

There has been much discussion on scoring and selecting Merit Awards and Honorable Mention Awards. Hopefully this writing will answer some of these questions.

1st. Electronically all images from a club are given a number and each club image is placed in a rank of 6 rounds. The same software also creates a scoresheet for the Judging Club's Tabulator to use. This arrangement of club images is to prevent one specific club image being next to another specific club image from the same club. Images are to remain in this order for projected presentation to the judges.

2nd In our judging there can be no review of images which might cause a comparison between images. The rules are reviewed along with the criteria for scores. In some groups they might use extra images to show what a score of 5 entails etc. and review the criteria of the 1-5 value. This is often done to familiarize the judges with the scoring process.

3rd Then each image is projected to the judges in the previously arranged order and judges give a score 1-5. The three judges scores are added but only the total is given verbally to the judges. During this section of the judging the judges cannot discuss the image nor talk. Also, once the image is judged, the score cannot be changed. Also, there is no provision for a challenge by the judges for changing scores.

4th Once all the images are scored, the higher ranking ones are shown again to the judges and the judges are now free to discuss the merits and their concerns regarding the images and can even compare one image to another. This is how they come up with the Best of Show. Often Judges use an In and Out Technique to do this and select the top images for Awards and next ones for Honorable Mention. The judges are asked to reward 10% of the images submitted for awards and an additional 10% for Honorable mentions. In this section of judging the scores are considered but are not the deciding factor for the award. It is very possible to have a 14 point image, after discussion, be placed in the Honorable Mention category or an 11 point image placed in the award section.