

## Judging Standards for Photographs

The following guidelines are set out by PRPA for judging. We will be judging a PRPA competition on Tues. Jan 25, and it is **very important** that we judge according to these standards. These guidelines should be carried through to all of our judging.

Judges **MUST** consider the three components of any photography as outlined in the following points. The final score must be between 3 and 10 points. Half points may be awarded.

### 1. **INTERPRETATION AND COMPOSITION** (Score 1-3)

Is the photograph on the subject? When the subject is dictated and the photo is not on subject, it should not be judged. In place of a score on the judge's form, simply write – "*not on subject*".

Is the subject matter common or unique? If the subject is common, has it been treated in a fresh manner?

Is the arrangement of the visual elements effective? Is there a strong center of interest? Is the picture simple, complete, and without distractions? Is the background uncluttered?

Were rules of composition such as the rule of thirds, lines & triangles, textures and patterns, curves and leading lines, used effectively? If the rules were broken, was it to good effect?

### 2. **IMPACT** (Score 1-4)

A superior image should make a statement. Is there a strong mood or feeling? Is there a strong sense of purpose? Is there a story or a message to convey? Does it capture your attention and hold it?

### 3. **TECHNICAL SKILL** (Score 1-3)

Does the image exhibit superior technical knowledge and skill? Rules for proper photographic technique should be followed unless it is clear that the rule has been deliberately broken to strengthen the image's statement.

**Sharpness** – Is the image sharp? or intentionally soft?

**Depth of Field** – Are there any areas in the image which should be sharp? Was the correct aperture for the subject and focal length of the lens used? Are the eyes in a portrait (human or animal) sharp?

**Exposure and Contrast** – Is the picture correctly exposed? Examine highlight and shadow details; proper tones for snow, skin, fur, etc. Are the colours saturated or washed out? Are the lighting ratios correct or should fill light have been used?

**Colour** – Does the picture have correct colour, neutral colors or odd colour cast?

**Special Effects** – If special effects have been used, was the technique used with skill and purpose?

**Presentation of Photograph** – Presentation includes the title. While presentation is important, it will only be used to decide ties. Are there scratches or dust on the picture? Does the matting or mounting improve the photograph? Is the title appropriate and does it add to our understanding of the picture?