

Quick Tip #203 v2.0 (Oct 2018)

VCC Competition Judging Guidelines

Thank you for agreeing to judge images submitted to the VCC competitions. Our club uses a website created by Visual Pursuits to manage the competitions. This permits both Live and Remote Judging. The instructions for using the Remote Judging feature of the website are located in Quick Tip #201 on our website:

[QT#201 – How to Use Website Remote Judging](#)

In order to use the Remote Judging feature judges need a Visual Pursuits account. If you already have an account use it to login to VCC website. If you do not have a Visual Pursuits account one will be created for you. QT#201 discusses this in more detail.

There is an 11 minute help video on using Remote Judging that is recommended viewing. The link to it is in the QT#201 end note.

Judging Criteria

Judges are requested to consider the following criteria:

- Assess images in an objective and unbiased manner.
- Do not disqualify any image. The competition committee has already reviewed the submissions for eligibility.
- Be receptive to new concepts in photography. The issue is not whether the judge likes the technique, but whether it is well done.
- Score each photograph using the 20-point system described herein with whole numbers only - no decimal places. Please avoid giving all of the top images in a category the same score. We need to be able to determine a 1st, 2nd and 3rd placement.
- When assigning scores to an image remember that one of the objectives of competition is to encourage the members that are competing.

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- Comments should be worded in a way to help the maker improve their photographic skills. Although it is lovely to say “Great image”, we would like comments that help the members improve their photography.
- Be open to images that show inspiration, ingenuity or creativity through the use of new and different techniques or concepts.

Judging Environment

To obtain fair and consistent judging, the viewing environment should be standardized as much as possible so that all judges see the images as if they would be seated together in a projection environment. Without a standard, there can be a very wide variation in what individual judges see because of technological and environmental factors that often alter what the image maker intended. This, in turn, can drastically alter judging scores.

The following conditions are recommended for judging:

- Your monitor should have been [calibrated recently](#).
- [Viewing Distance](#) - The recommended viewing distance is a distance greater than twice the diagonal distance of the screen image. Viewing distance is quite important, particularly for large computer screens as the submitted images may be in a smaller size than the native screen resolution and if the viewing program or display driver resizes the image to fit the screen, then the image may look un-sharp or pixelated at close viewing distances. Judges in on-line situations should resist the temptation to go in close to inspect an image as this is not done in a projection environment.
- [Room Brightness](#) - Images must be viewed in a darkened room, similar that used for judging projected images. A non-darkened viewing environment will desaturate colours and weaken the visible dynamic range, particularly the blacks and dark areas of the image. This, in turn, will affect the impact of an image and consequently the score.

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Scoring

Score each image or print **out of 20**, using the suggestions below as a reference.

Light and exposure

0 - 1 = Badly or moderately over or under-exposed.

2 - 3 = Use of light is appropriate with some tolerance for exposure range.

4 - 5 = Use of light and exposure well-handled and absolutely correct with no obvious lighting problems.

6 = Light and exposure have been used effectively, beyond mere recording. The exposure may be deliberately unusual but correct, and the image shows skill in the use of light direction, character, and colour.

Sharpness

0 = The image is not sharp

1 = The overall image is acceptably in-focus but key areas are not sharp

2 = The subject area is sharp. Blurred areas are an enhancement or not a fault.

Composition and Design

0 - 2 = Composition is careless with significant distractions. Design is not apparent or not satisfactory.

3 - 5 = Composition and design are satisfactory. Distractions may be apparent but not dominant.

6 = The organization of the elements is critical to the success of the image. Composition and design are both without fault or distraction.

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Mood, Impact, Subject Matter

0 - 3 = The image has little emotional appeal and fails to convey an objective.

4 - 5 = The subject conveys a sense of place or an event and the theme is accurately rendered. There is an automatic emotional response.

6 = The image is powerful and evokes an immediate emotional response which is strong and lasting. The subject matter is well selected and portrayed.

Intermediate & Advanced Images

At these levels photographers are expected to be technically proficient and their images should include the following elements:

Intermediate	Advanced
Good camera technique	Very Good camera technique
Good composition	Very Good composition
Good use of colour, tone or hue	Very Good use of colour, tone or hue
Good use of light, movement	Very Good use of light, movement
Clearly defined subject	Clearly defined subject
Subject impact (wow factor)	Subject impact (wow factor)
Some Creativity	Creativity
Good post-processing technique	Exceptional post-processing technique

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NOTE: As a club we are attempting to bring more attention to the importance of composition, so comments relating to composition are appreciated.

Nature – Split into Natural World & Wildlife

Our club has chosen to split Nature into 2 categories – Wildlife and Natural World. For our Natural World and Wildlife Competitions, VCC will follow the CAPA definition established on January 1, 2015 by: Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP); the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and The Royal Photographic Society (RPS). Images have been vetted by our competitions committee and are deemed acceptable.

Once you have finished all your judging and awards. Please notify the club at:

competitions@victoriacameraclub.ca

If you require assistance with any aspect of the judging process please use the same email address.

On behalf of the Victoria Camera Club, thank you for all your efforts.