



2023-24

OCCC INTERCLUB OPEN CHALLENGE RULES & GUIDELINES

Version	Release Date	Description of change
Version 23.1	June 1 2023	Release of completed 2023-24 version.
		- Update Theme Topic to "Food & Drink" Page 9
		- Updated Dates & Timelines
		- Reduced entry cost from \$3 to \$2 each. Page 3
		- Added AI stipulation. Page 4
		- Updated Club List and Club Codes. Page 12
Version 23.2	August 2 2023	Date Year update Page 3
Version 23.3	November 19, 2023	Schedule Update
Version 23.4	January 22, 2024	Submission Date Changed to May 1 st , 2024
		Updated Club Codes for new Clubs
Version 23.5	January 28, 2024	Category Numbering Fixed

NOTE:

When updating or correcting this file please document the change in this table together with affected page number. Also, update the version number and release date in the document footer.

Versions should be:

1.0 – DRAFT rewrite

Version 19.0 – 2019 Rules, 19.1, 19.2, 19.3, etc. will represent changes within the same competition year.

Version 20.0 – 2020 Rules, etc.

Version 21.0 – 2021 Rules, etc.

Questions and inquiries about contest rules can be emailed to competitions@o3c.ca

Recommendations for changes and modifications can be emailed to competitions@o3c.ca

Please obtain the latest version of these guidelines available on the O3C OLIS site at <https://olis.o3c.ca/>

INTRODUCTION:

Competition Purpose

The goal of this competition follows OCCC's mandate to promote the art of photography by encouraging O3C Clubs, and their Club members, to share and showcase their art among peers. Clubs, and their members, may be recognized through various individual and club awards.

This is a Club centric Competition and not open to individual member submissions.

Judging

- Images will be judged on overall impact, composition, technical excellence, originality and artistic merit.
- Judging will be conducted individually online with final tie breaks & awards in a group deliberation
- Judging will consist of scores only, 0-10, in half point increments. No comments
- Each category will be judged by a team of 4 judges with the final total consisting of the 3 highest scores
- OCCC strives to achieve excellence in judging. All judges are accredited O3C Judges.

Disclaimer

- The most current version of this document shall be considered the Official Rules. None of the Rules & Guidelines from previous competitions carry over to this year's competition. To ensure you always have the most current version, please reference the **O3C OLIS site at: <https://olis.o3c.ca/>**.
- All decisions of the OCCC and its Judges are final.
- Disqualified images will not receive a reimbursement of the entrance fee.
- OCCC will take all reasonable steps to protect the integrity of all entries; however, we cannot assume responsibility for damage to any entry, howsoever caused.
- Any or all entries may be presented with or without entrant identification at the Awards Presentation. However, because of time and space constraints, the OCCC reserves the right to not display or present all images.
- By submitting an image to this competition, the entrant warrants that he or she is the rightful owner and exclusive author of the image and grants the following non-exclusive rights and permissions to the OCCC, specifically that:
 - The image may be displayed on any media for the purposes of competition judging and may be displayed without restriction in any subsequent presentations by the OCCC.
 - The maker retains ownership of the image and all other rights to its subsequent use.
 - Gives the OCCC express approval for use of images in publication, education purposes, presentation and/or use in promotional material for the OCCC.
 - By submitting content, you acknowledge and agree to the terms.

OCCC Interclub Open Challenge Rules & Guidelines

Important Dates

January 2024	Data Manager to send out Submission Information Package to Club Reps. Instructions to fill our Member/Club Forms and Instructions to upload files.
January 2024 (Mid)	Zoom Q&A Session with Comp Committee and Clubs to address any questions
February-March 2024	Open Challenge Promos, Acquire Judges
May 1, 2024	Submission Date for digital images. All digital files are to be uploaded by Club Reps to OCCC by 11:00 pm.
May 1, 2024	All entry fees are due at the OCCC together with copy of the Club's completed Consolidated Entry Form. Option of Paypal Invoice or eTransfer to treasurer@o3c.ca
May 2024	File Prep & Administration, Online Judging of Digital Entries
June-Aug 2024	Tie Breaks & Award Assignments (Closed session with Judges) Create AV Shows & Show Options (Live or Online)
Sept/Oct 2024	Tentative Awards Day (to be confirmed). Location TBA. Or this may be a Virtual Event
Note:	Timelines subject to change based on number of entries received.

CATEGORY SUBMISSION STANDARDS

Entry Eligibility

The OCCC Interclub Open Challenge (hereafter referred to as "the Competition") is open to members of OCCC Member Clubs. This is a Club centric Competition and not open to individual member submissions.

Entry Fee

The entry fee for digital and print entries is \$2 per image. No Discounts. Entry fees to be submitted to the O3C Treasurer by the deadline date. Paypal invoicing or eTransfers to treasurer@o3c.ca Attn: Bill Traynor.

Number of Entries per Maker

The total number of allowable images for each entrant is limited to a **maximum of twelve images** constrained by:

- A maximum of 12 entries can be submitted into any category.
- No entrant shall submit more than 12 images regardless of the number of clubs to which the entrant belongs. If the maker exceeds these limits by submitting through more than one club the entrant will be disqualified from entering images for the current competition year.
- The maker is not required to enter multiple categories unless they are competing for the Diversity Photographer of the Year Award.

Method of Entry Submission

All entries are to be submitted on behalf of the O3C Member Club. An individual club member cannot enter or submit independently to this competition.

- The O3C Data Manager will supply the Club Reps with an Instruction Package detailing entry forms and file upload instructions by January 2024
- Please consult with the Data Manager if alternate means of submission are required
- All entries must be uploaded to the Data Manager by the deadline date
- Will use free version of WeTransfer to send images to the Data Manager

Use of AI / Artificial Intelligence

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) assisted enhancement tools are available to the maker in many software applications used to post process images. Examples include sky replacement, sharpening, object selection, object removal, auto correction, neural filters, etc. These types of AI enhancements used for productivity in post processing are acceptable to use on original images for competition submissions if the majority of the image is still evident when compared to the original RAW file. Any replacement imagery must be the maker's own work and not part of the supplied program/plug-in (e.g., stock sky replacement images).
- However, 100% AI generated images from Text-to-Image Generative processes where the original image is not recognizable, drastically altered or is only a small portion of the final image are not allowed.
- Should there be a question about an image's inappropriate use of AI, the Competition Committee will give the member the opportunity to submit their RAW/Jpeg files that were used to produce the submitted image or risk disqualification.

Digital Manipulation

- Some Competition categories allow Digital Manipulation, and some do not. Full details regarding digital manipulation are found in the category descriptions. It is recommended that makers read the descriptions carefully to obtain a clear understanding of how much, if any, digital manipulation is allowed in each category. Full details and examples of acceptable allowances are noted in the category description.

Image Qualification

- Images submitted may not be the same as, or substantially similar to, another image submitted to an OCCC competition in a current year or any previous year's categories either as a digital image or a print. This includes images submitted under OCCC's previous name, the Greater Toronto Council of Camera Clubs (GTCCC), and images previously disqualified for any reason.
- Monochrome images are acceptable in all categories.

Initial Vetting of Images

- All submitted images are be vetted by the submitting Club/Club Reps for eligibility in category.
- Image file names to be follow category convention or else they may be rejected
- Images that do not fit the category are at risk of disqualification
- Judges will also have authority to determine out of category images for disqualification

Honour System

- For all entries, the original image and all image elements including digital manipulation and post processing must be the work of the entrant. Original images made in workshops without significant ownership and control of the entrant may be disqualified from the competition, e.g. the maker must have directed the model, the lighting, positioning and had full control over camera settings.
- All winning and accepted entries may be reviewed to ascertain if an image is authentic to the maker or sourced from elsewhere, whether in whole or part. The OCCC reserves the right to request a maker's RAW, or other out of camera files, before awarding any prizes. If RAW files are not supplied in a timely manner, then the entry will be eliminated from the competition.
- It is the maker's responsibility to abide by the morals and principles of this competition.

Naming / Titling of Entries:

- Architecture, Pictorial, People, Creative Vision, Expansive Views, People in Action and Print Entries can be named as it suits the maker.
- For Birds, Animals, Botany and Landscapes/Geology the titles should be the common or scientific name of the subject. However, descriptive names as it pertains to the subject are allowed. Refrain from giving pictorial like names to images in Nature categories.
 - **Acceptable:** "Northern Blue Jay" or "Cyanocitta Cristata", or "Blue Jay Preening Chick".
 - **Not acceptable:** "Blue & White Splendor".
- No image may display any titling or maker identification that could serve to identify the maker or club.

Image Identification

- Each digital file and print must meet the OCCC Image Identification requirements and include your Club Code, Maker ID#, Category Code and Sequence Number. Category Codes can be found in the Category & Abbreviations section and Club Codes are on the last page of this document.
- Your Club Representative is responsible for applying the identifier for each image entry, but may request entrants apply the identifier to the filename before submitting the file to the rep.
- Image Identifier:
 - The image identifier consists of 9 upper case characters, for example, RH160PD01. The code structure consists of the following, sequentially:
 - **Club Code:** 2-alpha characters which identify your club [Reference: last page of this document],
 - **Entrant Number:** 3-numeric characters which is your individual maker # which your club rep assigns, and includes leading 0's as necessary,
 - **Category Code:** 2-alpha characters [Reference: Categories & Abbreviations section]
 - **Sequence #:** 2 numeric characters that identify your 1st to 12th image, includes leading 0's as necessary.

Examples:

- TP005PR02: Trillium PC, maker #005, Print, entry number 02,
- CC028PR11: Chinese Canadian PS, maker #028, Print, entry number 11,
- ET121PD12: Etobicoke CC, maker #121, Pictorial, entry number 12,
- RH130AR01: Richmond Hill, maker #130, Architecture, entry number 01.

Image Sizing:

- Recommended image size is: 1920 wide x 1080 high.
 - Images may reasonably exceed, or be less than the above recommended dimensions, without concern. The objective is to maintain the highest image and presentation quality.
 - Images that do not meet the 1920Wx1080H requirements will be resized automatically to fit.
- Image format: 8 bit, JPG, sRGB colour space.

Use of Image or Keyline Borders

Digital Entries

- Decorative borders such as digital picture frames are only allowed in the Pictorial category where a decorative border may be an intrinsic part of the image and it adds to the image story.
- Artistic borders such as torn edges, antique edges, grunge borders, film edges, etc. are allowed in all categories except Nature categories (Birds, Animals and Botany and Landscape/Geology).
- Keyline borders such as 1 or 2 pixel borders are allowed in any category. However, they are usually only needed for images with dark backgrounds where they can help the viewer see where the actual image frame is to judge composition. The Keyline would usually be a lighter or complimentary colour to the image.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Overview

- The Open Challenge has a total of 11 (eleven) categories comprised of digital images only for 2024.
- Any image that fails to meet the criteria of the category may be declared ineligible and could be disqualified from the competition.
- To maximize the scoring potential, the member should take care to ensure the image is strong in the category to which it is entered.
- The topic of the Theme Category will change each year and OCCC invites all members to submit topic suggestions.

Categories & Abbreviations

Category	Category Type	Abbreviation	Category Title
1.	Digital	BR	Nature Birds
2.		AN	Nature Animals
3.		BO	Nature Botany
4.		LG	Nature Landscape / Geology
5.		EV	Expansive Views
6.		PE	People
7.		PA	People in Action
8.		AR	Architecture
9.		PD	Pictorial
10.		CV	Creative Vision
11.	Theme (Digital)	TH	Theme Topic – “Food & Drink”

Category Descriptions

1. *Nature Birds*

- This category is open to any type of bird, domesticated or wild.
 - E.g. ducks, geese, herons, raptors, song birds, sea and shore birds, etc.
- Images may be shot in a studio, zoo setting or in the wild.
- Artificial backgrounds ARE permitted either in studio or the wild.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed as long as the results look natural.
- Large areas of black/solid/manipulated background are permissible.
- Hand of Man is allowed.
- No artificial or taxidermy specimens.

2. Nature Animals

- This category is open to any type of animal; domesticated or wild.
 - E.g. mammals, amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates, crustaceans, fish, insects, family pets, etc.
- Images may be shot in a studio, zoo setting or in the wild.
- Artificial backgrounds ARE permitted either in studio or the wild.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed as long as the results look natural.
- Large areas of black/solid/manipulated background are permissible.
- Hand of Man is allowed.
- No artificial or taxidermy specimens

3. Nature Botany

- This category is open to any type of botany subject whether wild or cultivated.
 - E.g. flowers of any type, mushrooms, trees, seed pods, etc.
- Image may be shot in a studio or in the field.
- Artificial backgrounds ARE permitted either in studio or the wild.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed as long as the results look natural.
- Large areas of black/solid/manipulated background are permissible.
- Hand of Man is allowed.
- No artificial or taxidermy specimens

4. Nature Landscapes & Geology, no HOM

- Landscapes, Seascapes, Skyscapes, Natural phenomena, Geology, Astronomy
 - Landscape is described as an expanse of scenery that can be seen in a single view.
 - Seascape is described as an expanse of water in which the water or waves predominate. Coastal features or the shoreline may be included.
- Natural Phenomena refers to an observable event which is not man-made
 - Examples include: sunrise, weather, tornadoes, biological processes, decomposition, germination, physical processes, frost, ice patterns, snowflakes, wave propagation, erosion, tidal flow and natural disasters such as electromagnetic pulses, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed as long as the results look natural.
- **No Hand of Man is allowed.**

5. Expansive Views, HOM allowed

- Landscapes, Seascapes, Skyscapes, Natural phenomena, Geology, Astronomy
 - Landscape is described as an expanse of scenery that can be seen in a single view.
 - Seascape is described as an expanse of water in which the water or waves predominate. Coastal features or the shoreline may be included.
- Natural Phenomena refers to an observable event which is not man-made
 - Examples include: sunrise, weather, tornadoes, biological processes, decomposition, germination, physical processes, frost, ice patterns, snowflakes, wave propagation, erosion, tidal flow and natural disasters such as electromagnetic pulses, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed as long as the results look natural.
- **Hand of Man is allowed.**

6. *People*

- This category is limited to images of human subjects only as the primary subject
 - E.g. Portraits, Group Portraits, Environmental Portraits, Photo Journalism, Posed or Candid, etc.
- Can be photographed in a studio setting or any other environment.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed as long as the results look natural. If the image is highly *or* creatively altered it may be more suitable in the **Creative Vision** category.

7. *People in Action*

- This category must include a person, or a group of people, engaged in an activity depicting physical motion. This can be related to sports, hobbies or leisurely activities where the activity is represented as the principle subject.
 - E.g. running, canoeing, bicycle riding, car or boat racing, etc.,
 - The intent is to show a person in obvious motion or action, not merely engaged in an activity in which the motion is passive or slow. Such images should be submitted to the People Category
- A physical person, or evidence of a person, must be present in the image.
 - It is not required that the person's face be visible if it is clear that there is a person engaged in an activity in which there is obvious action taking place. E.g. a skier in full gear, race car driver with helmet visible through window, a racing vehicle (such as a car or boat) would be eligible as long as there is clear evidence of a person.
 - If a driver is not visible, the entry would be ineligible
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed as long as the results look natural. If the image is highly *or* creatively altered it may be more suitable in the **Creative Vision** category.

8. *Architecture*

- This category is limited to images of any architectural manmade structure.
- The subject must be a significant aspect of a landscape or cityscape.
 - E.g. building exteriors/interiors, architectural details, bridges, piers, etc.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed although the intent is that images look natural. If the image is highly *or* creatively altered, including HDR images, it may be more suitable in the **Creative Vision** category.

9. *Pictorial*

- This category comprises subject matter that does not fall into any other category.
 - E.g. Still life and tabletop photography, food, man-made objects, transportation, urban or rural life
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed. If the image is highly *or* creatively altered it may be more suitable in the **Creative Vision** category.

10. *Creative Vision*

- This category is limited to highly creative and artistic images.
 - E.g. altered reality, abstracts, graphical designs, conceptual art, composites, montages, etc.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed.
- Use of artistic filters or processing is acceptable and is, of course, encouraged.

11. Annual Theme – “Food & Drink”

- The subject of the 2023-24 Annual Theme category is “**Food & Drink**”.
- For this competition we are allowing food and/or drink subjects
- Main subject should be focused on the physical food and/or drink elements
- The main subject must be of a consumable element
- Food and/or beverages can be shot indoors or outdoors as the situation allows. It can be shot at a residence, store, restaurant, bar, etc.
- There are no restrictions on techniques used
- Images where food and/or drink may be implied but not visible are disallowed
- Any form of post processing and image manipulation is allowed

Note: The Print Category has been removed until further notice.

AWARDS

All images are eligible for individual awards by category. Additionally, individual image scores are used to determine club awards, the Freedman Trophy for the top scoring club, the Diversity Photographer of the Year and Specialist Photographer of the Year winners.

Accepted Entries

- Accepted entries represent approximately the top scoring 25-30% of the entries in each category.
- Accepted entries will be included in the Awards Night video.

Honourable Mentions

- Honourable Mentions comprise approximately 10-15% of the accepted entries.

Individual Category Awards

In each of the 11 categories there will be a maximum of three top awards and a quantity of Honourable Mentions. A maker can only be awarded one top award per category. In the event of a tie, the judges will identify the winner. However, a maker will retain all points on images if a subsequent award has to be given to the next entrant with the next highest scoring entry.

- The three top awards in each category will be:
 - one first-place
 - one second-place
 - one third-place
 - plus, Honourable Mentions
- First, Second and Third place award winners will receive a Certificate and a Medal
- Honourable Mention award winners will receive a Certificate.

Club Category Awards

- Awarded to the top scoring club in each of the 11 categories. Top scoring clubs are determined by summing the highest score, from 6 different makers in each club, for each category. If there is a tie, then the highest score by 7 different makers determines the winning club, etc., until a clear winner is determined.
- Club category award winners will receive a Certificate.

The Freedman Trophy

- The **FREEDMAN TROPHY** is awarded to the top scoring club overall in the competition. The summation of the highest score by 12 different makers in each club, regardless of category, determines the Freedman Trophy winning club. If there is a tie, then the highest score by 13 different makers determines the winning club, etc., until a clear winner is determined.
- Freedman Trophy winner receives a plaque.

Photographer(s) of the Year

- **Diversity Photographer of the Year**
 - There are 11 digital categories. To be eligible for the Diversity Photographer of the Year award, the entrant **must submit at least one image in ten of the eleven digital categories including at least one in the Theme Topic**. A minimum of 10 entries is required in total.
 - The winner is the entrant scoring the highest total point count for their top scoring 10 submissions. If the entrant submits more than 10 images, only their top scoring 10 digital images will be considered. Each top scoring digital image must be from a different category.
 - If two or more entrants tie for the highest total point count, as per the criteria, multiple entrants can win the title of Diversity Photographer of the Year.
 - *Diversity Photographer of the Year* winner(s) receives a plaque.
- **Specialist Photographers of the Year**
 - Recognizing that there are many outstanding photographers whose excellence lies in a limited sphere of categories; this award recognizes photographers with the highest total score based on their top 6 scoring images within one category.
 - Each of the 11 categories in the Open Challenge can have a Specialist for a total of 11 Specialists
 - If two or more entrants tie for the highest total score, as per the criteria, multiple entrants can win the title of Diversity Photographer of the Year.
 - It is possible for one entrant to win *Specialist Photographer of the Year* in two separate categories.
 - OCCC reserves the right to withhold awards if there are less than 3 candidates eligible in a category.
 - *Specialist Photographer* winners will receive Medals

The 2023-24 Open Challenge Competition Committee:

Randy Nickerson, O3C Competitions Chair

Bharat Mistry, O3C Past President

Rob Viau, O3C Data Manager

Ron Pettitt, Kingston Photographic Club

Additional Support by: Jim Camelford, RHCC

OCCC MEMBER CLUBS & CLUB CODES

Note: The following table is for quick reference and represents all OCCC member clubs at time of publication. New clubs should use their approved code in submissions.

#	Current Clubs	Club Code:
1	Ajax PC	AJ
2	Barrie Photography Club	BA
3	Beach PC	BE
4	Brant Camera Club	BR
5	Brockville Area Photo Club	BV
6	Chinese Canadian PS	CC
7	Don Mills CC	DM
8	Durham East Photography Club	DE
9	Etobicoke CC	ET
10	Focal Forum (Toronto)	FF
11	Georgian Bay Photography Club	GB
12	Grand River Imaging & Photographic Society	GR
13	Grimsby PG	GP
14	Guelph Photographers Guild	GU
15	Haliburton Highlands CC	HA
16	Hamilton Camera Club	HC
17	Highland Glen CC	HG
18	Jiahua Elite Photography Ass'n - JEPA	JE
19	Kingston Photographic Club	KP
20	Latow PG	LP
21	Lightchasers Photographic Society	LS
22	London Camera Club	LC
23	Midland District Camera Club	MD
24	Mississauga CC	MI
25	Oakville Camera Club	OK
26	Orleans Photo Club	OP
27	Oshawa CC	OC
28	Photo Arts Club of Newmarket	NM
29	Photo Historical Society Canada	PH
30	Port Franks & Area Camera Club	PF
31	Richmond Hill CC	RH
32	Sarnia Photographic Club	SP
33	Scarborough CC	SC
34	Toronto CC	TC
36	Toronto Digital Photography	TD
37	Trillium PC	TP
38	Windsor CC	WC
39	Woodstock CC	WS