

November 2023 - Different Skill-Levels For Zone Competitions

Suggestions received:

- **individual current CAPA member survey (478 responses received):**
 - A. competitions geared more for smaller camera clubs (1 response)
- **past individual CAPA member survey (138 responses received):**
 - B. create levels of competition such novice, intermediate and advanced (3 respondents)
 - C. novice & intermediate levels (2 respondents)
 - D. more welcoming to novice photographers (1 respondent)
 - C. maybe have levels for the photographers so beginners are not going up against more experienced photographers (3 respondents)
 - D. more support for beginner and intermediate level of photographers (1 respondent)
 - E. too many expert photographers soaking up the winning grades makes for lack of motivation at the beginner level (1 respondent),
 - F. competition events for newer photographers. It's like an elite organization (3 respondents)
- **current CAPA Camera Club survey (48 responses received):**
 - G. beginner & intermediate level (1 respondent)
 - no responses were received on this topic.
- **past CAPA Camera Club survey (8 responses received):**
 - no responses were received on this topic.

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

A.- G. Create Skill Level Tier Competitions Model

From these suggestions, we have evaluated other photographic societies and camera clubs featuring tiered skill-level competitions, including Abbotsford Camera Club,

Calgary Camera Club, Cape Town Photographic Society, HSV Camera Club, Langley Camera Club, North Shore Photographic Society, Photographic Society of South Africa, Richmond Hill Camera Club, Rotorua Camera Club, Southern California Council of Camera Clubs, South Shore Camera Club, and Toronto Camera Club.

Drawing from our analysis, we have formulated a skill-level model and competition structure aimed at fostering a more organized, equitable, and supportive environment for participants in our competitions.

Our proposal seeks to establish a structured and equitable framework for photography competitions by introducing a skill-level model. This mode is ONLY tailored to zone competitions and offers several benefits:

1. **Equity:** Each photographer submits the same maximum number of images.
2. **Individual CAPA Awards:** Award are allocated on a per-image basis rather than cumulative scores.
3. **Skill Development:** Encourages photographers to improve their skills over time.
4. **Authenticity and Diversity:** Open theme with a geographical focus, ensuring accessibility without the need for expensive travel.
5. **Inclusivity:** Aims to level the playing field by reducing the dominance of top-tier photographers.
6. **Constructive Feedback:** Every submitted image will receive supportive judge comments aiding participant in understanding their assigned scores.
7. **Self-Confidence Boost:** Provides a pathway for participants to progress to our national competitions, fostering their growth.

Key Details of Skill-Level Zone Competitions:

Tiered Progression: The model has three levels – Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced. Photographers – allowing photographers to advance based on their achievements, promoting skill improvement and upward mobility.

Point Allocations:

- one (1) point for each image that:
 - A) contributes to an individual CAPA member receiving a CAPA Medal or Honourable Mention.

- B) contributes to a camera club's award, leading to the club receiving a CAPA Medal or Honourable Mention.
 - C) receives a merit award.
 - D) is selected to represent CAPA at the Calgary Exposure Exhibition.
 - E) is chosen to present CAPA at the National Museum Photography in Drummondville, Quebec.
 - F) is chosen to represent CAPA at the National Museum of Photography in Drummondville, Quebec.
 - G) represents Canada's submission into a Four Nations inter-society competition.
- two (2) points for images representing Canada in a Four Nations inter-society competition **AND** earning a gold medal or honourable mention award.
 - two (2) points for each recognition achieved in our Series of Four competition.
 - three (3) points for each recognition they receive in an Audio Visual competition.

Skill-Level Classification: Using 2016 – 2023 Past CAPA Winners database (8,000 entries), all CAPA photographers are grouped into skill-levels:

- **Novice Level:** For photographers with up to 9 points.
- **Intermediate Level:** Accumulating 10 points moves photographers to the intermediate level.
- **Advanced Level:** Requires 30 points or more, signifying high expertise.

Photographers can request to elevation to a higher skill-level with supporting rationale. Request to lower skill-level will only be undertaken in exceptional cases.

Skill-Level Notification: Prior to each zone competition, photographers assigned to intermediate and advanced skill-level will be informed. These photographers will not be permitted to submit images in a lower skill-level.

All other photographers can freely self-assign skill levels to their submitted images, and they are strongly encouraged to challenge themselves by entering competitions at a higher skill tier.

When uploading their images to this type of competition, an entrant will be required to:

- Upload their images
- Provide a title for their image
- Select their preferred skill level assignment
- Indicate whether they wish to receive judge's comment on the image

Our CAPA Pre-screening Committee, comprising Certified CAPA judges, will meticulously review all submitted images. This process ensures that intermediate and advanced skill-level photographers do not mis-assign their images to a lower skill level.

The overarching objective of this model is to promote growth, fairness, and skill development within the zone's photography community.

For this initiative, we are proceeding with a pilot test for the 2024 Atlantic Zone Competition.

Upon conclusion of this competition, we will conduct a post-evaluation review with the following objectives:

- Identify any deficiencies identified by our competition team and the participants in this competition
- Consider potential revisions to enhance this competition model

Subsequently, we will compile a report summarizing the findings of the pilot test and present it to the CAPA Board of Directors along with recommendations on whether this initiative should be extended to the other four zone competitions.