

## HELPFUL INSTRUCTIONS for the PRINT JUDGE-2021-22

Modified for the 2021-22 season as prints will be judged onsite & not given to the judge in advance. Explanations & Modifications Typed in Red

GLPA Print Competition has **two Classes of competitors for the 2021-2022 season**; Class **???** (**Beginners & Advanced**) and Masters Class. Within each Class, there are two Categories; Black & White, as defined by the PSA Monochrome guidelines, and Color. There are also two Categories, Portraiture and Theme, where **both** Classes compete together.

If you feel a print has been entered into the incorrect category, you may move it to the more appropriate category (For instance, if a color image that is predominantly a portrait is entered into the color category, you may think it better moved to the Portraiture category, which is more applicable.) Please be prepared to explain why you moved a print to a different category on the night of the showing. The exception being, on occasion, there are not enough prints entered into a category so these prints will be combined into the appropriate Class and judged together. The Print Chairman will let you know if this is applicable to your judging.

**NEW:** For 2021-22 the committee will move prints prior to the judging if during the judging you have a question of category please speak up prior to scoring the print.

### Portraiture criteria:

This category will be for all types of portraits, from formal studio to candid natural light. Subjects can be any living creature from human to animal. The idea is to isolate the subject without distractions thereby creating a pleasing portrait. Similar to all other categories, all images must be captured by the maker. While environmental portraits are allowed, the subject must be the clearly dominant element in the image (i.e., face visible and something you can relate to as a viewer).

### Theme criteria:

This category will be based on an assigned theme. The idea here is to best and most creatively express the theme in a photograph, which can be in either color or black and white. Similar to all other categories, all images must be captured by the maker.

### Judging:

Before assigning scores we recommend you do an initial, cursory review to all prints within a Class's category.

**NEW: For this year all prints in a section will be previewed on the lightbox by the judge prior to scoring-you will see all the prints in one category/section first with a run through and then in the second pass you will assign them a score and give a brief critique. Please read the info below to help you with assigning scores.**

On your second pass through the prints within the category perform a more complete evaluation of the image considering the quality of the photographic capture, the quality of the processing, and the quality of the final presentation. Assign each print within a category, (Class Masters Black & White for example) a numerical score. In general we ask that you score from 8 to 15 and that your scoring be relative to that group of prints and not something in another Class, Category, or some other work that you had seen at another time or place. We recommend that the lowest assigned score not go below 8 without an exceptional reason, as we have found makers, particularly in the lower Classes, are extremely discouraged by such scores and are then inclined to stop participating in what is intended to be an educational and developmental activity.

You should assign a value representing your overall evaluation of the image, taking into consideration the technical quality of the image, which includes but is not limited to factors such as exposure, focus, appropriateness of post-processing, and how well the image is presented; the impact of the image, including, where relevant, its story-telling qualities; the composition, which refers broadly to how elements are arranged to suit the goal of the image. Finally, particularly for the images that meet a high standard in each of the above areas, consider whether the image has something extra, something intangible that captures your eye and imagination. This general scoring rubric is sometimes referred to by the acronym "TICE" – for technical quality, impact, composition, and extra.

**We realize this may be difficult do to with onsite impact judging, and understand that it may not be possible within the short period of time you have to view the print.**

**Scoring:** is on a 15-point maximum system.

Each Class/Category's prints should be judged within the context of that class/category. We do not expect a score of 12 in Class ?? to mean the same as a score of 12 in Masters. Hence your scoring should be reflective of the relative quality of the image in the context of the skill level, both photographic and post processing, that you would expect of a worker at that Class level. When scoring,

please evaluate both image quality and print quality. Your scoring relative to print quality can be factored into either the Technical aspect (e.g., all midtones with no true black or white, etc.) or Impact (e.g., printed on the wrong surface/media to be fully effective or a mat that competes with the image in some way, etc.)

Multiple prints can be awarded the same scores. After the scoring has been completed, then the selection of the order of the ribbons should be made. **NEW: In case of multiple prints scoring the same, they will be shown to you again and you then you will be asked to select placement of the awards.**

Overall, the scores we anticipate can be characterized as follows:

8 points: almost never used, these very low scores would be for extremely weak or inappropriate competition images.

9-10 points: an image with several problems or a single serious flaw involving technical, compositional, or other issues that result in it not being a strong competition image.

11-12 points: a generally competent competition image where the technical and compositional aspects have been handled appropriately.

13 points; a very good to excellent competition quality image with only minor, if any, technical weaknesses; well composed and with strong visual impact. An image with this score often may receive an award.

14 points: an outstanding image of the highest technical quality, well processed, with strong composition and impact. Generally, such a score is associated with an award-winning photo.

15 points: a photo of superior quality, craftsmanship, and artistic impact. Any perceived weakness would be offset by outstanding redeeming qualities that elevate it. A photo earning this score has an impact that makes the image significant and memorable.

**Awards: NEW: You will not be given any judging sheets ahead of time. As stated above: if multiple prints have the same score, the committee will show you the prints and ask you to assign placement at the end of the judging in each class: Ex. you have 3-prints that scored 12's and the committee would ask you to assign a 3rd and 2 HM's out of those 3 prints and so forth. Awards will not change there will still be 4 or 5 "Print of the Months" depending on categories that month (See Below)**

When all the prints are scored within a category, award 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mentions to the top scoring prints (the recommended number of HM's to be awarded is listed at the top of the score sheets). Scores need not be adjusted, for example 2nd & 3rd could both have the same numerical score or 1st, 2nd and 3rd could all have identical scores.

When both categories (B&W and Color) in a Class have been judged, select a "Print of the Month" (POM) from the highest scoring 1st place images within that Class. In the category from which the "Print of the Month" is chosen, you will then need to upgrade 2nd to 1st, 3rd to 2nd, and HM to 3rd. Then choose another HM (if there are enough prints in that category to warrant it).

When judging the Portraiture categories, select a POM, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and HM's to the top scoring prints as described above.

THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF FOUR "Print of the Month" AWARDS; one each for Class B, Class A, Masters Class, and Portraiture, except the three months where there is a Theme Class, when there will be FIVE "Print of the Month" Awards.

#### Judge's Comments:

Comments will be done on all categories, unless time becomes a factor. As this should be an educational experience, please give your opinion on what the maker successfully did and what could be done to make the image stronger both artistically and for competition. It is not necessary to cover every flaw in a print when providing constructive feedback. Our suggestion is that you preface your comments by stating two points that the maker has done well followed by the one or two things that, in your opinion, the maker might do to improve the image/print. Do not feel that these suggestions must be technical in nature. They may be technical but also may be aesthetic, subject selection or even the level of creativity in the case of the Masters level of work. Picking the one or two items that would have the biggest impact in making a stronger print will also focus the audience on the key elements while also aiding in keeping the commentary concise.

It is not necessary to comment repeatedly on the same weakness (e.g., over sharpening, etc.). If you find a trend within the class or category, a short prefatory remark will generally suffice.

We have found that makers are more receptive to the constructive improvement comments when they follow statements on what the judge liked about the print.

Thank you in advance for your time and efforts. It is efforts from many such as you that help the many to improve their photographic skills.

Greater Lynn Photographic Association

Larry Dunn, MNEC Chairman Print Committee

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