

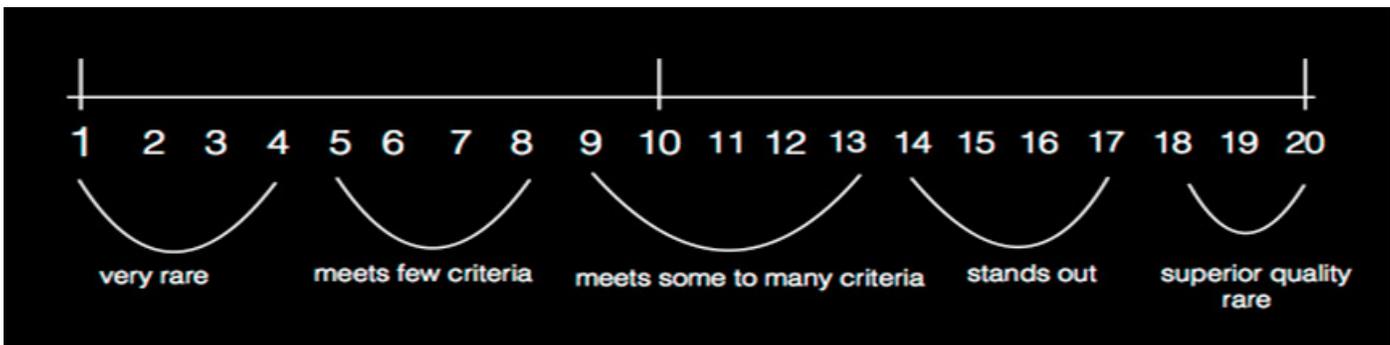
DPI-SIG COMPETITION SCORING in 2015

This is a general guideline for the values in scoring photographs in competition. Judges are encouraged to use as wide a spread of values as possible to distinguish performance between images. Images rarely score less than 8 or higher than 17 points. There are many suggested criteria for judging but we have simplified it to three - Impact, Composition and Technical Aspects. An image may earn a low score in one criterion - but the total score usually reaches at least 8.

Consult the descriptions of the criteria frequently when scoring. They will help guide you toward a fair score.

Only your total scores for each entry need be reported to the Competition Committee. You don't need to calculate anything for them but you can average your 3 criterion numbers to reach your score. The Committee will calculate the average of the 3 judges' total scores and report the top 10% as Blue Ribbon and the next 15% as Yellow Ribbon winners. If the lowest score for the blue ribbons are tied between multiple images, everyone with that score also receives, a blue effectively dipping into the remaining 15% allocated for yellows, as to keep the distribution within the top 25%. If the lowest score for the yellow ribbons are tied, everyone with that score also receives a yellow. The remaining 75% have had a learning experience and may re-enter their images in a future competition.

Most competitions score using a 20 point scale – this is our suggested assignments



Overall Impact –

The image evokes emotion in the viewer. It compels the viewer to return to the main subject again and again. A mood may be projected and the image may make a statement or tell a story. Impact can also be achieved through an original presentation using unique lighting, use of color, interesting perspective or by featuring an unusual subject.

Composition of Elements –

The main subject or subject area is clearly presented by thoughtful placement in the frame. The maker might use the rule of thirds, golden ratio, or less often, center-placement to achieve his or her intent for the image. Leading lines, interesting lighting and well-done cropping contribute to a cohesive image that leads the viewer's eye to the main subject. Other elements in the image support the main subject and invite the eye to move around the image and back to the main subject without detracting from the subject. Artful use of these techniques creates dimension and depth in the image.

Technical Aspects –

The image is in focus, although selective focus may be used to create a mood. Exposure, contrast and color balance (white balance) are suited to the subject and inviting to the eye. Color combinations may suggest a color scheme that is exciting or restful, warm or cool. Post-processing succeeds in enhancing the image without unwanted artifacts, such as haloes, noise, etc.