



HUPS Photo Contest Rules

Rules are effective from 1 January 2022

Table of Contents

Novice Division Rules.....3

Intermediate Division Rules.....3

Advanced Division Rules.....3

Image File Format, Color Profiles & Editing that is acceptable.....4

 Image file formats and color profiles.....4

 Photo editing adjustments that are acceptable.....4

 Photo editing adjustments that are not acceptable.....4

Image Dimensions and File Size4

 Maximum Vertical dimension.....4

 Maximum Horizontal dimension.....4

 Maximum file size.....4

File Naming Format.....5

 File name format.....5

 Examples.....5

Submitting Entries.....5

Restrictions6

Judging.....7

 Criteria7

Presentation7

Contesting the Results8

HUPS Photographer of the Year9

Use of Images.....9

Novice Division Rules

Photography is a hobby.

Have never taken best of show or 1st - 3rd in national or international photographic competitions.

Has not been a "HUPS Photographer of the Year".

Has not won a "Best of HUPS" contest.

Has not advanced to the Intermediate Category.

Intermediate Division Rules

Photography is a hobby.

Have never taken best of show or 1st - 3rd in national or international photographic competitions.

Has won "HUPS Photographer of the Year" in the Novice category.

Has not been a "HUPS Photographer of the Year" in the Intermediate or Advanced categories.

Has demonstrated intermediate level skills.

Has not advanced to the Advanced Category.

Advanced Division Rules

Photography is a hobby or profession.

Has won "HUPS Photographer of the Year" in the Intermediate category.

Have taken best of show or 1st-3rd in national or international photographic competitions.

Has demonstrated advanced level skills.

Club members who have won Photographer of the Year in the Advanced category will continue to be eligible to compete in future year's Advanced competitions.

Image File Format, Color Profiles & Editing that is acceptable

Image file formats and color profiles

Only digital formatted images are acceptable.

JPG

JPEG

Color profile – sRGB

Photo editing adjustments that are acceptable.

Any digital image may be manipulated electronically (globally or locally) to improve its photographic qualities.

Photo editing adjustments that are not acceptable.

Compositing, adding, removing, or moving content is not allowed, except for cropping and back-scatter removal which are allowed. These restrictions do not apply when the category is Creative.

Image Dimensions and File Size

Maximum Vertical dimension

Up to 1080 pixels

Maximum Horizontal dimension

Up to 1920 pixels

Maximum file size

1 MB

If images do not meet the above criteria, or if they are not consistent with the category description, they will not be considered for judging. Photographers who submit a photograph that is rejected will be notified and permitted to resubmit a conforming photograph (time permitting), which must be received before the contest deadline.

File Naming Format

File name format

At a minimum, the file name of your photo needs to have the initial of your First name + your Last name + a number (1, 2, or 3). After that you can add a small amount of additional info to help you identify it. If it's too many characters they will get truncated.

Examples

JDoe1.jpg

JDoe 2.jpg

JDoe_3.jpg

JDoe-3.jpg

JDoe 3 big fish.jpg

Submitting Entries

You must be an active HUPS member.

Up to a maximum of three (3) entries per monthly photo contest.

Deadline for submitting is by 11:59 pm on the Wednesday prior to the meeting.

Photos submitted after this deadline may be accepted by the contest Chairperson, at his or her discretion and availability.

E-mail your entries as attachments to HUPS_Photo_Contest@googlegroups.com

You do not have to be present at the monthly meeting to participate.

From time to time it may be necessary, at the discretion of the Photo Contest Coordinator, to reduce the number of entries from three to two or even one per photographer in one or more of the entry categories.

Restrictions

Images must be captured underwater using a digital or film camera.

No aquarium or pool shots; unless a monthly contest topic specifies such.

Photographs with divers stressing marine life will be disqualified.

Entries that have won 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, in previous HUPS contests, or any major competition are ineligible. The only exceptions are permitted during the Best of HUPS night at the December meeting.

Images may not display copyright or any other identifying markings (except for the December contest).

Images will be disqualified if in the opinion of the Photo Contest Coordinator and monthly judges, the images do not meet the monthly subject matter, or do not meet one of the aforementioned rules. If possible this should occur early in the cycle, to allow time to resubmit a replacement photo.

1) Theme definitions should be clear and unambiguous. Fish or creature types should be defined by clear taxonomic names, rather than common names.

2) Each Photo Submitter should become familiar with fish/creature identification to better understand what qualities. If not sure, ask someone.

3) The Photo Contest Coordinator should be familiar with fish/creature identification to find non-qualified photos as early as possible.

4) The Photo Contest Judges will also look for non-qualified photos and notify the Photo Contest Coordinator, but this is too late to resubmit.

5) A contestant (or anyone else) can notify the Photo Contest Coordinator if they find a non-qualified photo, for up to two months after the Photo Contest results have been published. (see Contesting the Results on page 8)

If a contestant wishes to appeal a disqualification, they can contact the Photo Contest Coordinator.

Judging

The Photo Contest Coordinator will create a slide show from the submitted images for each category of photographer and will make it available to judges.

All contest judging will be performed by a permanent panel of up to six qualified judges (minimum of three) selected by the HUPS Photo Contest Coordinator. Each image will be anonymous to the judges.

The judges will independently rate the Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced entries on a scale from 1-10 (fractional points allowed) and return their votes to the HUPS Photo Contest Coordinator for tabulation before the Monday meeting.

The image winning the most points in each category will win 1st place.

The second most points will be 2nd place.

The third most points will be 3rd place.

Ties will be awarded for photos having the same number of points.

Criteria

Adherence to the month's contest topic description.

Technical image quality - sharpness, exposure, and lighting.

Composition.

Impact, drama.

Degree of difficulty.

Presentation

The Photo Contest Coordinator will create a slide show from the submitted images for each category of photographer and will present it at the monthly meeting.

The Photo Contest Coordinator will also create a winner's image slide show identifying the photographer.

After the meeting, contest results will be posted on the HUPS website, Facebook, and/or newsletter.

Contesting the Results

If a member wishes to question the results of a contest, they must submit their complaint in writing to the Photo Contest Coordinator or any club officer.

The complaint must include:

- Complainant's name,
- Questionable image,
- Nature of complaint (indicating rule broken),
- Proof behind complaint.

The Photo Contest Coordinator will review the complaint, and if they find merit, they may disqualify the image.

If a first, second, or third place winning image is disqualified, the photographer will receive no points for that image, and the image(s) with the next higher point total(s) will be declared the first, second, or third place winner.

HUPS Photographer of the Year

A Photographer of the Year is recognized in each of the Photo Contest entry categories: Novice, Intermediate and Advanced.

Each month the judges' scores are totaled to determine First, Second, and Third place winners. There are no extra points for winning or placing. The monthly scores are normalized for 3 judges and go into a running total for Photographer of the Year for each person.

The "active" HUPS member in each category accumulating the most points from January through November will be the HUPS Photographer of the Year in that category.

To qualify for a Photographer of the Year, one must be a member in good standing and "active" in the club by participating in three (3) meetings or workshops or a combination of both in the year of the contest, or has participated in an annual HUPS trip within the current or previous year of the contest, or has participated as a member of the Executive Committee, or has given a presentation at a monthly meeting, or has contributed to the club in some other meaningful way. Once a member has qualified, they will be grandfathered in for any subsequent year if they move away from the area and cannot attend the meetings or participate in the trips.

Members in good standing who do not meet this standard may enter monthly contests, but they will not qualify for Photographer of Year. If during the year, a member does fulfill the standard, they will be able to compete for the current year's award.

The Photographer of the Year award will be presented at the TGCC Banquet.

The award includes a Banquet ticket for the award recipient.

Use of Images

Persons entering a contest, including those with winning digital images agree to allow HUPS to retain and use the images in the newsletter, social media, and on the web page, or for other club-sponsored activities.

HUPS agrees, in return, to not abuse this privilege by marketing the image in any form, and will use it in promotional literature only with the advance consent of the photographer owning the image and with full recognition of said ownership of image(s).