

Dallas Underwater Photography Society

Revisions to Monthly Contests

From the DUPS Constitution
ARTICLE II. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

THE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE DALLAS UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY ARE TO ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION IN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY AND TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL AND ENTERTAINING PROGRAMS ON THE VARIED ASPECTS OF UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

As expanded:

In order promote underwater photography in the local diving community, we propose to provide a venue for the display and discussion of underwater photography in all available formats that exist today as well as those that may be created in the future, to support the exchange of skills and ideas from within the society as well as from the community and businesses of the area and to encourage an understanding and preservation of the marine environment.

In furtherance of the foregoing, it is necessary to provide a venue for the display and discussion of underwater photography and to provide a friendly and non-intimidating environment for members to display and to learn to improve the quality of their work.

To achieve that end, monthly contests are expanded as follows effective February 1, 2016.

Digital still images and video – held as described below

Division:

Novice

Intermediate

Open or Advanced

Members may choose their division when they first start competing and may move up a division at any time that they like, but points earned in the lower ranked division will not

advance with the photographer to the more advanced division. Winners of the year-end photographer of the year award in each of the divisions will compete in the next highest division the following year if they choose to advance.

DIGITAL – held as described below

Entries must be submitted by email or FTP program to the photo contest chairperson no later than noon on the day of the monthly DUPS meeting.

Entries must be submitted as an attachment to the sender's email. Embedded images will not be entered into the contest.

Only with prior approval of the contest chairperson can a member bring to the meeting their entry for that month's photo contest. The entry must be submitted and stored within a USB 2.0 compatible thumb drive.

Divisions

Digital:

Unmanipulated – those images that are pulled directly from the camera with no editing.

The only modifications to the image are as follows: sharpening, exposure compensation, cropping, dodging and burning. No cloning or healing is permissible. No attempt to remove backscatter by photo manipulation is permissible. No compositing of images is allowed.

The original, unmodified digital camera image must be submitted with your entry. The original digital camera image must contain valid, unmodified EXIF data. EXIF data is information that the camera embeds in the original file, which our system must be able to read to validate your contest entry

Digital Creative:

- Digital creative images can be manipulated using whatever methods the artist desires. This is only valid if this is the monthly topic!

VIDEO

180 second maximum.

Formats permitted: MOV, MPEG4, WMV

Entries may not be part of a commercial production.

Entries must meet the same modification guidelines as described under digital still images.

No post filming stabilization allowed.

ADVICE FOR VOTING

To be recited monthly before each contest

Digital & Digital Creative

Still media should be judged on

- 1) Adherence to monthly contest topic
- 2) Composition,
- 3) Difficulty or uniqueness,
- 4) Technical (lighting, exposure and focus) aspects, and
- 5) Overall impact.

Video

Video judging criteria should include

- 1) Creativity,
- 2) Production (audio, lighting, camera, steadiness, and editing) values, and
- 3) Story flow/execution.

No entry in any of the above divisions or categories will be accepted that has won best of show or first place in any major competition. First, second or third place entries from previous DUPS competitions are not eligible for reentry. Any work that has produced monetary compensation for the photographer is ineligible for competition.

MARINE CONSERVATION

Marine life should never be stressed or endangered for the sake of a photo. Entries exhibiting the following behavior will be summarily disqualified by the contest chairperson and the offending member beaten with al dente pasta.

Divers visibly touching or damaging (e.g. gear dragging or kicking up sand) the environment.

Animals with signs of stress (e.g. puffed puffers, inking octopus, yawning frog or scorpion fishes).

Animals placed into the water column or moved to an unnatural environment or risky location.

Animals being fed (especially artificial food from divers).

Marine life being touched (e.g. coral polyps, seahorse tails).

Divers exhibiting poor buoyancy control.

Marine life may touch humans, but not the other way around, unless the marine life's touch is defensive in nature.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Only dues-paid members can enter. Each entry should fit the topic of the month.

Submissions must have been taken underwater, with the exception of topics that would require surface shots. Digital Creative Entries should have the bulk of their content from underwater images.

The submissions must be the work of the photographer / videographer. Anyone present at the meeting may vote. The photographer or videographer does not have to be present at the monthly meeting to enter their work.

No aquarium or pool shots unless the monthly topic calls for that type of entry.

No entry in any of the above divisions or categories will be accepted that has won best of show or first place in any major competition. First second or third place entries from previous DUPS competitions are not eligible for reentry. Any work that has produced monetary compensation for the photographer is ineligible for competition.

Entries will be disqualified if in the opinion of the Photo Contest Chairperson, the entry does not meet the monthly subject matter, or does not meet one of the aforementioned marine conservation rules. SEE RULE about being beaten with al dente pasta.

The general membership and others in attendance will be the judges of the monthly entries in accordance with the guidelines set forth above. The Photo Contest Chairperson will tabulate all ballots.

Winners must share something about how they created the image.

TIES

1. Ties are broken by reviewing the tied images and calling for an audience revote.
2. In case of a second tie, if one owner of an image is not at the meeting, then the attending member receives special consideration, so will win in the tie runoff.
3. If both owners of the tied images are either, in attendance or not in attendance, then equal points for the highest place will be awarded to both image owners.
4. There will be a maximum of three winners in any one division, unless there is an unbroken tie for third place. For instance, if there are two images in an unbroken tie for 1st or 2nd place, there will not be a 3rd place winner for that month's competition.

POINT SYSTEM

One point for entering—Only given to an individual that does not place that month.

Three points for 3rd place

Four points for 2nd place

Five points for 1st place

The Photo Contest Chairperson will be responsible for keeping track of monthly entries and winners in all categories for the purpose of determining the “Best of “or “... of the Year” awards.

Prior to the Annual Holiday Party, the contest chairperson will tabulate all monthly points and report to the President, the names of the members with the three (3) highest point totals in each division.

“Best of ... or Photographer or Videographer of the Year” will be awarded in Digital, or Video, Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced Divisions at the annual Holiday Party.