



## PRETORIA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

### MONTHLY COMPETITION RULES AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Effective from 1 September 2020

#### Specific Review requests:

- The Criteria box – do we want it as is, or replace it with the salon-type criteria we are using to brief the judges? (13.3)
- Should “Best of star rating” be limited to the open category or should it also cover Workshops, Outings and Set Subjects?
- Evelyn’s suggestion that we limit manipulation on certain types of images.

<b>1.</b>	<b>What’s New in this Revision</b>
1.1	The stream of Prints is removed from the rules. The stream has been inactive for some time and if it is ever re-introduced, will require a complete re-rewrite.
1.2	The rules for Maximum Entries and Workshop or Outing entries are reworded for clarity. (6.4,6.46.5)
1.3	The rules on resubmissions are reworded for clarity. (7)
1.4	The rules images that may not be entered are reworded for clarity. (8)
1.5	The rules on similar entries are reworded for clarity. (8.4)
1.6	Provision is made for rules applicable to virtual meetings. (15)
1.7	The rules for “Best” awards have been reworded for clarity and to specify that the best of the star ratings applies only to Open entries. (16)
1.8	The Annual Log of Points is removed as this is no longer required. (Error! Reference source not found.)
1.9	Bertus de Jongh Honours are introduced as a new challenge to 5-Star members. (3.5, 22)
<b>2.</b>	<b>Objects of the Rules</b>
2.1	The Rules provide a structure to organise the competition and ensure a smooth flow of the judging process in an orderly and disciplined way.
2.2	The Rules provide a vehicle for appropriate value judgements of images in both the photographic skills and aesthetic domain.
2.3	The committee will resolve any disputes and interpretations of the rules.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
	Unless the context requires otherwise the following definitions apply:
3.1	<u>Category</u> is a theme of the monthly competition. At present the categories are Open and Set Subject.
3.2	<u>Competition</u> means the competition held during the PPS monthly meeting during which members enter images in a number of media for evaluation by a panel of judges, points for which are counted towards their formal status as a photographer within PPS.
3.3	<u>Image</u> is the picture based on the photographic process, as presented to the judges and members in projected form or hard copy.
3.4	<u>Star-Rating</u> contains 1 - 5 stars, representing an increasing standard of photography.
3.5	<u>PPS Bertus de Jongh Honours</u> , abbreviated to <u>Honours</u> , are a further means of recognition for 5-Star workers.
3.6	<u>Matrix</u> is the table of thresholds for the awards to be earned from the points given by judges to images at various star levels. They are defined in the document listed at the end of these rules.

## Monthly Competition Rules and Conditions of Entry



<b>4.</b>	<b>Competition Rules of Entry - When competitions are held</b>
4.1	Monthly competitions shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month excluding December.
4.2	If the End-of-the-Year function is held on the third Tuesday of November, the monthly competition falls away.
4.3	The competition year runs from September to August of the following year.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Competition Rules of Entry - Members entitled to enter</b>
5.1	Only fully paid up members may enter any competition in the club. A member whose subscriptions are outstanding as of November of each year will receive no credit for entries.
5.2	Members may submit entries even though they do not attend a meeting.
5.3	Members or their immediate family may not enter a competition they are judging. Such members and their immediate families are allowed a double entry at any of the two following competitions, including two Set Subject entries of the indicated theme for that month (i.e. the month in which the double entry occurs). For judges at the last monthly competition of a club year, such double entry may also be submitted in the prior month.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Star-ratings and other categories for submissions</b>
6.1	Members may participate in one of 5 Star-ratings as relevant, namely 1-Star, 2-Star, 3-Star, 4-Star and 5-Star.
6.2	All entries are in the form of Projected Images, which may be monochrome or colour
6.3	All entries are judged in a single, open category with the exception of Set Subject entries. Open entries may be of any subject matter, while Set Subjects must conform to the announced topics. There are no restrictions on manipulation of entries in monthly competitions.
6.4	The following <u>maximum</u> number of entries are allowed per member per month:
	a) Three (3) normal entries
	b) One (1) additional Set Subject entry; and
	c) One (1) additional Workshop OR Outing entry, i.e. only one entry either from a workshop OR an outing in each monthly competition.
	d) Workshop entries are images taken during one of the practical workshops of the PPS and have " - W" appended to the title. An Outing is a trip organised by PPS to a specific destination and its entries are identified by "- O" appended to the title. This excludes outings arranged by individual members unless there is formal acceptance by the committee.
6.5	The Workshop or Outing entry shall be entered no later than two monthly meetings immediately following the workshop or outing. As an example, a picture taken on an outing dated 14 October may be entered in the October or January Monthly Competition – there are no meetings in November or December.
6.6	The theme for the Set Subjects shall be announced well in advance.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Resubmissions</b>
7.1	Four resubmissions per competition year are allowed by each member.
	a) Resubmissions are from the Open category only and exclude Set Subject and Workshop/Outing entries.
	b) Only one resubmission is allowed per month.
	c) The resubmission may be edited to improve its chances of success.
	d) The resubmission title shall be the same as the original image with "-R" or "- RS" appended.
	e) The resubmission is in addition to the normal entry.
	f) Resubmissions are not limited to a Club Year but may be submitted at any time.

## Monthly Competition Rules and Conditions of Entry



7.2	At the sole discretion of the committee, additional resubmissions may be allowed in order to correct errors in judging or recording of results
<b>8. Work that may NOT be entered</b>	
8.1	Images containing any element which is not the work of the author may not be entered. This also means that borders (other than Polaroid or 35mm film), textures, non-standard brushes downloaded from the internet may not be included.
8.2	Photographs or parts of pictures from books, magazines, Internet, TV, or copies of another person's work are not permissible. Any image including an artwork must clearly add value to the artwork by showing context, activity etc.
8.3	A Set Subject or workshop entry may not be re-entered as a monthly entry. Likewise, a previously entered image in the open competition may not be re-entered as a Set Subject or workshop.
8.4	Except for the case of resubmissions, no entry which closely resembles a previous entry shall be submitted.
	a) For clarity, images taken in a burst within a few seconds will be regarded as too similar.
	b) No image entered as Monochrome may be re-entered as Colour and vice versa.
	c) Members may suggest that an image is too similar to a previous entry, by email to the competition secretary, and the committee will adjudicate the matter, possibly requesting original images from the member.
<b>9. How the entries are submitted</b>	
9.1	Entries are made online through the Photovaultonline system.
9.2	All entries shall bear a title. Titles should be short, inoffensive and in keeping with the subject matter. PhotovaultOnline excludes the use of most special characters in the title.
9.3	E-photos will not be returned. The committee will retain all e-entries for use only in Flash, the PPS website, PSSA Club competitions, year-end competitions and inter-club competitions; and as a backup for members. The committee may not publish or distribute these images in any other way without the permission of the author.
9.4	Whilst all possible care is taken with entries, no responsibility shall be accepted by PPS for any loss or damage.
9.5	All the work, of all elements of the picture, shall be solely that of the author. A standard border such as a 35mm or Polaroid may be used, but use of the pictures of others as borders is not permissible.
9.6	Projected images shall conform to the then-current standards of the PPS, which shall be broadly aligned with the general practice and standards of the PSSA and international practice. The current standards are published from time to time in Flash and are subject to change.
<b>10. Non-manipulated and manipulated images</b>	
10.1	All manipulation of the images shall be the work of the author. Manipulation by commercial laboratories or somebody else is not acceptable.
10.2	For Nature, Wildlife or Photojournalism categories in the End-of-Year competition, images may not be manipulated. It is in order for these topics to be manipulated in the monthly Open competitions, but then they may not be submitted in these categories in the End-of-Year competition.
<b>11. Judging Rules - General</b>	
11.1	Judging of entries in live meetings will be done by a panel of three judges. It is preferable that at least one the club judges is at the 5-star level, but this will not always be possible.

## Monthly Competition Rules and Conditions of Entry



11.2	Judging of entries in virtual meetings may be done by a panel of three judges or a single judge. In the case of a single judge, a more lenient scoring matrix may be used.
11.3	The judges' decision is final. The judges may change their decisions for a particular award during the competition.
11.4	Entries shall be judged using a matrix system, which will be published from time to time in e-Flash.
11.5	If an entry does not meet the criteria for its category, the entry may be marked down or even disqualified by the judges.
<b>12.</b>	<b>Judging Rules - Workshop and Outing entries</b>
12.1	Workshop and Outing entries shall be judged in the star-rating they are entered together with the normal entries, using the matrix method.
12.2	The award shall receive the same points as the normal entries.
	<b>Judging Rules - Set Subject entries</b>
12.3	Set Subject entries shall be judged separately.
12.4	Set subject entries are judged within the star rating of the entrant using the matrix method.
12.5	The award shall receive the same points as the normal entries.
12.6	If the image (not the title) entered as a Set Subject is inconsistent with the chosen subject, the entry may be marked down or even disqualified by the judges.
<b>13.</b>	<b>Judging Rules - Awards</b>
13.1	An entry may receive one of the following five awards:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Award</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bronze</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Silver</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gold</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certificate of Merit</li> </ul>
13.2	The Certificate of Merit may be awarded to an image of exceptional/outstanding quality and of a decidedly higher standard than a Gold award in its Star-rating.

# Monthly Competition Rules and Conditions of Entry



14.	<p><b>Possible New Criteria:</b> <span style="background-color: yellow;">[Committee input, please]</span></p> <p>Judges should score images according to this guideline:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>6</b></td> <td>No award</td> <td colspan="3">You know, if you...</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>7 8</b></td> <td>Bronze</td> <td colspan="3">You are getting there, now also...</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>9 10</b></td> <td>Silver</td> <td colspan="3">Almost there, let's talk about it...</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>11 12</b></td> <td>Gold</td> <td colspan="3">This is it, maybe...</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>13</b></td> <td>Good Gold</td> <td colspan="3">Really good, except for...</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>14 15</b></td> <td>Certificate of Merit</td> <td colspan="3">I wish it was mine! Tell me more.</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Previous Criteria:</b> The Gold award may be given to an image conforming to the recommended criteria of the PSSA. Note that the criteria stated are correct as at October 2020, but are subject to change in the future:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Criterion</u></th> <th><u>1-Star</u></th> <th><u>2-Star</u></th> <th><u>3-Star</u></th> <th><u>4-Star</u></th> <th><u>5-Star</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Correct Exposure</i></td> <td>Required</td> <td>Required</td> <td>Required</td> <td>Required</td> <td>Required</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>In focus</i></td> <td>Required</td> <td>Required</td> <td>Required</td> <td>Required</td> <td>Required</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Picture clean and well presented</i></td> <td>Required</td> <td>Required</td> <td>Required</td> <td>Required</td> <td>Required</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Element of composition</i></td> <td>Some</td> <td>Some</td> <td>Required, note 1</td> <td>Required</td> <td>Required</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Impact</i></td> <td>No</td> <td>Some</td> <td>Required</td> <td>Required</td> <td>Required</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Cropping</i></td> <td>No</td> <td>Some</td> <td>Some</td> <td>Required</td> <td>Required</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Salon Standard</i></td> <td>No</td> <td>No</td> <td>No</td> <td>Entry-level National (Note 2)</td> <td>Entry-level International (Note 3)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						<b>6</b>	No award	You know, if you...				<b>7 8</b>	Bronze	You are getting there, now also...				<b>9 10</b>	Silver	Almost there, let's talk about it...				<b>11 12</b>	Gold	This is it, maybe...				<b>13</b>	Good Gold	Really good, except for...				<b>14 15</b>	Certificate of Merit	I wish it was mine! Tell me more.			<u>Criterion</u>	<u>1-Star</u>	<u>2-Star</u>	<u>3-Star</u>	<u>4-Star</u>	<u>5-Star</u>	<i>Correct Exposure</i>	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required	<i>In focus</i>	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required	<i>Picture clean and well presented</i>	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required	<i>Element of composition</i>	Some	Some	Required, note 1	Required	Required	<i>Impact</i>	No	Some	Required	Required	Required	<i>Cropping</i>	No	Some	Some	Required	Required	<i>Salon Standard</i>	No	No	No	Entry-level National (Note 2)	Entry-level International (Note 3)
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	<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the 3-star level, composition should begin to show an understanding of the importance of lines, shapes and form.</li> <li>Salon Standard = The top 20% of all the entries in a National Competition</li> <li>It should be remembered that International Salon Standard represents the top 20% of all entries in an International Salon = the top 20% in the world.</li> </ol>																																																																																								
14.1	The Silver award may be given to an image showing minor faults which can be improved by cleaning, masking, tilting, contrast or colour adjustments, sharpening or removal of small interfering objects or retaking under suitable circumstances																																																																																								
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14.3	Images not showing any promise may receive a No Award.																																																																																								
14.4	These criteria shall be communicated to judges prior to judging.																																																																																								

## Monthly Competition Rules and Conditions of Entry



<b>15.</b>	<b>Judging Rules - Marking</b>
15.1	The judges shall each award a mark out of 15. The scores are totalled and the award is determined according to a scoring matrix.
	a) Where there are three judges, the scores are totalled and the award is determined according to a scoring matrix, which shall be published in the bulletin of the Society.
	b) Where there is one judge, the score is multiplied by 3 to give a score out of 45.
	c) The thresholds used in the matrix are defined in a document listed in the External References at the end of this document.
	d) The matrix for a single judge may be different from that used for multiple judges. This will usually be more lenient.
<b>16.</b>	<b>Judging Rules - Best of Evening</b>
16.1	The judges should choose the Star-rating winners for the evening as follows:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The best Projected Image (inclusive of the Workshop/Outing entries but excluding Set Subject) in each Star-rating, to be known as 'Best of Star-rating'; and</li> <li>• The best Set Subject, to be known as 'Best Set Subject'.</li> </ul>
16.2	The judges should choose the best entry of the evening for Projected Images from amongst the Open and Set Subject entries with the highest scores, to be known as 'Best of Evening' for Junior (1 to 3-Star) and Senior (4 and 5-Star) members.
16.3	Should no entry with a Gold award be available, the judges need not choose a best of the evening for the specific Star-rating. A single Gold automatically becomes the 'Best of Star-rating', 'Best Set Subject' or 'Best of Evening'.
<b>17.</b>	<b>Entry Level Rules - Placement on joining PPS</b>
17.1	A new member must be formally placed in each Star-rating before entering the competition for the first time.
17.2	The Competition Secretary in consultation with the Committee shall place a new member in the appropriate Star-rating.
17.3	Inexperienced new members should be placed in 1-Star.
17.4	New members with photographic experience shall submit a panel of 12 images to the Committee for evaluation in each of the streams in which they wish to enter.
17.5	In evaluating photographic experience and placing a new member the Committee should consider the following:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level of skill and aesthetic qualities demonstrated by the panel;</li> <li>• Years of photographic experience;</li> <li>• Competition level in previous clubs;</li> <li>• Record of entering salons, local and abroad; and</li> <li>• Relevant photographic honours, local and abroad.</li> </ul>
17.6	New members with demonstrable photographic experience may be placed in 1- to 5-Star
17.7	The Committee may in its absolute discretion promote to a Star-rating higher than One Star, any member who can produce documentary evidence of photographic ability that would warrant such promotion. Such a review may be initiated by the committee, and any member invited to apply for promotion under this clause must be prepared to submit the relevant evidence to a review board appointed by the Committee. Such a review may also be requested by the member 1 week in advance of a committee meeting, and the committee will decide at that committee meeting whether to invite the submission of the evidence at the following committee meeting. The committee decision is final. Only 1 such review for any member will be allowed in one club year.

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<b>18.</b>	<b>Rules of Promotion - General</b>																									
18.1	Members are promoted to a higher Star-rating after complying with the set requirements, and when ratified/approved by the Committee.																									
18.2	The set requirements shall have been gained during the member's stay in each Star-rating, with the exception of Salon Credits, which will be based on the cumulative salon credits achieved by a member.																									
18.3	The Competition Secretary shall track the Gold /COM award and Salon performance of members and recommend promotions to the Committee for ratification. The Gold/COM awards are drawn from the competition management system and the Salon credits as defined in Salon Credits below. The Competition Secretary shall then notify the member of the promotion.																									
18.4	Promotion takes place after each Monthly Competition, and excess Gold awards earned during a competition are lost.																									
<b>19.</b>	<b>Promotion Criteria</b>																									
19.1	Members may be promoted with the gaining of the following numbers of Gold or Certificate of Merit awards, Salons and Regular Service to PPS. Note that <table border="1" data-bbox="260 907 1345 1276" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Promotion</th> <th>Gold Awards</th> <th>Salon Credits</th> <th>PSSA Honours</th> <th>Regular Service to PPS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1- 2-Star</td> <td>12</td> <td>None</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 - 3-Star</td> <td>18 OR 50</td> <td>1  None</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 - 4-Star</td> <td>24</td> <td>13 cumulative</td> <td>Licentiate</td> <td>Regular Service Required</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 - 5-Star</td> <td>25</td> <td>37 cumulative</td> <td>Associate</td> <td>Regular Service Required</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Promotion	Gold Awards	Salon Credits	PSSA Honours	Regular Service to PPS	1- 2-Star	12	None	N/A	None	2 - 3-Star	18 OR 50	1  None	N/A	None	3 - 4-Star	24	13 cumulative	Licentiate	Regular Service Required	4 - 5-Star	25	37 cumulative	Associate	Regular Service Required
Promotion	Gold Awards	Salon Credits	PSSA Honours	Regular Service to PPS																						
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3 - 4-Star	24	13 cumulative	Licentiate	Regular Service Required																						
4 - 5-Star	25	37 cumulative	Associate	Regular Service Required																						
19.2	Certain of the salon requirements may be replaced by achievement of PSSA Honours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The achievement of the LPSSA Honours award of the PSSA replaces the requirement for Salon credits at the 4-Star level</li> <li>• The achievement of the APSSA Honours award of the PSSA replaces the requirement for Salon credits at the 5-Star level</li> <li>• The achievement of the FPSSA Honours award of the PSSA replaces all requirements for promotion to 5-Star.</li> </ul>																									
19.3	All promotions are at the discretion of the committee and are effective after each committee meeting.																									
19.4	Salon Credits for promotions up to 5-Star are defined in the section, <b>Salon Credits</b> . Note that salon credits are cumulative and continue to accrue through each promotion.																									
19.5	Service on a regular basis to the PPS is by being Committee Member, Speaker, Lecturer, Judge or Contributor to the Magazine or Newsletter.																									
<b>20.</b>	<b>Promotion Criteria - Salon Credits</b>																									
20.1	Credit for salon acceptances that count towards promotion to a higher Star-rating include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any South African National or International Salon;</li> </ul>																									

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any National or International Salon abroad as approved by the Royal Photographic Society (RPS), the Photographic Society of America (PSA) or the Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP).</li> </ul>												
	NOTE: Salon acceptances from abroad are only accepted from September 2002 onwards. Salon acceptances from South Africa do not have this time restriction.												
20.2	<p>The credits for salon acceptances are calculated as follows:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>National</th> <th>International</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Acceptances</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Special awards</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Category winners</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Special awards are any recognition above acceptance, specifically including COMS, commendations and places other than category winners.</p>		National	International	Acceptances	1	2	Special awards	2	3	Category winners	3	4
	National	International											
Acceptances	1	2											
Special awards	2	3											
Category winners	3	4											
20.3	A maximum of three sets of credit points may be claimed per image. This is to be done in date sequence of salons, and it is not possible to replace an existing earlier entry with a later one that might attract more salon credits.												
20.4	It is the responsibility of the member to maintain accurate and verifiable records of his/her Salon acceptances and to communicate these to the Competition Secretary. Acceptable, verifiable records include acceptance cards, emails from salon organisers, marked-up extracts from websites and other documentation issued by the salon organisers. It is important that the salon organiser is the source and the onus is on the member to communicate the evidence to the competition secretary. It is recognised that this may not be possible for recapturing the cumulative past salon history, and at its sole discretion the committee may accept members' own records of their past salon acceptances.												
20.5	The Star-rating of a member is kept only while the member continues membership of the PPS. On resignation from PPS, a member loses the Star-rating, and should the member re-join, may have to demonstrate by means of a panel that they should re-join at the appropriate level.												
<b>21.</b>	<b>Reporting of competition results and promotions</b>												
21.1	The Competition Secretary shall publish the competition results, including promotions, to the members. This may be delegated to the projection team member operating the PhotovaultOnline system.												
<b>22.</b>	<b>PPS Bertus de Jongh Honours (Referred to below as "Honours")</b>												
22.1	Honours are a recognition system for excellence in photography, awarded by PPS to 5-Star workers who have met stated criteria.												
22.2	The rules for the Honours are kept in a separate document, detailed in the External References at the end of these rules.												
<b>23.</b>	<b>Verification of work</b>												
23.1	The committee may at any time require members to demonstrate the authenticity of their submissions to any body outside of the PPS, in order to conform to the requirements of PSSA or international equivalent bodies.												

End of rules.

These rules are in the document **PPS Competition Rules Proposed 20201020.docx**, which will be

## Monthly Competition Rules and Conditions of Entry



updated from time to time.

Rules are kept in the directory PPS>PPS Rules on the club laptop.

### External references:

Topic	Document
Matrix Definition for Monthly Competition awards:	Addendum to PPS Competition Rules on scoring matrix September 2020.docx
Rules for PPS Bertus de Jongh Honours	20200914 PPS Honours Rules Draft 2.docx (This may change regularly during the first year as the rules are finalised.)
Rules for Year-end Competition	PPS Year-end Competition Rules 2021 As Distributed.docx and as .pdf
Top Scoring Guidelines	PPS Guidelines for Judges V007 20180305.doc

Distribution of rules to members is always done as a .pdf rather than a .docx