2023 CAPA Survey - Suggested Improvement To Competitions

Image Specifications

2023 survey suggestions received:

- **current individual CAPA member survey (478 responses received)**:

  A. Resolution of portrait cropped images is far too low when using the competition entry specifications as the vertical dimension is limiting.

  B. limiting entries to 1400 by 1050 pixels no longer makes sense in a world where 2K and 4K monitors are common (1 respondent)

  more information and uniform formats with other organizations (SPPQ) (1 respondent)

- **past individual CAPA member survey (138 responses received)**: no responses received for this topic.

- **current CAPA Camera Club survey (48 responses received)**: no responses received for this topic.

- **past CAPA Camera Club survey (8 responses received)**: no responses received for this topic.

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

A. Submitting Digital Portraits

Since our online competition system cannot accommodate image orientation adjustments by the judges. It is important that submitted images be submitted in the correct orientation must consist of a maximum image dimension of 1400 x 1050 pixels.

Images beyond these maximum values will be rejected by our online competition system.

Portrait images smaller than the maximum dimension will ONLY be accepted under the following conditions:

- If the image's horizontal size is exactly 1400 pixels and the vertical size is any value less than or equal to 1050 pixels. For example: 1400 x 800 pixels.

- If the image's vertical size is actually 1050 pixels and the horizontal size is any value less than or equal to 1400 pixels. For example: 850 x 1050 pixels.

- Square image are also acceptable, with dimensions of 1050 x 1050 pixels.

The recommended resolution for submitted images is 72 pixels per inch. However, photographers have the flexibility to increase this resolution, as long as the total image file size remains below 1.8 MB. This allows photographers to balance image quality and file size according to their preferences.

B. Standardizing Image Dimensions

At the March 16, 2020 CAPA Board of Directors meeting, it was recommended that CAPA revise our current maximum image dimension from 1400 x 1050 pixels to 1920 x 1080 pixels.

During this presentation to the Board, it was highlighted the lack of standardized maximum image dimension across Canada camera clubs and around the world. To illustrate this point, here is a list of various maximum dimension used by different camera clubs and societies:

Using 1024 x 768 pixels:

- Caroun Photo Club

Using 1024 x 1024 pixels:

- Kingston Photo Club

Using 1280 x 800 pixels:

- Saskatoon Camera Club

Using 1400 x 1050 pixels:

- Annual Lions Gate's Celebration of Nature competition
- Atlantic Geoscience Society Competition
- North Shore Photo Challenge competition
- Nova Scotia Bird Society Competition
- Nova Scotia Nature Trust Competition

- The Red River Exhibition Photo Salon and Prairie Region of Photographic Art

- Burnaby Photography Club, Central Okanagan Photographic Society, Chilliwack Camera Club, Foothills Camera Club,
- Crescent Beach Photography Club, Images Alberta Camera Club, Langley Camera Club, Kamloops Photo Arts Club, Manitoba Camera Club, Napanee Photo Club, Prince George Photography Society, Regina Photo Club, Surrey Photography Club, Vernon Camera Club, Victoria Camera Club and Trillium Photographic Club

Using 1024 x 1024 pixels:

- Foothills Camera Club

Using 1600 x 1200 pixels:

- Etobicoke Camera Club

Using 1920 x 1080 pixels:

- the Ontario Council of Camera Clubs (consisting of 35 camera clubs)
- Société de promotion de la photographie du Québec
- Camera 35 St. Johns
- Harbour City Photography Club
- Highland Glen Camera Club
- Grand River & Capturing Photographic Society
- Photo Arts Club of Newmarket
- Toronto Digital Camera Club

Using 1920 x 1200 pixels:

- Australian Photographic Society

Using 4096 x 2730 pixels:

- Atlantic Geoscience Society competition
- Nova Scotia Bird Society competition

- Nova Scotia Nature Trust competition

Using 3840 x 2160 pixels:

- Montreal Camera Club

Using 2820 x 2880 pixels:

- The Professional Photographers of Canada

As per FIAP Booklet guidelines, there is no established international standard for maximum dimension of images to be submitted into a FIAP competition. Instead, the digital dimensions of the submitted images are determined by the specific photographic society hosting the FIAP recognized competition.

It's important to note that currently, there is no global consensus or universally accepted maximum dimensions for images among photographic societies Each society is free to set its own criteria and specifications for image submissions, including resolution and aspect ratio.

Here are some of the different maximum dimensions of images from around the world:

Using 1920 x 1080 pixels

- Bangladesh Photographic Society
- Four Nations Competition
- International Association of Art Photographers
- Photographic Society of South Africa
- The Photographic Society of India

Using 1400 x 1050 pixels

- Canadian Association for Photographic Art
- Photographic Society of America

Different maximum dimensions

- Federation of European Photographers – at least 4,000 pixels on the longest side

- Photographic Society of New Zealand – 3840 x 2160 pixels – maximum file size
- Royal Photographic Society – maximum 2500 pixels on the longest edge
- Sony World Photography Awards – 1920 x 1280 pixels
- Toronto Camera International Salon
- World Photographic Cup – 4000 pixels on the longest side

During the noted Board meeting, it became evident that there was no majority consensus among the members regarding the decision to change our maximum image dimensions.

The matter was discussed thoroughly, and Dr. Bob Ito presented a comprehensive document outlining various perspectives and considerations relating to this topic. After careful deliberation, the Board ultimately voted to retain our current maximum image dimensions of 1400 x 1050 pixels.

A copy of Dr. Ito's submitted report is included below:

The request to adopt the HD video format of 1920 x 1080 pixels is largely based on the significant reduction in the number sRGB compliant projectors in the market and the current larger availability of HD home cinema video projectors which some organizations have purchased.

However, the 1920 x 1080 is a video format with a 16:9 aspect ratio whereas most digital still cameras shot images that have a 4:3 or 3:2 aspect ratio and the most common print sizes have a 5:4 aspect ratio which is even squarer than the 4:3 format

I strongly recommend that CAPA not follow any move to using the HD video format of 1920 x1080.

REASONS:

1. Videos have always been horizontal in format but still photographs can be vertical or horizontal The current 1400 x1050 CAPA format is a 4:3 format and even in this format vertical images have approximately 50% of the screen area of a horizontal projected image. This puts vertical images at a significant visual disadvantage compared to horizontal images as image size has a significant visual impact. This effect is quite visible on the LCD screen on the back of your camera or on the computer screen that you use for editing. The 16:9 HD video format makes this even worse as a vertical image is not only 40% of the size of horizontal images

and further decreases the fairness to a vertical image. For those of that can still remember film projectors, they essentially had a square format so that vertical images and horizontal images had the same projected area. I think that fairness is paramount, particularly in competitions; it is definitely unfair to give horizontal images an advantage over vertical images and the HD video format makes the situation worse.

2. Almost all the HD home video projectors use the REC 709 HD video standard as the colour gamut and tonal range standard and most do not offer the sRGB photographic standard. While the colour gamut of the sRGB and REC 709 spaces are close, there is a significant difference in the tonal or gamma characteristics of the two standards. For example, pure white in the REC709 space is set at 235 whereas for the sRGB standard it is 255. Similarly, pure black in the REC 709 standard is set at 16 whereas in the sRGB standard pure black is at 0. This means that photographic images projected on a HD video projector may have clipped highlight and shadow areas (any values above 235 may be clipped to white and any values below 16 may be clipped to black) giving the impression of higher contrast but less pleasing tonal characteristics because the appropriate tonal range is not being displayed for photographs. Also, the shape of the gamma curve is different for REC709 compared to sRGB and this again affects the visual appearance and appeal of a photographic image. While calibration with a high quality calibration may help to correct this tonal range problem, many clubs neither have the equipment nor skills and understanding to do a proper calibration and to set up the projection computer and projector. There are still some projectors available that have sRGB compliance. (e.g. Optima ZH406, EH412 and WU416)

3. Our current CAPA standard is 1400 x1050 pixels. Some clubs still have 1024x768 or 1400 x 1050 projectors. On a 1400 x1050 projector a 1920x 1080 image would be projected as a 1400 x 933 pixel image which is significantly smaller than a 1400 x 1050 image i.e the actual number of pixels shown on the screen is significantly reduced and images submitted in the HD video format would be disadvantaged over images submitted in the current 4:3 format `

4. It is well known that image dynamic tonal range and colour gamut are more important to the visual experience than the number of pixels in an image. This is why the big push in TVs currently is for more dynamic tonal range (HDR10, Dolby Vision) and larger gamut (DCI P3 and Rec 2020) and clubs should be more concerned about dynamic tonal range and colour gamut of their projectors than the number of pixels in the image.

5. Home video projector arose because early flat screen TVs were quite small and in order to get a large image a projector was needed. However, projectors do not work well in typical TV viewing environments Flat screen TVs are getting increasing larger and brighter and the need for projection TV is diminishing. So, my guess is that home video projectors will largely go the way of the dodo. Projectors will still be used by businesses; so, business projector are likely more viable in the long term

and these typically utilize at 4:3 aspect ratio, which is appropriate for business documents.

So the above gives my recommendation and rationale.