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The Photographic Society of Southern Africa (PSSA) is the officially recognized body representing photographers in South Africa. It is the South African equivalent of the Photographic Society of America, to whom it is affiliated.

PSSA is an autonomous society and through its affiliates affords members contact with the international affairs of photography. Joining the PSSA makes you eligible to apply for Honours of the Society.



[www.centurioncameraclub.co.za](http://www.centurioncameraclub.co.za)

## Rules of Competition and Participation in Club Events

Version 3.01

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## **Photographic Oath**

*(just for fun)*

I swear to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant;

I will respect the hard-won gains of those photographer in whose steps I walk, and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow.

I will promote photography, for the benefit of all those who enjoy a beautiful image, without prejudice to the method used to capture or display the image.

I will remember that there is art to photography as well as science, and that, in the end, the viewer's subjective reaction to the image outweighs the technique used.

I will be proud of my images, and will do the utmost to promote these as art. I will start in my home by displaying my images as works of art, with as much prominence as any painting or other form of art.

I will not be ashamed to say "I don't know", nor will I fail to call in my colleagues when the skills of another are needed to help me grow as a photographer.

I will respect the taste and subjectivity of those who view my photographs.

I will remember that I remain a member of the photographic community, with special obligations to all my fellow photographers, to build this exciting hobby and not to bring it into disrepute.

If I do not violate this oath, may I enjoy life and art, respected while I live and remembered with affection thereafter. May I always act so as to preserve the finest traditions of my hobby and may I long experience the joy of viewing a beautiful photograph.

Dr. David Wimpey (LPSSA)

## **Introduction and Aim**

The aim of this document is to set out the rules that will be followed at the Monthly Club Competition evenings and when taking part in other club events.

## **Participation**

Only members in good standing are allowed to take part in club events. A member in good standing is defined as those members whose fees are fully paid up.

Anyone may become a member of the Club. New members are required to apply for membership to the Committee on the prescribed form. New members are required to pay a once-off joining fee, determined annually by the Committee. New members joining after January will be liable for a reduced fee.

All the new members start at 1 star grade level, unless:

- proof of a higher grading in e-photography from a previous PSSA affiliated club is provided.
- where the new member did not previously belong to a PSSA affiliated club or has a higher than 1 star grading in another medium than e-photography and wishes to start at a higher grade, the new member submits a panel of images to the Club Committee to determine the member's appropriate star grading. If the prior experience is not in e-photography, the new member cannot start at a grade higher than 3 star.

The Committee will provide a report, on request, for those members who wish to join another club. The report will state that the member is in good standing with the club and what the current star rating is as well as the accumulated salon points.

## **Club Events**

These include regular Club competition evenings, social evenings, as well as photographic trips, training sessions, and other ad hoc meetings. The Club may participate in other competitions, such as inter-club competitions, speed challenges, etc. as determined by the Committee.

### **Club Events Calendar**

Club competition evenings are held every month at a venue determined by the Committee.

Club social evenings, photographic trips, training sessions and other ad hoc meetings will be held on a regular basis as determined by the Committee.

### **Club Competition Evenings**

Club competition evenings are held for the members to submit their photographs for judging. Only digital images are accepted for judging.

Only members in good standing shall be allowed to enter a Club competition.

Prospective new members and visitors are always welcome to attend the Club Competition Evening.

### **Club Social Evenings**

The purpose of Club social evenings is essentially to help members improve their skills and knowledge. This is done in an informal environment where members can share their knowledge, skills and ideas, where senior members can teach, where images may be presented for discussion, professionals or specialists may be invited as guest presenters, etc.

Prospective new members and visitors are always welcome to attend the Club Social Evenings.

### **Competition Rules for Club Competition Evenings**

Members are required to enter their e-images in accordance with the respective rules as prescribed by the PSSA and the Committee. This is so that members can become familiar with these rules since salon entries are required to comply with them.

Images must be entered according to Category (see definitions below).

A member may enter a maximum of 4 images, 1 of which may be in the Set Subject category (Theme entry), and a maximum of 3 from the other categories.

Specific themes and their definitions for the monthly set subject competitions will be communicated to members timeously.

A member is allowed to enter a photo twice for grading, but the second time the photo is entered it must be clearly marked as a re-entry by placing an "R" in front of the title of an image.

All photographs entered must be the member's own work. Images copied from internet sites, books, magazines etc., or copies from another person's work are not permissible and will be disqualified.

By virtue of submitting an entry, the member certifies the work as his/her own.

The Club assumes no liability for any misuse of copyright by a member.

### **Submission of Club Competition Evening Entries**

All entries are done through EMMA Connect ([www.emmazone.co.za](http://www.emmazone.co.za)) and must be entered by no later than midnight on the Saturday before the Club Competition Evening. Once the entries have been processed, members will receive a confirmation email that the entries have been received. It is the responsibility of the member to ensure that the entries have been received and process. The Committee wants to advise all members to enter their photos well in advance of the cut-off date to leave enough time to handle any queries and problems.

Late entries will NOT be accepted.

Requirements for submission are detailed below.

## Club Competition Evening Judging

All entries are judged as presented and judges grant awards as they deem fit. Occasions may arise when a judge wishes to change an award. Such changes are permissible only if the change is made at the time of the judging. Withdrawal of entries is permissible provided that it is done before the competition has started.

During judging, awards are made as follows: Certificate of Merit (COM), Gold, Silver, Bronze or No Award. Entries in the Set Subject category that do not comply with the theme definition will be disqualified. Awards are also made for the best entry within each star grade, the best junior (1 to 3 star) entry, the best senior (4 star and up) entry, as well as for the best overall entry of the evening. There will also be an award for the best Junior Set Subject entry, Senior Set Subject entry and an overall best Set Subject entry. The Set Subject winners will not receive any additional points.

The definitions for the awards are given in the table below.

In the case where a Club member is invited to judge at a Club competition evening, the member does not submit images for judging in that competition. The member may submit these images as *additional* images within the next 3 Club competition evenings. The member is awarded no points for judging.

Members are asked not to make comments or gestures towards a judge during or after a judging session, but rather refer any dissatisfaction to the Committee, who may investigate and report back. *Judges should be treated with respect as they usually try their best to be fair and unbiased. Remember that judging is always subjective!*

### Club Points Scoring

Points are used to progress to higher star grades as well as for determining the Club annual winners. Points are accumulated from Club competition evenings (referred to as Club Points) and salons (both local/PSSA and international) (referred to as Salon Points).

Members should record their own scores and report any discrepancies in the club records to the Club Points Master.

### 1. Club Points Scoring

The points associated with the awards, are given in the table below.

Additional points are scored for the following:

Award	Definition	Points
Certificate of Merit (COM)	Excellent image – exceeds all criteria by far	4
Gold	Good image – conforms with all criteria	3
Silver	Average image – does not conform to all criteria	2
Bronze	Poor image	1
No Award	Usually used for disqualification	0

Achievement	Points
Best in Star Grade	1
Best Junior (1 to 3 Star)	2
Best Senior (4 Star and Higher)	2
Best Image of the Evening	1

## 2. Salon Points Scoring

Salon points are allocated as follows:

Award	Local Salon	International Salon
Acceptance	1	2
Certificate of Merit (COM)	2	3
Category / Medal winner	3	4
Act as Judge	4*	4*

\*or more, equal to the maximum number of entries allowed in a category

A maximum of three salon acceptances per image will be acknowledged by the club for salon point requirement purposes. Where the image has received any other awards at the salon those additional points will be acknowledged as prescribed above. It will count as one salon acceptance although the image might have received more points.

### Star Grade Promotion Requirements

The promotion requirements for each star grade are given in the table below. Note that there is also a requirement for a minimum number of Gold or higher (i.e.COM) awards.

Note that on grade promotion the number of Gold awards and Club points do not accumulate – they therefore revert to zero at the new grade. Salon points, however, always accumulate.

Star Grade Promotion Requirements				
From Star Grade	To Star Grade	Gold or COM Awards	Club Points	Salon Points
1	2	5	20	0
2	3	10	40	0
3	4	20	80	5
4	5	30	120	25
5	Master Bronze	50	200	85
Master Bronze	Master Silver	50	200	145
Master Silver	Master Gold	50	200	205
Master Gold	Master Platinum	50	200	265
Master Platinum	Master Diamond	50	200	325
Master Diamond	Senior Master Bronze	50	200	385
Senior Master Bronze	Senior Master Silver	50	200	445
Senior Master Silver	Senior Master Gold	50	200	505
Senior Master Gold	Senior Master Platinum	50	200	565
Senior Master Platinum	Senior Master Diamond	50	200	625
Senior Master Diamond	*	50	200	685

## Club Annual Competition

An annual club competition is held where the following awards are made:

- Overall winner for the most points (club plus salon) obtained in the year
- Senior (4 star and higher) with the most points (club plus salon) obtained in the year
- Junior (3 star and lower) with the most points (club plus salon) obtained in the year
- Overall winner for the most salon points obtained in the year
- Senior (4 star and higher) with the most salon points obtained in the year
- Junior (3 star and lower) with the most salon points obtained in the year
- Chairman's trophy awarded at the chairman's discretion
- Image of the year

### Club Competition Evening Submission Requirements

Digital file format requirements for entry on EMMA Connect are as follows:

- JPG file format.
- Image file size may not exceed 500kb.
- No image may exceed 1024 pixels horizontally and 768 pixels vertically.
- It is recommended that the submitted images be saved in sRGB colour space, since it cannot be guaranteed that the colours of an image saved in any other colour space will be displayed correctly on the club computer and projector.
- No text identifying the author may be added to images.
- Frames or borders are acceptable, subject to the image size limits given above.

## Image Category Definitions

### *Nature* (na)

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to certify as to its honest presentation.

Human elements shall not be present, except on the rare occasion where those human elements enhance the nature story.

Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, domestic and farm animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

Falling within the Nature category is **Wildlife** which is defined as one or more organisms living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Therefore, photographs of zoo or any other animals in captivity, insects or other creatures photographed in the studio or other controlled locations are Nature subjects but they are not Wildlife.

### *Photojournalism* (pj)

A photojournalistic image is one that tells a story. Images must have the quality of *timelines* (recording recent events), *objectivity* (the image is a fair and accurate representation of events they depict in both content and tone), and *narrative* (relating facts of human interest, documentary and news to the viewer). The journalistic value of the image will be considered over the pictorial quality. In the interests of credibility, images which misrepresent the truth, and which alter the subject matter or situation, or which are set up for the purpose of photography, are unacceptable in this category. Manipulation is not allowed.

### *Pictorial* (op)

Images that do not fall into the other categories. They include portraiture, travel, sport, flowers, fashion, architecture etc. Otherwise, there is no restriction on subject matter. Pictures that qualify for any

other section should be entered in that section. Manipulation is allowed.

### *Altered Reality (ar)*

This is defined as creating an image by altering reality in an obvious manner. The alteration can be in the form of digital post-capture alteration, in-camera alteration, or any other method, with the proviso that there should be significant photographic content. The aim should be to create a new image that embodies a concept, or that conveys a specific feeling, a message, or a story. The original image(s) is(are) but an element of the final design.

In this section manipulation is the *key* to a successful image. The normal rules of PSSA apply, such as that the manipulation must be done by the author, the original image(s) must have been captured using a camera, etc. 'Altered Reality' entries must contain only elements and images captured or created by the author. All images must be original and may not incorporate elements produced or created by someone else.

### *Theme (th)*

This category is used for theme specific entries. In this section the theme definition and specific criteria will be provided. Manipulation may, or may not be allowed.

## **Manipulation**

The following will not be considered as digital manipulation:

**Removal of dust marks** or spots from dust particles on the CCD/CMOS sensors of digital cameras. Specific lens/sensor aberrations such as chromatic aberrations and purple fringing may also be corrected / removed.

**Adjustments to exposure and contrast.** This includes all algorithms that represent some form of dodging and burning.

**Adjustment/correction of colour balance.** This can either be done by selecting an appropriate white balance during the conversion of the RAW images, or by adding/subtracting colours in the photo editing software. The post capture application of digital colour

correction filters like warming or cooling filters, similar to the 81 and 82 series of filters, are allowed.

**Application of colour saturation.** Non-selective saturation applied to the whole image is permissible.

**Reduction of digital noise,** especially in high ISO images from digital cameras in scanned images.

**Sharpening** of the image. All modern sharpening algorithms and techniques such as edge sharpening, luminance sharpening and mode sharpening are permissible.

**Cropping and resizing** is permissible.

Elements of an image may not be removed other than by cropping.

Digital techniques such as **HDR, stacking and stitching** are permitted, where the end result is a faithful representation of the original scene.

Compositing, multiple exposures, sandwich/montage and double exposures are considered manipulation.

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