

Novice Competition Rules for the Tripod Camera Club

The purpose of the **Novice** category is to encourage members to compete in new, or different categories, without having to go head-to-head with more advanced members. It is intended that members compete in the **Novice** competition **when they are new to photography, in general, and not just new to the Club.**

Note: “**Overall**” will refer to the **Non-Novice** competition throughout this document.

Members will be eligible to compete in any **Novice** category if they have not attained the level of **Judge**, before the start of the current Tripod Competition season, in that category. The guidelines outlined below, are to encourage more competition at the **Novice** level while decreasing the chances that a given member could dominate the **Novice** competition when they should be competing in the “**Overall**” competition only.

Here is how it works:

- All members that are **new to photography** and not **Judges** in a specific category, at the start of the current season, are eligible to compete as **Novices** in that category. Members are not required to compete in **Novice** regardless of their eligibility.
- **Novices** are required to clearly mark their image so that it can be easily identified as a **Novice** image. For projected images, this means adding the word **Novice** to the end of the title. For prints, there is a box to check on the label that goes on the back of each print. Labels are available on the web site for download. All prints must have a label affixed to the back of the print.
- Competitions will be handled as they have always been, as outlined in the Club Constitution. Ribbons and points will be awarded in the “**Overall**” competition the same as before. After these scores and places have been logged, **Novice** places and awards will be determined from those images that did not place in the “**Overall**” competition. **Note:** a member cannot receive a ribbon in both the **Novice** and “**Overall**” competition for the same image.
- If a **Novice** eligible member enters two **Novice** labeled images in a specific category and one image places in the “**Overall**” competition and the other image places in the **Novice** competition, the member will receive a ribbon and **Novice** points for the **Novice** placing image, and a ribbon and “**Overall**” points for the image that placed in the “**Overall**” competition..

Novice Competition Rules for the Tripod Camera Club

- It is the “**Overall**” points that eventually allow a member to attain the level of **Judge**, and beyond. These points therefore stay with the member and accumulate over time. The **Novice** points are for the current season only and are used to determine the End of Year winners in the **Novice** categories.

Becoming a Non-Novice:

- As outlined above, members are only eligible to compete in **Novice** if they are new to photography and have not previously achieved the level of **Judge** in the category. It takes an accumulated 75 points in “**Overall**” competition, in a specific category, to become a **Judge** and **Judge** awards will only be awarded at the end of the year. However, if a member competing in **Novice** achieves 75 or more points in “**Overall**” competition during the current season, at that point they will become ineligible to continue to compete in **Novice** in that category and their novice points up to that point will be zeroed out.