

**PRINT GUIDELINES**

Welcome to the Print Guidelines. In the following pages I hope you will find all the answers you may have for the Print Competitions.

# Why should I enter the competition?

The Print Competition is different from the digital competitions as you have to print your photos to get them judged. It is a very different feel to see your photo in your hands rather than just seeing it on the screen. Try it and see it for yourself.

Submitting prints for judging is an excellent learning experience: you will learn from your own submissions as well as from other members.

# What is the format to enter my print in competition?

Your prints should be at **least 9” on the long side** and **least 8” on the short side** and mounted to a **maximum size of 16”x20”** (including the mount). Traditional mounting is required which means a matte with a bevel cut, and then placed on top of the print. You will also need to put a board on the backside of the mat board, make sure it’s a rigid material, like backing board or something similar, to keep your print safe.

NOTE: Larger prints tend to do better than smaller ones, please keep this in mind when deciding the size of print to put in front of the judges.

TIP: We see a lot of prints that are cropped by the mat board that do not match the digital version submitted. I recently found out that one could add a 1/16” to 1/8” border around the photo to fix this but; you have to make sure the photo is straight in the opening in the mat or it will look off.

# Where do I print my photograph?

There are too many places to list off where you can get your photograph printed. Do your research and make sure they have the experience to get you a quality image to enter into the Print competitions.

Printing the photograph is just as important and the photograph itself for the Print Competitions. Some Members print their photos themselves, while others go to more professional locations. Some use more economical locations such as Costco and Jean Coutu, but bear in mind that each location may not have the same experience level.

Member suggestion of a professional printer:

*Provisia* - 4420 ch. Cote de Liesse, suite 102, Montreal, H4N 2P7, Tel.: (514) 736-0000

They have a proof you can use so that you can get the best results; match what you have on your screen and once printed. <http://www.provisia.ca/en-couleurs.html>

# What colour should my mat board be?

Matting is an integral part of print presentation and should enhance rather than compete with the picture. Since you are not “framing” the photograph, it’s best to use black or white mat boards for competition. The black mat board is most commonly used in the competitions.

**Where can I find mat boards?** *(For reference only, subject to change.)*

*Gemst Framing* 5254 Paré, Montreal, H4P 1P5 Tel.: (514) 488-5104 pre-cut

*Omer des Serres* Multiple locations across the city made to order

*Michaels* Multiple locations across the city pre-cut (also does custom framing) Matshop <http://www.matshop.ca/>can order mat boards in bulk

Note: Many stores that do custom framing will cut mats to order.

Another option: Buy your cutter, Logan 380-1, which is available on the internet to make your custom mats.

# How do I mount my Print?

Traditional mounting is required: a mat with a bevel cut and then placed on top of the print. “Flush-mounted” prints **will not** be accepted. Please take care if you are cutting your mat yourself, make sure it’s a clean edge around your photo as this just as important as the print itself. The photo is mounted to the back of the mat board, at least tape the corners on the photo; the backing board is then taped securely to the mat board, covering your photo, so that they don’t fall apart when handling the assembled print. You can use double sided tape, but this makes it very difficult if you plan to re-use them for the next competition. I use regular scotch tape and tape the photo down and then the board in the back.

NOTE: If you are using hinged mat boards, please secure the bottom of the mat so it makes it easier for the prints to be handled.

If you have any questions about mounting your prints, please reach out to print@montrelcameraclub.com and we can make sure you get the help that you need. The backing board can be anything you want. I use Bristol board; other members use other materials. The important part is that they don’t fall off and that they protect your photo. I find it easier to have a smaller backing board so it is easier to tape it to the back of the mat board. On the backing board you can write anything you would like, but make sure you have the label that will be sent to you on it. Just print and cut it out from the email you receive confirming your entries into that week’s competition. Your label MUST be taped to the back of your print, **NO EXCEPTIONS**.

NOTE: Please pay attention to the arrows to state which way is up for your print as this will determine the positioning of your print.

# How do I name my print?

Using the format below will give us all the information about you as well as the information about the print you are submitting.

* You will need to submit the **digital image** of each print you plan to submit into competition. Please make sure that your filename matches the format as indicated as above else you will be requested to resubmit the image.
* Make sure the **image** you send is **cropped as close as you can** to your printed version.

NOTE: Images should be submitted with a **maximum width of 3840 pixels and a maximum height of 2160 pixels.** Not adhering to the guidelines of size and colour space may negatively impact quality when projected.

Please make sure your prints are properly put together, so they don’t fall apart upon handling. Before competition night, you will receive an email with a pdf file with your labels. These labels have the order number so that the prints will be placed in a random order when being judged. Each print on Challenge evening **must** have the label received taped to the back.

# What time do I need to bring my prints for competition?

We highly recommend your prints arrive **before 7pm** so that the volunteers can get them ready for the judging.

# How is my print judged?

A person viewing the print will expect good technique consisting of correct exposure, ideal depth of field, effective use of color and lighting, and an appropriate background. One expects a level horizon line and cropping so the image shows to its best advantage. In addition to the subject matter, the viewers will evaluate the quality, color tone and technical details of printing (or the range of tones in black & white images).