15. How does the photograph make you feel?
16. Does the photograph create a mood, and if so, what is the mood?
17. Storytelling: An image that shows an action or an occurrence of things, such as weather, events, people, animals, etc.
18. For themed competitions; does the image strongly convey the theme to the viewer.