



Keeping Camera Clubs Active

Organized by
NECCC.org

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November 18, 2021

Group.NECCC.org

Keeping Clubs Active



Share and learn from other clubs



You decide what is best for your club



Just do it!

*A group of camera club members
with similar interests, goals, and
concerns*

Tonight's Agenda

7:00 – Informal conversations as people join

7:30 – Meeting kickoff – Chane Cullens

7:35 – NECCC Hot Topic – Rhonda Cullens

7:40 – Competition best practices with Gateway Camera Club

No meeting over the holidays.

Next meeting is January 20th 2022

Club Competition Survey

<https://w.neccc.org/neccc-competitions-survey/>

Thank You!

34 clubs
completed the
survey!

* 8 clubs
contributed info
on their
competitions!

1. Assabet Valley Camera Club
2. Boston Camera Club
3. Camera Club of Oxford Greens
4. Candlewood Camera Club
5. Cape Cod Daytime Camera Club
6. Cape Cod Viewfinders Camera Club
7. Castle Craig Camera Club
8. CC of Oxford Greens
9. Charter Oak Photographic Society *
10. Connecticut Valley Camera Club
11. Cranberry Country Camera Club
12. Eastern Maine Camera Club
13. Flagpole Photographers *
14. Gateway Camera Club *
15. Greater Lynn Photographic *
16. Hockomock Digital Photographers *
17. Housatonic Camera Club *
18. Litchfield hills camera club
19. Manchester Camera Club
20. Merrimack Valley Camera Club
21. Nashoba Valley Photo Club
22. New Haven CC
23. Photographers Forum Camera Club of Nashua
24. PSRI
25. Quail Ridge Camera Club
26. Quiet Corner Camera Club
27. Seacoast Camera Club
28. Seven Hills Camera Club
29. Simsbury Camera Club *
30. South Shore Camera Club
31. Springfield Photographic Society *
32. Wallingford Camera Club
33. Westchester Photographic Society (NYMACC)
34. Anonymous

Survey Has Four Areas

Scored Competitions
and Non-scored
Comment-only
Activities, Judges

Competition Attributes
(Scoring Range,
Comments ...)

How to Choose a Score
Guidelines (What Makes
a Photo a 7 or a 9)

How to Comment
Guidelines (What to Say
or Not Say to Help the
Photographer)

Survey Has Four Areas

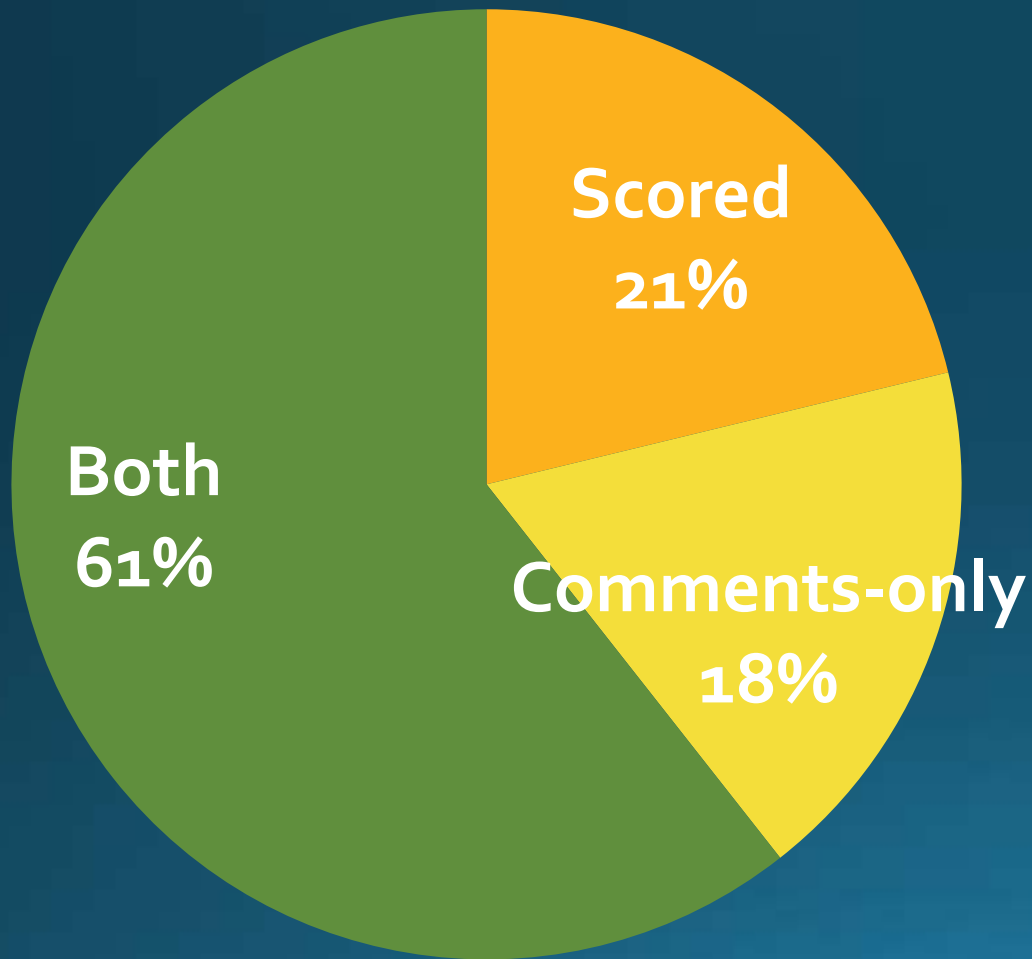
Scored Competitions
and Non-scored
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Scored Competitions and Non-scored Comment-only Activities



Survey Questions

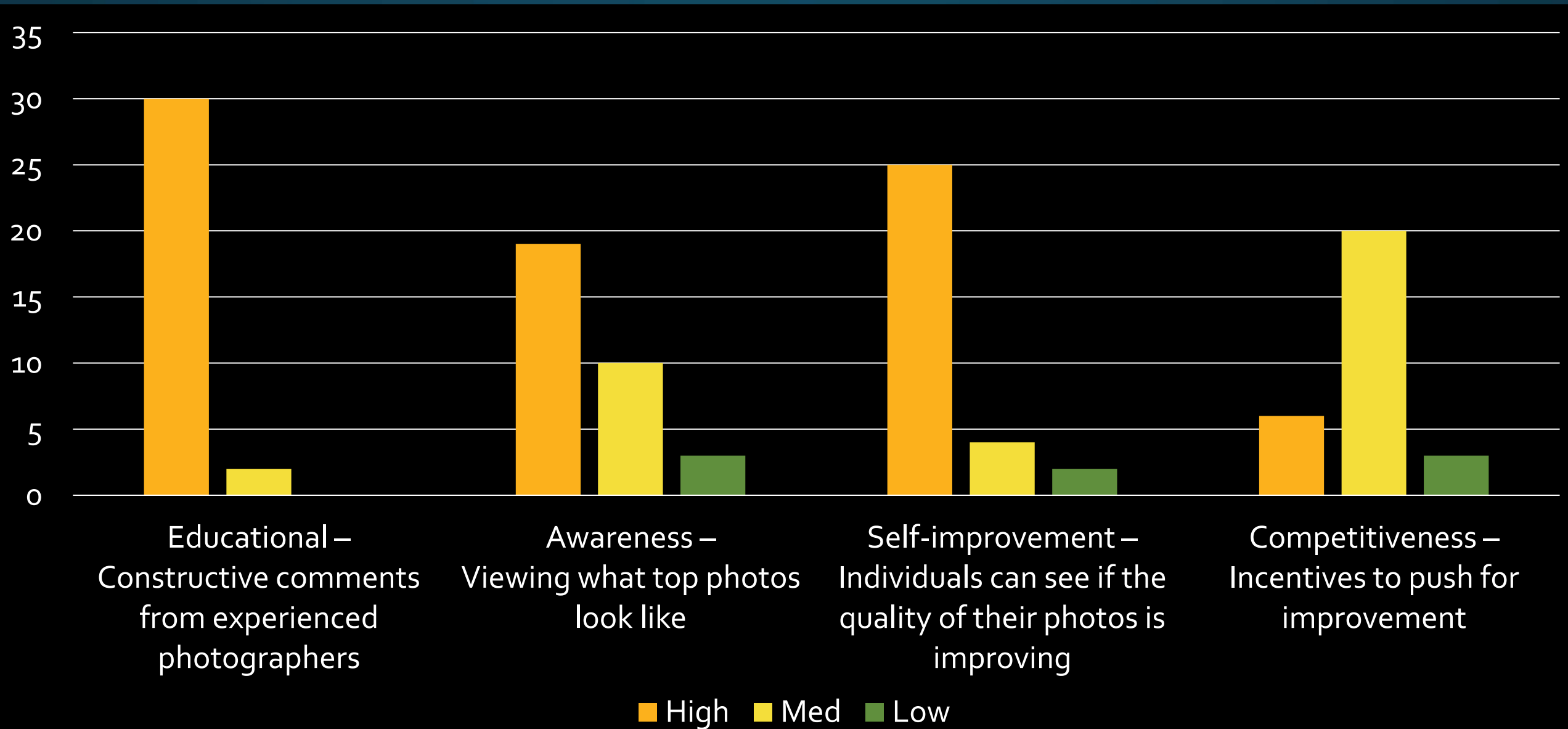
Do you have scored competitions?

Do you have non-scored comments or critiqued activities?

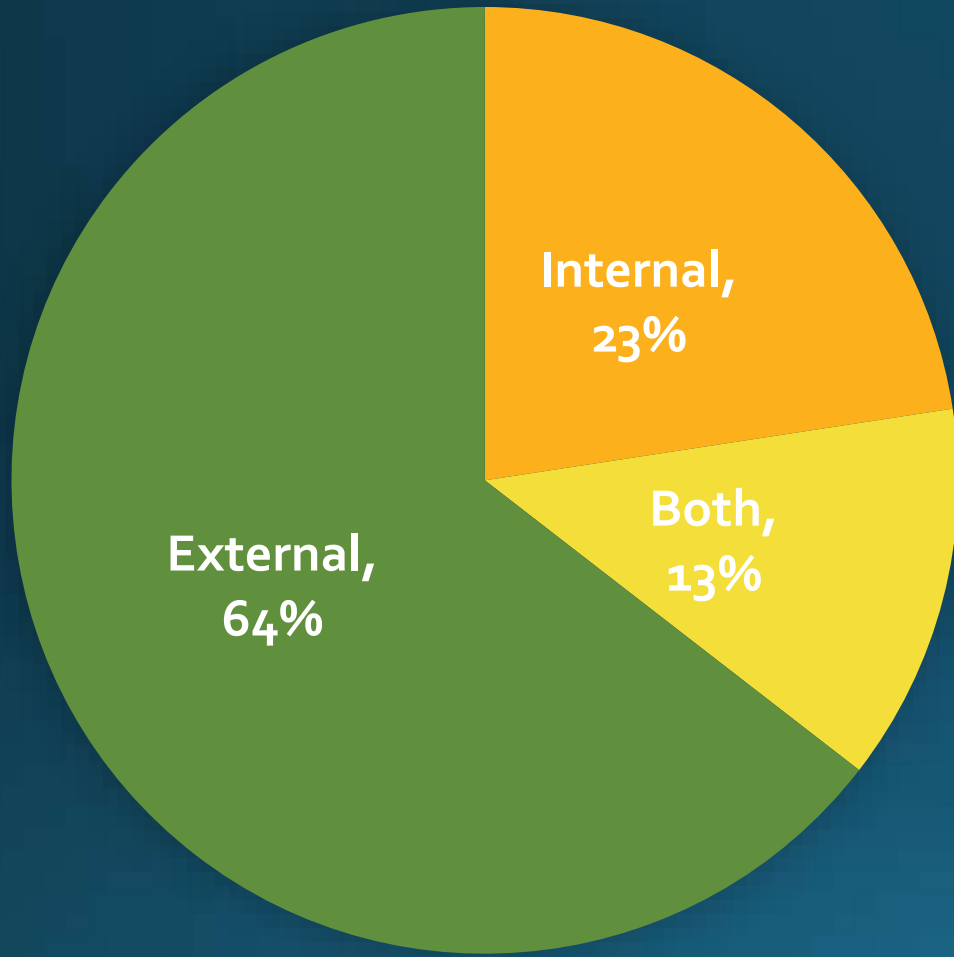
Do you have both?

Value to my Club

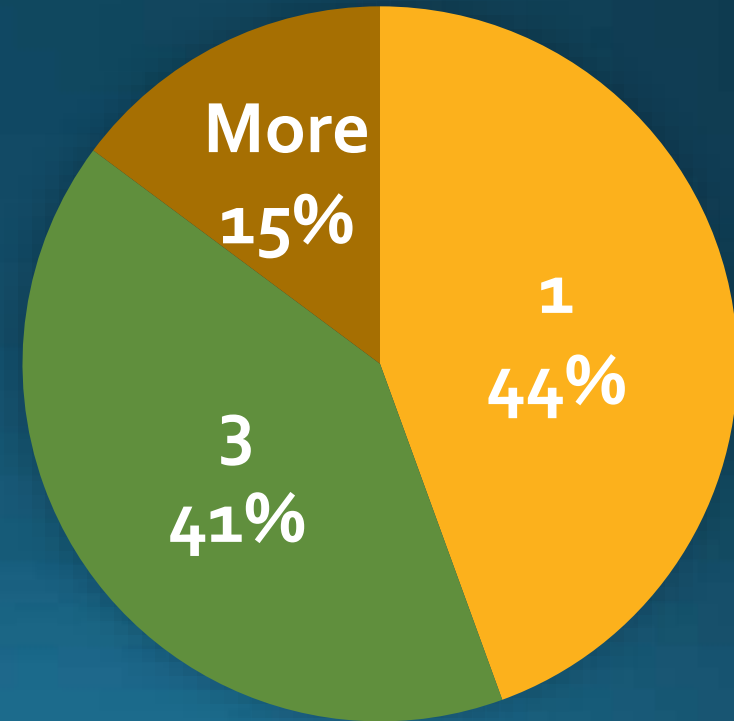
Survey Question
Rate the importance of these statements regarding competitions/critiques



Do you usually use internal or external judges?



How many judges?



What is the benefit of using internal judges (summary)?

Pros

- Easy to get, schedule, training, no travel, free
- Comments are given more weight, more discussions, more constructive
- Ask questions to the judges later
- Understand our club and categories
- Judges collaborating before scoring

Cons

- Hard to get people to write comments
- Don't want to impact member friendship
- Everyone knows everyone's style and work. Tend to be bias
- Impossible to stay anonymous to the judge

What is the benefit of using internal judges (details)?

1. Ability to get someone
2. Convenient. Multiple Inputs
3. Easy to get, but we don't use them.
4. Easy to schedule, no travel, easy to train and discuss judging criteria, internal judges become better photographer themselves. Their comments are given more weight and are less threatening.
5. Firstly, our scored competitions are for choosing which photos get submitted to club competitions (NECCC Interclub and Glennie Nature Salon). The benefit is we don't have to go outside of the club to find them, they're experienced. (The judges are not allowed to submit photos.)
6. Having internal judges probably makes for more dialogue about why the image was scored the way it was. We will be using 2 members to critique images in January but they have asked that it be a critique and not a scored judging so they don't have to offend club members.
7. Internal for image study/critique. Mainly cost advantage.
8. Internal judges can naturally develop biases over time, so the benefit of using internal judges is lessened. The only benefit of using internal judges would be if external judges could not be enlisted.
9. Internal judges may be prone to give more constructive feedback.
10. It can be helpful particularly for new photographers.
11. no cost for judging /critique
12. None
13. none unless needed last minute
14. Not much
15. Only cost
16. Pro-You can talk with the people who judged your image and ask what to do to make it better or meet up and work on it. Con- everyone knows everyone's style and work. Tend to be bias
17. They are usually more readily available and more local. Less travel needed especially in winter months.
18. We always vote internal on line. (Even before Covid). We are to far from other clubs to get judges. Of the 35 members, about 8 to 10 submit images online for the competition. We rate the image by stars and ask every club member to vote for all the images, and give between 5-10 points. To make it fair, we ask that the members who submit, vote 10 stars for their own images. Of the 35 members only 12-15 vote on the images. There is room for leaving comments, but not many people do that.
After asking and sending a reminder, it takes about a week to get all the images being sent in. After that, it takes another week for everybody who wants to vote online.
19. We are fortunate to have 3 accredited judges on our committee. This provides a level of consistency in evaluating member submitted photos .
20. We do not use internal judges to avoid friendship scores.
21. we don't use them, but the internal judges would be more aware of our categories, for example, we have an out of camera category which is for totally unedited images. This is hard for non-members to fully understand, the fact that absolutely no edits can be made in post.
22. We have 4 judges who interact in a Zoom meeting to share observations and comments about each image prior to entering scores on their own. A comment taker records the gist of the conversations and presents their summary with each image during our subsequent results meeting. That interchange among judges is frequently educational to all involved. We feel the discussion before scoring improves our assessment of each image.
23. We have not used internal judges in many years. We have had programs where club judges comment on member's images. This is very helpful
24. We use internal judges during our regular meetings. We use external judges at our annual Maine State Fair competition (which has been suspended due to COVID). Internal judging allows for more discussion.

What is the benefit of using external judges (summary)?

Pros

- More experienced
- Impartial, unbiased
- Photographer remains anonymous
- Broader range of suggestions, ideas outside the range of members
- Variety of judges

Cons

- Sometimes they charge
- Travel (in the future)
- Finding

What is the benefit of using external judges (details)?

1. A variety of Judging and more experienced Judges
2. Believe external judges are more impartial to any photographer.
3. Can be more impartial. More experience judging.
4. different opinion from someone not known at the club-different point of view
5. External judges are generally unbiased.
6. External judges don't know who the makers of the image is in advance and even if they know some of the members they don't have the same concern as our critique people in the above question have. External judges will judge without prejudice.
7. External judges provide a wider perspective.
8. Fresh eyes & doesn't recognize members work
9. Getting many different points of view
10. Having a fresh perspective on the work.
11. Impartiality. NO COMPETITIVE JUDGING SINCE PANDEMIC
12. Independence, constructive comments from experienced photographers, impartiality
13. independent opinion without knowing a members style of photography
14. It's vital to get other points of view beyond people in the club. After a while most of grow to recognize many of our own colleagues work. That can be good, but it is also limiting.
15. more objective
16. More objective, less likely to introduce subconscious bias.
17. Not prejudice but not always understanding of our situation like abstract
18. Objective comments from experienced photographers
19. Outside perspective. Can choose expertise for themes.
20. pro - no bias and fresh perspective. Con- can't talk with judge to get personal critique on what to do to go back and make it better.
21. The benefit of using external judges is that maker anonymity is maintained, which is key to robust judging. By using internal judges, anonymity is not guaranteed, as a maker's style is learned over time and many judges can identify whom the maker is which may influence their scores. Further, the judging 'thought process' becomes ingrained across the judge when it is done internally, whereas external judges keep the judging process fresh as new ideas / perspectives / judging approaches are introduced.
22. They are more impartial because they don't know the member or are able to recognize their work.
23. They offer a broader range of suggestions. "Outside judges" are more impartial since they aren't "used to" members' submissions/styles.
24. This gives us an opportunity to learn what judges from other clubs consider to be great images. It is good to get ideas from other clubs about how to improve our images.
25. We feel 4 sets of eyes is better than one, even if that one judge is quite skilled. The image scores the sum of the top 3 scores. If there is a 3 point spread, the judges with the highest and lowest scores are asked to take another look.
26. We only use external judges for end of the season judging
27. When we have an outside speaker we invite him // her to participate. This gives us a new and different perspective

Survey Has Four Areas

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and Non-scored
Comment-only
Activities, Judges

Competition Attributes
(Scoring Range,
Comments ...)

How to Choose a Score
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Scoring Attributes

Range

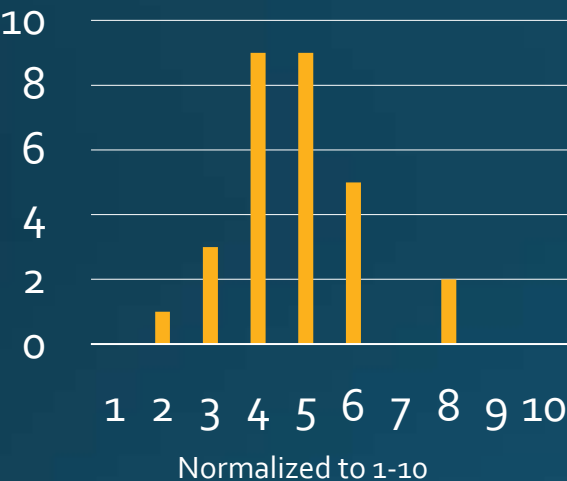
0 to 30	8 to 15
1 to 10	9 to 15
1 to 15	9 to 15
3 to 9	9 to 15
3 to 10	10 to 15
5 to 10	10 to 30
5 to 10	15 to 30
5 to 10	18 to 30
5 to 10	20 to 30
6 to 10	60 to 90

Other Notes

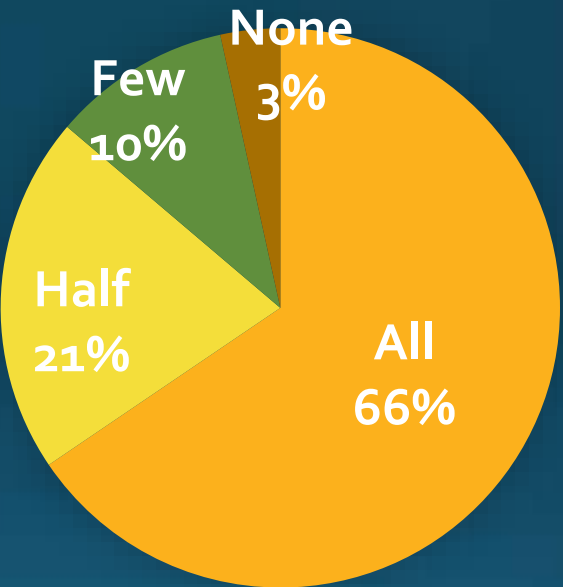
Range may include half points

One third or less of images entered are given blue or red ribbons.

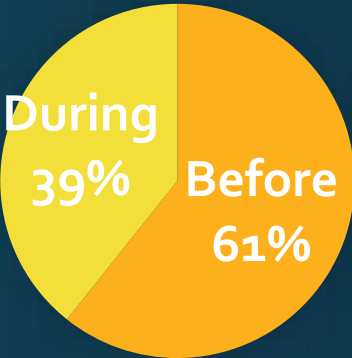
Average Score



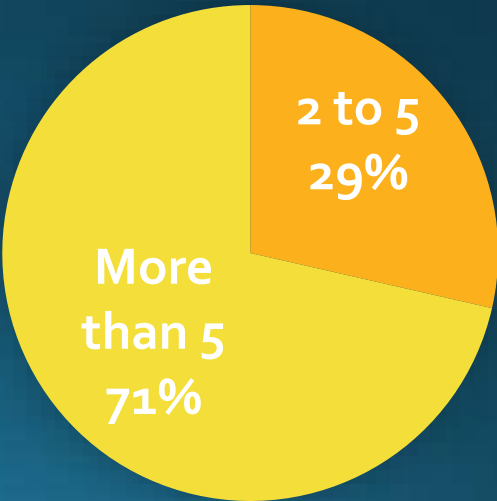
Comments



When Scored



How Many



Survey Questions

- What is your scoring range?
- What score is considered an "average" photo?
- When are the photos scored?
- Do judges comment on photos?
- How many activities a year?

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How to Choose a Score

Survey Questions

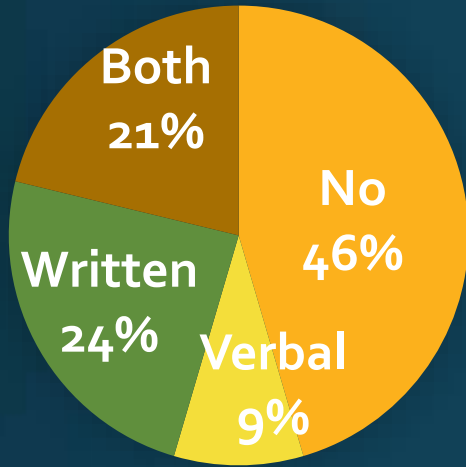
Do you provide "how to choose a score" guidelines for judges?

When explaining "how to choose a score" guidelines, how long is the training?

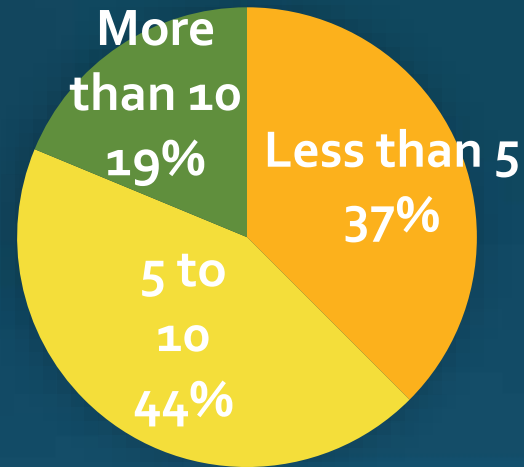
If you provide "how to choose a score" guidelines, do you also share it with club members?

Do you suggest judges consider any of the following?

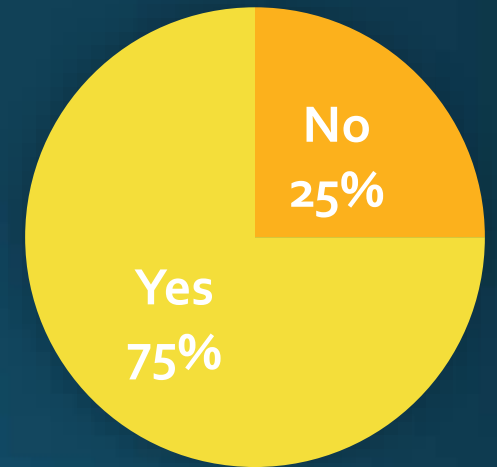
Guidelines Exists



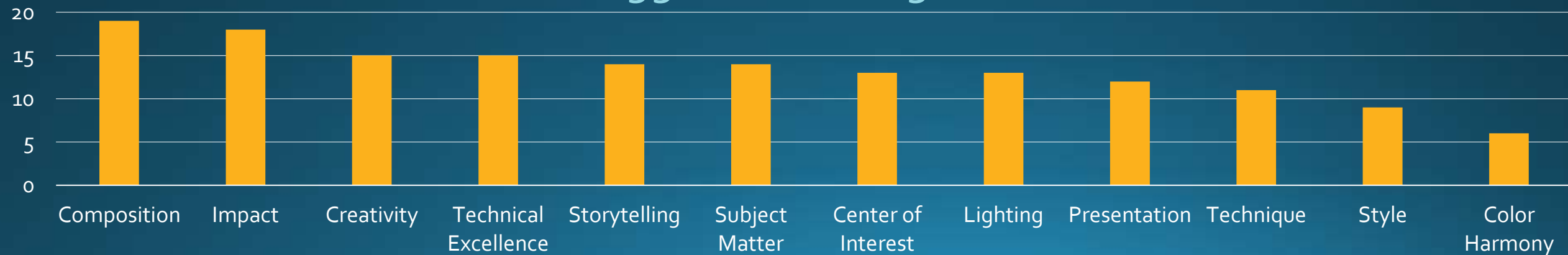
Minutes of Training



Shared with Members



Suggested to Judges



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How to Comment

Survey Questions

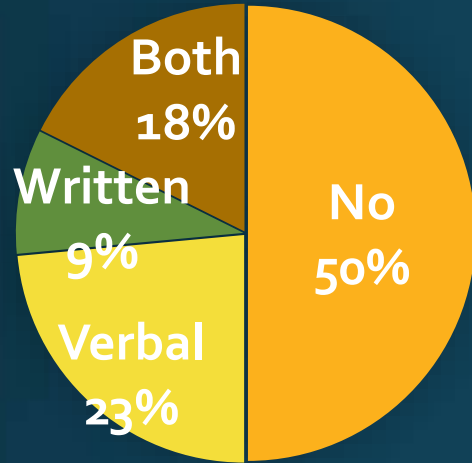
Do you provide "how to comment" guidelines for judges?

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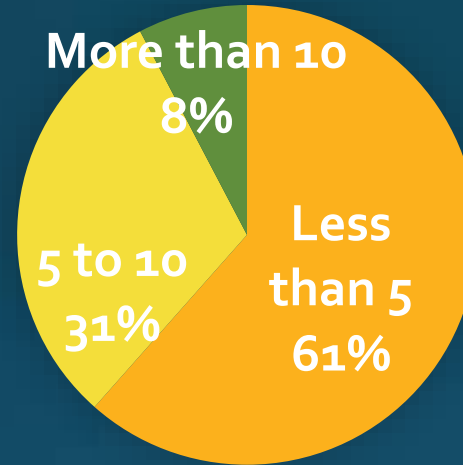
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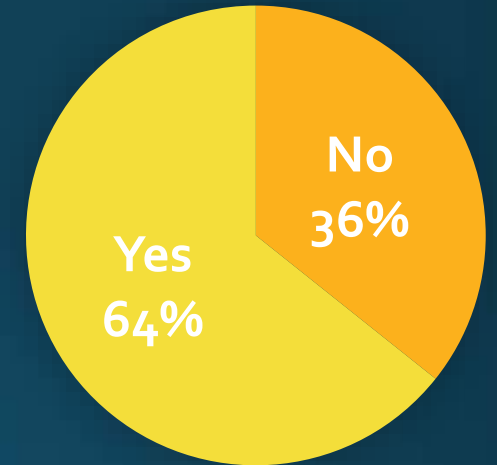
Guidelines Exists



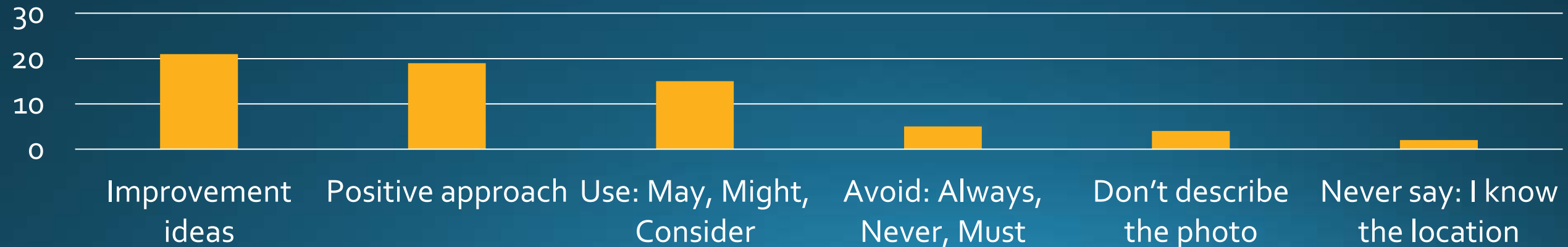
Minutes of Training



Shared with Members



Suggested to Judges



Additional Comments (Summary)

- Judges should consider the Makers Intent (not merely what they would do)
- Judges should also be mindful of the level they may be addressing, i.e. encouraging beginners (differentiating comments based on score)
- Judges have expressed that they would like to have "more context" when judging an image.
- Scoring isn't as important to me and winning ribbons or prizes. I go to learn how to make my images better and go on field trips to learn with other photographers. I'm there to learn
- We have an image study night a week or two prior to the deadline ... to help our members
- Judges receive a monthly "report card" reflecting correlation with the other judges, which many have found helpful.
- We have some judges who always start out with a positive comment, even for photos they do not rate well. I find this a bit forced because it seems so formulaic
- We have little to no discussion about how to judge or score with our members or judges, something to consider moving forward

Additional Comments (details)?

1. Also, the maker's image comments / intent should be known to the judges. The intent of the image (often included in Photography magazines, Websites, Professional journals, etc. is often included along with the image. From time to time, camera club judges have expressed that they would like to have "more context" when judging an image.
2. Comments are vitally important to the maker, perhaps more than the numerical score. For instance, a numerical score, especially if it is average or below must include comments as to why the judges chose a lower score and what improvements are recommended. Often, improvement comments do not accompany poor scores and this situation is frustrating to the maker, and not educational. Pertaining to scoring ranges, the maker (and the judges) benefit by having a wide range of scores. Using .5 points versus not, allows the judges to better "nail" their impression of the image and it provides the maker with the needed scoring differentiation. Having a wider scoring range also provides further motivation to the maker to improve their images - rather than having most images end up as flat 7's or 8's. As is seen often as an example, some images are not an 8 but are not a 7 either. In this case, a 7.5 score would zero in on the maker's image impact. Further, very low scores (like 5.0's) are not appropriate to include in the range of available scores. A 5.0 indicates that the maker didn't 'have a clue' regarding the making of their image and thus, 5.0's should be banned.
3. Competition participants opt-in to critique. If the choose to have a critique, one of the judges will give his comments. Frankly, I generally find the comments too nice. I would rather the critique be frank, especially if the member opts in and knows what to expect.
4. Even though we do not provide training (they're all experienced), we all know that especially for the Glennie competition, the story is vital.
5. I am sorry I could not provide additional information. We are interested in having some live scoring with judges later this year. Thank you.
6. I personally hate the word "critique". Although it means "detailed analysis" it sounds to me like a negative connotation, perhaps due to the root word "critical". As a scientist accustomed to peer reviews, I prefer "commentary".
7. If the judge is new to Greater Lynn we go over how things are normally scored and judged along with commentary when we book them to come verbally however we do not send anything written
8. Improvement ideas
9. Judges provide comments on images where the member requests it. We are going to be providing more guidance to future judges so that we get more meaningful and constructive comments. The following is provided to the judges: The scoring system we use is on a scale from 6 to 10, with half points. The following are our basic guidelines: 6 points -- Image does not meet the Assigned Subject criteria. 7 points -- Image needs improvement, almost a snapshot. 8 points -- Good solid image, adequate for competing. 9 points -- Strong image technically, with good composition and impact. 10 points -- Outstanding image, worthy of publication in photography media
10. Judges should consider the Makers Intent (not merely what they would do)
11. Most of our judges are experienced and tend to have already considered the suggestions above. We like the judges to focus on suggestions and improvement. (We have some judges who always start out with a positive comment, even for photos they do not rate well. I find this a bit forced because it seems so formulaic.)
12. Our club is strictly non competitive. Each month we solicit photos from our members for a anonymous critique after the formal presentation. At no time are the photos judged one against the other unless the maker submits multiple photos and asks for a comparison.
13. PSA rules
14. PSA rules for Monochrome and for Nature
15. Scored competitions and non-scored critiques are quite different. Scored competitions too often become a egotistical race for awards while the non-scored member participation critiques engender more educational support for each image. Also, more members enter the critiques than the competitions. During the critiques many members have begun indicating that comments should not made on the basis of what a judge "might" say, but rather on the artistry, technique, etc of the images. It might be more advantageous to understand how each program is received by members if they are surveyed separately. Thank you.
16. Scoring & comment guidelines are scarce in our club & most others
17. Scoring isn't as important to me and winning ribbons or prizes. I go to learn how to make my images better and go on field trips to learn with other photographers. I'm there to learn
18. The document below is from a judge regarding how to critique in image study that we have found helpful. We do have an image study night any where from a week or two prior to the deadline for the competition that is upcoming to see what our members have to say or help correct before the the competition
19. Usually the judges are seasoned photographers and know what to look for in images and we don't feel the need to instruct. We do ask that they take into consideration that we have a classA and a classB for those who are beginners or have not advanced into the Advanced A group. We ask judges to be a little softer with them and to provide direction on how to make their images better. When we have a nature competition we askant to adhere completely to the pure nature rules such as please don't mark down if there is a cultivated flower in the way.
20. We emphasize critiques as a learning opportunity for all members, and are looking for best practices in communicating expectations to judge, as well as time management during competition meetings
21. We emphasize that the judge provide constructive criticism. They should also be mindful of the level they may be addressing, i.e. encouraging beginners by choosing their words carefully. We also stress that our members are wanting to learn on how to improve their photography. That our competitions are more about learning than being competitive.
22. We have a written paragraph regarding comments which is given to the judges via email before the meeting date. This is restated at the judging.
23. We have little to no discussion about how to judge or score with our members or judges, something to consider moving forward
24. We have written guidelines on our website for all to read. The judging chairman reviews the key elements of commenting prior to each Zoom comment session emphasizing thoughtful phrasing. Judges receive a monthly "report card" reflecting correlation with the other judges, which many have found helpful.

Guideline Contributions

1. Charter Oak Photographic Society, Inc. - [Competition Information for Judges](#)
2. Flagpole Photographers Camera Club - [Judges Training](#)
3. Gateway Camera Club - [Guidelines for Judges](#)
4. Greater Lynn Photographic Association - [Helpful Instructions for the Print Judge](#)
5. Hockomock Digital Photographers - [Image Study Guidelines](#)
6. Housatonic Camera Club – [Peer Review Example](#)
7. Simsbury Camera Club - [Judging Process](#) and [Judge's "Scorecard" Divergence Report](#)
8. Springfield Photographic Society - [Exhibition Scoring Grid with Categories](#)

Download these at [Group.NECCC/meeting-minutes-nov-18-2021](https://www.group.necccc/meeting-minutes-nov-18-2021)

How to learn from tonight?