

October 2023 – Clarify CAPA Awards & What Winners Will Receive

Suggestions received:

- **Current individual CAPA member survey (478 responses received):**
 - A. should issue e-certificates to medal winner as well (7 respondents)
 - B. give recognition for all individual participating in a competition (7 respondents)
 - C. provide prizes instead of medals & certificates (7 respondents)
 - D. images shouldn't win more than once in a competition. Same ones always come multiple times both winning and mention, etc... (4 respondents)
 - E. some prizes rather than medals & certificates. Better prizes (7 respondents)
 - F. clarify your terms about winners - you use gold, silver and bronze yet magazine shows "1st Merit", etc. I have never been able to sort out the scoring system eg: 1st certificate of merit, does this mean the best photo, or the best of a subgroup? I'd like to know how the Merit Rating system compares with the Gold-Silver-Bronze system (3 respondents)
- **past individual CAPA member survey (138 responses received):** no responses for this topic.
- **current CAPA Camera Club survey (48 responses received):**
 - G. send ribbons, certificates, medals to winners instead of the camera club (1 respondent)
- **past CAPA Camera Club survey (8 responses received):** no responses for this topic.

Response: Thanks for these suggestions, and we appreciate the opportunity to address each which are included in my responses below:

A. Issue e-certificates to medal winner as well

Traditionally, CAPA awarded gold, silver and bronze medals to the three top entrants in each competition category. For camera clubs, we extended this recognition to the top three club entrant in a competition. Additionally, each of the six contributing photographers received an individual medal e-certificate.

However, feedback from camera club representatives and individual photographers highlighted the challenge of displaying CAPA medals effectively, often resulting in them being stored away in drawers or boxes.

In response to this feedback, we have introduced a new option: medal e-certificates as an alternative to receiving a physical CAPA medal. After each competition, medal recipients are contacted and given the choice between a physical CAPA medal or a medal e-certificate.

The current administrative process is quite labour-intensive, involving a team of four volunteers. They create custom e-certificates for each competition. For example, our 2022 Nature competition (club & individual categories) it required 18 medal e-certificates, 30 merits e-certificates and 51 honourable mention e-certificates. If any e-certificates are being forwarded to Quebec or New Brunswick then the recipients receive two e-certificates – one in English and other in French.

One volunteer performs other tasks related to medals: handle various tasks related to the medals:

- Constructing each medal by attaching the lanyard, place it in a black plastic case.
- Creating the reverse label with completion name, entrant's name, and total score.
- Composing a covering letter in either English or French.
- Generating mailing labels for each envelope containing a medal and covering letter.
- Mailing all the medals.

This administrative work typically takes around four days to complete, depending on volunteer availability. Given the substantial effort involved in post-competition administration, it is not feasible for a medal winner to receive both the medal and the e-certificate.

However, individual or club receiving e-certificates have the option to purchase a CAPA medal by contacting the Director of Competitions at competitions@capacanda.ca

B. Give Recognition of All Competition Entrants Submitting Images

CAPA and international photography competitions do not award participation awards for the following reasons:

1. **Focusing on Merit:** These competitions aim to recognize and reward excellence in photography by only honoring images and photographers that meet specific quality standards.
2. **Preserving Prestige:** By only awarding the top-performing entries, these competitions maintain a sense of prestige and exclusivity, attracting more serious

and talented photographers, thereby enhancing the overall quality of submissions.

3. **Fairness and Transparency:** Limiting awards to merit-based recognition ensures a fair and transparent judging process. Participation awards given to all entrants might not accurately reflect the varying levels of skill and effort put forth by individual photographers.
4. **Motivation for Improvement:** Without participation awards, photographers are motivated to strive for excellence and continuously improve their skills to increase their chances of winning awards in future competitions.
5. **Encouraging Serious Submissions:** By not offering participation awards, participants are more likely to carefully consider their entries before submitting, leading to a higher overall quality of submissions.

C. Provide Prizes Instead of Medal

Securing significant prizes for CAPA competitions has historically been a challenge, as sponsors have not been as generous as anticipated. As a result, notable prizes have only been attainable for our annual photo challenge.

With this in mind, our newly elected 1st Vice President has been assigned the responsibility of actively seeking new sponsors to support our competitions, conference and magazine. We are optimistic that this proactive approach will lead to an enhancement in the prizes offered for our various competitions.

D. Images Shouldn't Win More Than Once In A Competition

When a photograph receives a merit award for the highest scoring image in a competition and also receives a medal for receiving the highest aggregate score in the competition, it typically means that the competition has two different categories of recognition, each with its own criteria.

For a merit award, this recognition is based solely on the merits of that particular photograph. It suggests that the judges found that specific image to be exceptional in the terms of creativity, technical skill, composition, and adherence to the competition's criteria or theme. Winning this award signifies that the photographer's single image stood out from the rest.

With regards to the highest aggregate score, the medal considers the overall performance of the photographer throughout the competition. It takes into account not only the quality of the individual image that received the merit award but also the photographer's performance across multiple images submitted into the competition. The photographer with the highest aggregate score, consider all their submitted

images, received this medal. It demonstrates consistency and excellence across a series of photographs.

This dual recognition highlights both the outstanding quality of their individual work and their overall excellence in the competition. It is a way to celebrate both individual brilliance and consistency in photography skills.

E. Clarify CAPA Competition Awards Defined & Distributed

CAPA uses two different methods of distributing competition awards:

1. **Highest Aggregate Competition Distribution:** acknowledges the overall performance and consistency of a photographer across multiple images submitted into a competition.

CAPA Medal or medal e-certificate (gold, silver & bronze) are awarded to the top three entrants with the highest aggregate scores. Ties are not permitted. Judges will break all medal ties.

CAPA Merit Award e-certificate (1st, 2nd & 3rd) will be presented to the three highest scoring single images in each theme if the competition has more than one theme. Ties are not permitted. Judges will break all medal ties.

Honourable Mention Award e-certificate will be presented to the top 8% to 10% of entrants.

2. **Highest Scoring Images Distribution:** focuses on recognizing a single outstanding image that stands out from all other entries.

CAPA Medal or medal e-certificate (gold, silver & bronze) will be awarded to the three highest scoring images. Ties are not permitted. Judges will break all medal ties.

Honourable Mention Award e-certificate (1st, 2nd & 3rd) will be presented to the top 8% to 10% of entrants.

With the exception of our annual photo challenge, all CAPA competitions consist of two categories – club submissions and individual CAPA members submissions. For these competitions, each category receives separate awards.

For winning camera clubs, the club is presented with the CAPA medal or medal e-certificate and each contributing club member receives a medal e-certificate. Camera clubs receiving an honourable mention e-certificate as well as each contributing camera club members.

For an individual CAPA competition, the medal winners are given a choice of either receiving the medal or an e-certificate. Not both.

F. Send ribbons, certificates, medal to winners instead of the camera clubs

The tradition for CAPA is that all winning awards will be forwarded to the respective entrant. For camera club, we only have their contact details and mailing address.

It is up to the camera club to receive and distribute the received awards to their respective camera club members.

To deviate from this tradition would significantly increase the amount of work for our volunteer competition team.