



# ESSENDON CAMERA CLUB Inc.

www.essendoncameraclub.org.au  
Incorporated association A0026596P

## Competition Rules – Revised Preliminary Jan 2026

### 1. Competitions

#### 1.1. Monthly

- 1.1.1. These competition rules become effective January 2026 until updated or replaced.
- 1.1.2. Monthly competitions will be in Three (3) Categories: **Open Digital, Print and Set Subject**.
- 1.1.3. The **Open Digital category** will be held in two (2) Levels: **A-Grade (Experienced)** and **B-Grade (Novice)**.
- 1.1.4. The **Print Category** will be held in two (2) sections: **A-Grade (Experienced)** and **Black & White (A or B Grade)**.
- 1.1.5. The **Set Subject Category** will be held in **only** one (1) format: **Digital**
- 1.1.6. A member is entitled to submit a **maximum of three (3) entries per monthly competition**. The entries can be distributed across any **of the** three (3) categories with a maximum of three (3) entries in Open Digital or Print. Only one entry is allowed in Set Subject (Digital).
- 1.1.7. The competition covers all **categories: -** Open, Print and Set Subject.
- 1.1.8. A Category covers: **Open Digital, Print or Set Subject**.
- 1.1.9. An Open Digital Level covers: **A-Grade (Experienced)** or **B-Grade (Novice)**
- 1.1.10. A Format covers: **Print or Digital**.

### 2. Eligibility

- 2.1. Only financial members may enter any competition. Non-financial members after the **28th of February** will not be able to enter, nor accrue competition points towards that year's **End of Year** Competition.
- 2.2. Camera course members are eligible to enter club competitions.

### 3. Categories

- 3.1.1. A member is not to submit the same image across **multiple** Categories or Levels in the same competition.
- 3.2. **Open Digital Levels - A-Grade (Experienced) and B-Grade (Novice)**

**In a photography competition with two levels, A-Grade and B-Grade, the terms can be defined as follows:**

| <b>A-Grade (Experienced Level):</b>  | <b>B-Grade (Novice Level):</b>   |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This category is designed for <b>experienced photographers</b> who have significant expertise in photography.</li><li>• Participants in this grade often demonstrate advanced technical skills, a deep understanding of composition, lighting, and post-processing techniques.</li><li>• They may have participated in competitions before, won awards, or</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This category is for <b>novice photographers</b> who are new to photography or have limited experience.</li><li>• Participants are still developing their skills and learning the fundamentals of photography, such as camera settings, composition, and creative vision.</li><li>• B-Grade is aimed at hobbyists, beginners, or those who may not yet</li></ul> |

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| <p>have professional experience in photography.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A-Grade photographers are expected to produce work that meets or exceeds industry standards.</li> </ul> | <p>feel ready to compete at a higher level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This level allows novices to compete against others with similar skill sets, fostering growth and confidence.</li> </ul> |
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These levels ensure fair competition by grouping photographers based on their experience and skill, creating a more balanced and rewarding contest for all participants.

### 3.2.1. A member can compete in **one level only**.

- **B-Grade** level can only compete in B-Grade level competitions
- **A-Grade** level can only compete in A-Grade level competitions.

A member may enter a **maximum of three (3) entries across the three (3) Categories (Open Digital, Print and Set Subject)** on any competition night.

A member that is of B-Grade Level and wins (1<sup>st</sup> place) in the End of Year Competition will be automatically upgraded to A-Grade.

A Member can be asked to move up a competition level if the Committee and the Competition Secretaries feel the member's photographic skill level and experience is above the level of competition they are currently entering. If the Competition Secretary feels a member is too advanced for the B-Grade level, they shall discuss this with the member directly, explaining that the member's skill and experience show that they should be competing in A-Grade level.

If the member disagrees, the Competition Secretary shall refer their concerns, including the outcome of discussions with the member, to the Committee and the Committee may move a motion for the member to be moved up a level. If this motion is passed, the member shall be moved up to A-Grade level and the Competition Secretary and member shall be informed.

### 3.2.2. Digital entries must conform to the standards outlined in paragraph 8.2.

## 3.3. Print

3.3.1 The print competition can be entered by any member in their respective Category of A Grade or B Grade. The competition is Open Subject. The rules for each category are:

- **B Grade (Small Format)** : The purpose of this category is to promote printing in its simplest and cheapest form to encourage members to print their photos. It is designed as the first step members can take towards printing to gain experience and knowledge in this format.
  - Photos may be printed by any means including photo printers
  - Photos may be mounted on a backing board no thicker than 5mm and may be matt board, foam core or any similar rigid, light weight material. These must be fixed using glue or double-sided tape.
  - Inclusion of a matt board frame on the front of the image is optional however, entries that **DO NOT INCLUDE A MATT** must be submitted in a clear, plastic sleeve to prevent damage to the print as well as other prints.
  - This category encourages smaller print sizes and members are encouraged to submit prints within the sizes of A4, 8x10 or 8x12. Officially the print size is restricted to a size no larger than 600 square centimetres (96 square inches) and is mounted simply onto a matt board no larger than 50cm by 40cm (20 by 16 inches)

- **A Grade : (Large Format):** The purpose of this category is for the more experienced print photographer who is most likely to create their own print and mount it themselves on high-quality well-prepared matt board. Whilst there is no requirement to physically print it themselves on their own printer, it is expected that the owner has played a major role in creating both the print and the mount to a high standard and reflects the current traditional method of large prints.

Maximum size is limited to 50cm by 40cm (20 by 16 inches) and it is expected (but not required) to be of a larger size than the Small Format. Large format prints would be expected to be used for multiple competitions both within and outside the club including Interclubs. Again, this format is open to all members of any level or category although it is certainly expected they would have or be developing significant experience in the traditional print format.

### 3.4. **Set Subject**

- 3.4.1. A member may enter a **maximum of One (1) entry** into the **Set Subject** category on any competition night.
- 3.4.2. Digital entries must conform to the standards outlined in paragraph 8.2.

## 4. **Minimum Number of Competition Entries**

- 4.1. There must be a minimum of **three (3) competitors** to constitute a competition.
- 4.2. If there are **less than three (3) competitors**, images will still be critiqued by the judge **without** placings being awarded. A submission point will still be awarded for each entry. The competitor's images can be resubmitted in future competitions subject to the restrictions of paragraph 9.

## 5. **Monthly Competition Scoring System**

### 5.1. **Points**

- 5.1.1. Points counting towards the yearly aggregates will be allocated to monthly competition winners on the following basis.
  - First 10 Points
  - Second 8 Points
  - Third 6 Points
  - Fourth 4 Points
  - Highly commended 2 Points (Number of HC placings is left to the judge's discretion)
  - Non-winning submission 1 Point

### 5.2. **Placings**

- 5.2.1. If two entries are judged as being equal in a competition, then each entry will be awarded the same **number** of points.

## 6. **Submission of Entries**

### 6.1. **All Entries**

- 6.1.1. All entries, Print and Digital, must be submitted electronically by midnight of the Saturday prior to the 4th Monday of each month.

- 6.1.2. **Print entries must have a Digital version** submitted electronically by the time outlined in 6.1.1. Prints are then to be handed to the Competition Secretary **by 9:00pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each Month**.
- 6.1.3. **Digital images** are to be uploaded online using PhotoContest Pro and completing all required input fields on the competition upload page - <http://www.photocontestpro.com/Login.aspx>
- 6.1.4. All entries must be the original photographic work of the maker, but may be digitally enhanced. **No part of the image**, however small it may be, **can be copied or imported from any source** other than the maker's original work.
- 6.1.5. The Competition Secretary reserves the right to reject, from competition, entries that do not meet any or all of the criteria listed in these Competition Rules or Set Subject Definitions.

## 7. Identification of Entries

### 7.1. Prints

- 7.1.1. A digital copy of the print must be provided on PhotoContestPro along with the print. Use the same procedure as the Digital, as per paragraph 7.2. Please ensure **you enter the correct format of entry** on PhotoContestPro.

- 7.1.2. All entries must be marked on the **rear of the print** with the Member Number; Title; Competition; and Directional Arrow (if necessary).

Members should also **indicate which Format a print** is to be submitted in; **Grade B (Small format) OR Grade A (Large Format)**. Example: Member: 30- Winning Snap - Large ↑

- 7.1.3. Prints must be in good condition and mounted in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 8.1 depending whether the print is a Small **F**ormat or a Large **F**ormat.
- 7.1.4. Digital images of print entries must be titled with the same title as the print and in accordance with the requirements for entering Digital images. Titles that do not match may not be accepted into the competition.

### 7.2. Digital

- 7.2.1. Files must be named with a logical title on the PhotoContest Pro competition page.

Example: 'Winning Snap'

- 7.2.2. Members must ensure entries are placed into the correct category and level. Images entered into the incorrect Category, Level or Set Subject may not be accepted into the competition.

## 8. Format of Entries

### 8.1. All Print Entries

- 8.1.1. **Grade B: (Small Format):** Maximum dimensions should not exceed a total area of 600 square centimetres (96 square inches). This allows for photos conforming to standard 3 by 2 ratios like 30.48 x 20.32cm (12 x 8 inches) and any other ratio including Panorama and square format images. So long as the width multiplied by the height does NOT EXCEED 600 cm (96 inches), the image will meet the size criteria.

The matt board may be any size up to 50.80 cm x 40.64 cm (20 x 16 inches) but is best if it is in proportion to the size of the image. Prints may simply be attached by glue, double sided tape or other suitable method to a

flat piece of matt board or can be inserted into a reusable matt board. A border around the print is optional e.g. A 30.48 x 20.32 cm (12 x 8 in) print can be secured to a 30.48 x 20.32 cm (12 x 8 in) matt with no border if desired. Ensure your print is in suitable condition so as not to damage other prints in the box, e.g. wet glue, exposed tape.

- 8.1.2. **Grade A : (Large Format)** : Maximum print dimensions should not exceed 50 cm x 40 cm (20 in x 16 in) and mounted on a board not exceeding 50 cm x 40 cm (20 in x 16 in). The matt board is expected to be of a suitable quality for Interclub or National competitions.

## 8.2. Digital Images

- 8.2.1. The maximum dimension is 1920 pixels x 1080 pixels in either portrait or landscape formats. In other words, the image must fit through a window 1920 x 1080.
- 8.2.2. Each image file must be in JPEG format and a maximum of 1.5 Megabytes in size.

## 9. Resubmission of Entries

- 9.1.1. A Print or Digital Image may not be entered more than three (3) times in monthly competitions.

There is no set period within which this must occur and entries may be resubmitted over several competition years. However, this does limit the total re-entries to 3 regardless of timeframe. This rule does not limit photos from being entered in competitions outside the ECC monthly competition, e.g, Interclub or VAPS.

## 10. Resubmission of winning entries

- 10.1. Any Print or Digital entry having won a 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th place in a competition is ineligible for entry in any subsequent monthly competition indefinitely (ie: forever).
- 10.2. Having won an award (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th place) for an image in a monthly competition, the member will not present a substantially similar image in subsequent competitions for the remainder of the calendar year.

### 10.3. Substantially Similar Images

- 10.3.1. A ruling on a 'Substantially Similar Image' will be determined at the discretion of the Competition Secretary. There is no differentiation between Print and Digital images.
- 10.3.2. An image may be defined as substantially similar if it contains similar content from another winning image. Some examples of substantially similar images are:
- A model in a similar pose, wearing the same outfit.
  - A landscape of the same scene at a similar time of day.
  - An object of the same type in a similar position.
  - A black and white version of the same colour image or a colour version of the same black and white image.

## 11. Use of Images

- 11.1. By entering monthly competitions, you are agreeing to allow Essendon Camera Club use of the images to display on its website, in the newsletter, and for entering into Interclub competitions. Copyright remains with the maker at all times.
- 11.2. If a member wishes to opt out of this agreement, they must do so in writing to the Competition Secretary.