



TABLETOP WARGAMING CONVENTION

## CAPITAL PALETTE 2018 – NEW RULES

*What you need to know*

The 2018 Capital Palette competition will implement several new rules. All the rules are detailed in the Primer, but this article specifically discusses those things that have changed since last year's competition.

### #1 THREE DIVISIONS OF COMPETITION, RATHER THAN JUST ONE

The 2018 Capital Palette competition will utilize three divisions based on the skill level of the painter. Those divisions are:

**Apprentice** – *The Apprentice Division is for beginners and is designed for new painters, young painters, and those getting back into painting after a long absence.*

**Journeyman** – *The Journeyman Division is focused on high-end gamer-level (tabletop) painting. This division is for those artists who are as interested in gaming as they are in painting.*

**Masterclass** – *The Masterclass Division is for exceptional artists who have been competing and establishing themselves as masters in the wargaming hobby and paint communities.*

This change was based on feedback from previous contestants, as well as recommendations from our judging team. Our goal is to create a welcome environment for our guests by allowing participants to choose the level of competition they feel most comfortable with. We don't want a new painter feeling discouraged and deciding not to enter because a "master painter" has entered in the same category.

Keep in mind that the competition has previously been and will continue to be open forum, meaning that all entries are judged against the "Hobby Standard" rather than each other. The new divisions simply modify this standard to reflect the skill level of the entry.

It's important to note that the updated Primer allows judges to reevaluate an entry and adjust its division or category at their discretion. Realistically, we may not be able to notify a contestant until after judging is complete if a change is required as some adjustments may not happen until judging occurs. If this is a concern, then please be confident in your choice of division and category. And feel free to request assistance from the NOVA Open Capital Palette staff, if required.

Finally, an artist's submissions may be disqualified if it is discovered that the artist chose a lesser division in bad faith, deliberately trying to game the system. We have high confidence that this won't occur, but we are reserving the right to disqualify, just in case. Please note that if the judges have no reason to assume bad faith, they will simply make the adjustment to division (or category) and the artist will not be penalized in any way.

## #2 NEW ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Two changes have been made to the eligibility requirements, which affect what submissions can be made to the competition, as well as who can sign up to participate.

The following verbiage has been added for 2018 and applies to all submissions:

*“Capital Palette displays artwork for viewing by all those who attend NOVA Open. Therefore, at its sole discretion, NOVA Open reserves the right to refuse or remove/return any submission it considers inappropriate or offensive. Any artist who has concerns that their entry may be questionable is encouraged to contact the NOVA Open in advance of the competition for guidance on their specific entry (customerservice@novaopen.com).”*

What does this mean? It means that we are erring on the side of caution with regards to expression vs. poor taste. NOVA Open's guests come from a wide variety of places with different beliefs and views. We have also had more and more young people attend our event in recent years. For this and a few other reasons, we decided to add the above statement. If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact customer service using the email listed above.

The second eligibility change in 2018 allows NOVA Open Staff to officially participate in Capital Palette, but they must follow stricter rules than normal contestants. NOVA Open Staff may submit entries for the open forum competition and can receive medals if their work warrants it. But NOVA Open Staff are ineligible to win Best in Show, Best Weathering, Creative Expression, or Empowered Creativity Awards. However, NOVA Open Staff ARE eligible to win the Fan Favorite award.

## #3 JUDGING IN 2018

We re-wrote the judging section of the Primer to make it more streamlined and direct. It's pretty much the same thing, just easier to read. For the basic judging that results in medals, the NOVA Open Capital Palette utilizes a panel of three judges, chosen by NOVA Open as renowned miniature artists from across the United States and around the world. They are the sole arbiters of the final results in each division and category the competition. Their decisions are final.

Decisions on "Additional Awards" are judged by either attendees (Fan Favorite) or the primary sponsors or designated representative of those awards. In all instances, the decisions are final.

## SUMMARY

These are the major changes to this year's Capital Palette Art competition. If you have any questions about the above information or any NOVA Open related subject, please contact NOVA Open Customer Services at customerservice@novaopen.com and we will do what we can to get you an answer as quickly as possible.