



PRETORIA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

MONTHLY COMPETITION RULES AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Effective from 1 September 2025

1.	What's New in this Revision. Updated August 2025. References are to paragraph numbers.
1.1	The competition categories are adjusted to reflect categories and definitions as from 1 September 2025 (3.1, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 6.3, 6.4, 10.2, 10.3, 16.2, 16.3.)
1.2	Inclusion of when entries close for monthly competitions (4.1)
1.3	Inclusion of additional star levels, Master Bronze, Master Silver, Master Gold, Master Platinum and Master Diamond (Star 6 – 10)(3.4, 6.1, 13.3, 16.2, 17.6, 19.1, , 19.4, 22.1)
1.4	Adjustment of the categories related to work that may not be entered (8.3)
1.5	Removal of paragraph 9.8 which refers to the definition of Visual Art as per End of Year Competition definition of Visual Art. New category name and definition is as per paragraph 3.10.
1.6	Set Subject to be included for awards (16.1, 16.2)
1.7	Expand on service to PPS for promotions (19.5)
2.	Objects of the Rules
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.
3.	Definitions
	Unless the context requires otherwise the following definitions apply:
3.1	<u>Category</u> The categories are Open, Nature (Non-Manipulation), Photojournalism and Street Photography (Non-Manipulation), Scapes, Set Subject and Visual/Fine Art.
3.2	<u>Competition</u> means the competition held during the PPS monthly meeting during which members enter images 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.
3.4	<u>Star-Rating</u> contains 1 - 10 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 and above 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.
3.7	<u>Nature</u> is an image as per PSSA definition for non-manipulation categories and to found at https://pssa.co.za/pssa-salon-competition-rules . Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both overwater and underwater. Nature images must convey the truth of the scene. (Honesty, no unethical practices, show human activity only when absolutely necessary.) The most important part of a Nature image is the nature story it tells. High technical standards are expected, and the image must look natural.
3.8	<u>Photojournalism and Street Photography</u> is an image as per PSSA definition for non-manipulation categories and to found at https://pssa.co.za/pssa-salon-competition-rules . Photojournalism entries are images with informative content reflecting the human presence in our world and emotional impact which usually include human interest, documentary, news or sport. The journalistic value of the image shall receive priority over the pictorial quality. In the interest of credibility, PJ and Street Photography images that misrepresent the truth and model or staged set-ups are not permitted.



3.9	<p>Scapes is an image shows the spaces within the world, sometimes vast and unending, but other times microscopic, with or without people.</p> <p>Scape photographs typically capture the presence of nature but can also focus on man-made features or disturbances of landscapes, including sea/water and under water scapes, desert/mountain/forest and city scapes.</p> <p>Perhaps the most common is to recall a personal observation or experience while in the outdoors</p>
3.10	<p>Visual/Fine Art (Heavy manipulation not required) is a creative image that present one of the following:</p> <p>Abstract: An exercise in composition for the sake of art. The real identity of the abstractionist's subject is not important, and the result is not intended to be anything.</p> <p>Altered Reality: An image created by altering reality in an obvious manner, created digitally or in camera. The intention is the creation of an image that conveys a feeling or message or tells a story.</p> <p>Creative or Visual Art: Images that go beyond the straightforward pictorial rendering of a scene. The image does not have to employ derivative or manipulative techniques to be Creative or Visual Art.</p>
3.11	<p>Open</p> <p>This category will normally be for ALL images irrespective of genre and without any restriction on manipulation. All elements in the image must be the authors own work.</p>
3.12	<p>Set Subject</p> <p>As per specific topic for the month.</p>
4.	<p>Competition Rules of Entry - When competitions are held</p>
4.1	<p>Monthly competitions shall be held on the third Tuesday of the month excluding December. Entries close at midnight on the third Saturday of the month excluding December.</p>
4.2	<p>If the End-of-the-Year function is held on the third Tuesday of November, the monthly competition falls away.</p>
4.3	<p>The competition year runs from September to August of the following year.</p>
5.	<p>Competition Rules of Entry - Members entitled to enter</p>
5.1	<p>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.</p>
5.2	<p>Members may submit entries even though they do not attend a meeting.</p>
5.3	<p>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.</p>
6.	<p>Star-ratings and other categories for submissions</p>
6.1	<p>Members may participate in one of 10 Star-ratings as relevant, namely 1-Star, 2-Star, 3-Star, 4-Star, 5-Star, Master Bronze (6-Star), Master Silver (7-Star), Master Gold (8-Star), Master Platinum (9-Star) and Master Diamond (10-Star).</p>
6.2	<p>All entries are in the form of Projected Images, which may be monochrome or colour</p>
6.3	<p>All entries are judged in the categories as given in 3.1, namely Open, Nature, Photojournalism, Scapes, Creative/Fine Art and Set Subject. Open entries may be of any subject matter, while Set Subjects must conform to the announced topics. There are restrictions on the entries in the Nature and Photojournalism which are non-manipulation categories for the monthly competitions as per PSSA rules for non-manipulation categories in salons.</p> <p>Reference: https://pssa.co.za/pssa-salon-competition-rules</p>
6.4	<p>The following <u>maximum</u> number of entries are allowed per member per month:</p> <p>Four (4) normal entries. This may be made up of Open, Nature (Non-Manipulation), Photojournalism (Non-Manipulation), Scapes and/or Creative/Fine Art entries to the limit of four (4) entries in total among the three categories.</p> <p>One (1) additional Set Subject entry</p>
6.5	<p>The theme for the Set Subjects shall be announced well in advance.</p>



6.6	Clearly mark your images <i>R/RS</i> for resubmission. Images not marked accordingly will not be treated as Resubmission and may be disqualified as an image entered previously.
7.	Resubmissions
7.1	Four resubmissions per competition year are allowed by each member.
7.1.1	Resubmissions are from the Open and Visual art categories only and exclude Set Subject entries.
7.1.2	Only one resubmission is allowed per month, with a maximum of four per club year.
7.1.3	The resubmission may be edited to improve its chances of success.
7.1.4	The resubmission title shall be the same as the original image with “-R” or “- RS” appended.
7.1.5	The new mark replaces the old mark.
7.1.6	Resubmissions are not limited to a Club Year but may be submitted at any time.
7.2	At the sole discretion of the committee, additional resubmissions may be allowed to correct errors in judging or recording of results
8.	Work that may NOT be entered
8.1	Images containing any element which is not the work of the author may not be entered. This also means that borders, textures, non-standard brushes, clouds, sky downloaded from the internet or processing software programs 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 entry may not be re-entered as a monthly entry. Likewise, a previously entered image in the other categories may not be re-entered as a Set Subject.
8.4	Except for the case of resubmissions, no entry which closely resembles a previous entry shall be submitted.
8.4.1	For clarity, images taken in a burst within a few seconds will be regarded as too similar.
8.4.2	No image entered as Monochrome may be re-entered as Colour and vice versa.
8.4.3	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.
9.	How the entries are submitted
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. It is recommended to refrain from using the same title for different entries. Entries for Resubmission must include the relevant identification as per paragraph 6.6 and 7.1.4.
9.3	E-photos will not be returned. The committee will retain all e-entries for use only in e-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	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 e-Flash and are subject to change. Also consult the article titled “Primer for New Members” that is available on the PPS Website.
9.6	All images entered in PPS competitions are kept for a time to be deleted after a period to be determined by the committee from time to time.
9.7	Images kept by PPS will be subject to the PPS policy on data protection.
10.	Non-manipulated and manipulated images
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 the categories Nature & Photojournalism (Non-Manipulated categories) and the categories Nature, Wildlife or Photojournalism in the End-of-Year competition, images may not be manipulated. It is allowed 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.



10.3 It is not expected that Creative/Fine Art entries to be significantly manipulated. This category allows in-camera and post processing but must reflect altered reality.

11. Judging Rules – General

11.1 Judging of entries in live meetings will be done by a panel of three judges. It is preferable that at least one of the club judges to be at least the 5-star level, but this will not always be possible.

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.

12. Judging Rules - Set Subject entries

12.1 Set Subject entries shall be judged separately.

12.2 The award shall receive the same points as the normal entries.

12.3 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.

13. Judging Rules – Awards

13.1 An entry may receive one of the following five awards:

No Award

Bronze

Silver

Gold

Certificate of Merit

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.







13.3 The scoring matrix for the different awards per star level are as follows.

STAR GRADING	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	COM
1 STAR	11	17	27	38
2 STAR	14	20	29	39
3 STAR	16	22	31	40
4 STAR	19	24	32	41
5 STAR	22	27	34	41
Master Bronze - 6 STAR	22	27	34	41
Master Silver - 7 STAR	22	27	34	41
Master Gold - 8 STAR	22	27	34	41
Master Platinum - 9 STAR	22	27	34	41
Master Diamond - 10 STAR	22	27	34	41



14. Criteria for awards:

Judges should score images according to this guideline:

	6	No award	You know, if you...
	7 8	Bronze	You are getting there, now also...
	9 10	Silver	Almost there, let's talk about it...
	11 12	Gold	This is it, maybe...
	13	Good Gold	Really good, except for...
	14 15	Certificate of Merit	I wish it was mine! Tell me more.

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

14.2 The Bronze award may be given to images which show promise but with faults that are too conspicuous, thereby rendering a retake not worthwhile

14.3 Images not showing any promise may receive a No Award.

14.4 These criteria shall be communicated to judges prior to judging.

15. **Judging Rules - Marking**

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.

16. **Judging Rules - Best of Evening**

16.1 The judges should choose the Star-rating winners for the evening as follows:

- The best Projected Image in each Star-rating, to be known as 'Best of <Star-rating>'; and
- The best per Category, to be known as example 'Best Set Subject'.

16.2 The judges should choose the best Senior and Junior entry of the evening from Projected Images from amongst all the categories entries with the highest scores, to be known as 'Best of Evening' for Junior (1 to 3 Star) and Senior (4 and 10 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 of specific Category'.



17. Entry Level Rules - Placement on joining PPS	
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:
	(a) Level of skill and aesthetic qualities demonstrated by the panel;
	(b) Years of photographic experience;
	(c) Competition level in previous clubs;
	(d) Record of entering salons, local and abroad; and
	(e) Relevant photographic honours, local and abroad.
17.6	New members with demonstrable photographic experience may be placed as determined by the committee
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.
18. Rules of Promotion - General	
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, except for 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.



19. Promotion Criteria

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

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		Regular Service Required
4 – 5 Star	25	37 cumulative		Regular Service Required
5 – 6 Star Master Bronze	60	166 cumulative		Regular Service Required
6 – 7 Star Master Silver	60	261 cumulative		Regular Service Required
7 – 8 Star Master Gold	60	366 cumulative		Regular Service Required
8 – 9 Star Master Platinum	60	496 cumulative		Regular Service Required
9 – 10 Star Master Diamond	60	651 cumulative		Regular Service Required

19.2 Certain of the salon requirements may be replaced by achievement of PSSA Honours:

- (a) The achievement of the LPSSA Honours award of the PSSA replaces the requirement for Salon credits at the 4-Star level
- (b) The achievement of the APSSA Honours award of the PSSA replaces the requirement for Salon credits at the 5-Star level
- (c) The achievement of the FPSSA Honours award of the PSSA replaces all requirements for promotion to 5-Star.
- (d) The achievement of Honours (Vers) or (Dux) award of the PSSA replaces all requirements for promotion to 6-Star.

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 10 -Star are defined in the section, **Salon Credits**. 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 functions and activities of the club, Magazine or Newsletter.

20. Promotion Criteria - Salon Credits

20.1 Credit for salon acceptances that count towards promotion to a higher Star-rating include:

- (a) Any South African National or International Salon;
- (b) 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).

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 The credits for salon acceptances are calculated as follows:

	National	International
Acceptances	1	2
Special awards	2	3
Category winners	3	4

Special awards are any recognition above acceptance, specifically including COM's, commendations and places other than category winners.

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.

21. Reporting of competition results and promotions

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.

22. PPS Bertus de Jongh Honours (Referred to below as "Honours")

22.1 Honours is a recognition system for excellence in photography, awarded by PPS to 5-Star and above 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.

23. Verification of work

23.1 The committee may at any time require members to demonstrate the authenticity of their submissions to anybody outside of the PPS, to conform to the requirements of PSSA or international equivalent bodies.

End of rules.