TDCC Competitions – the Rules

Rules… Who needs rules? Well, there are a few.

General

- Competitions are open to paid-up members. If you haven't paid your subs then we can't accept your entry!
- You can submit up to 2 images for each competition
- An image can normally only be entered in one competition. However, a significant development of that image can be re-entered (eg different crop, aspect, significant processing differences). Also, an image can be submitted for any external competition, any number of times.
- Whilst images and processing must be your own work, consulting and seeking advice from other members is encouraged.
- Use of image processing software is acceptable, but any processing must be the work of the submitting member. Also, any composite image must only incorporate your own work as layers (could be art, photos, pencil) but must be your own.
- Third party printing is permitted.
- If you enter a competition but don't score it:
  - The other members that entered, would not receive a score from you, whilst you would receive a score from them. **This puts you at an advantage.**
  - So we have to adjust your score down to offset this advantage
  - This adjustment is **minus 16 points** being the mid-range of our 12-20 scoring. This is NOT a 'fine' – it is a way to handle the advantage that you have created by not scoring.

Image Content, Manipulation, and Use of "AI"

It is acceptable to use AI in certain situations, but only in line with the PAGB guidance below.

- The predominant image content must be directly derived from original photographic image(s) which are entirely the work of the entrant; images may not be constructed entirely within a computer.
- The use of any source images which are generated by any image generation programs, including those that are "AI-based", is forbidden.
- We accept that the use of "AI-based" editing tools in image editors such as Photoshop is becoming increasingly prevalent in photographers' workflows.

- We do allow the use of "AI-based" tools in Photoshop, Lightroom, and similar editing programs, including noise reduction and sharpening, but with limitations outlined below.
- The use of tools like (but not limited to) Photoshop's Remove and Generative Fill must be limited to a small area of the final image (no more than around 10% total area) and the resultant product of such tools must be akin to manipulating the image with a clone/stamp tool.
- The use of any tool which introduces a significant visual element which is not in your own source photographs is forbidden. For example, Generative Fill may or may not be allowed depending on whether it introduces new visual element(s). It is acceptable to remove minor distractions and/or extend the canvas in any direction by a small amount, filling the blank area sympathetically with the existing background.