

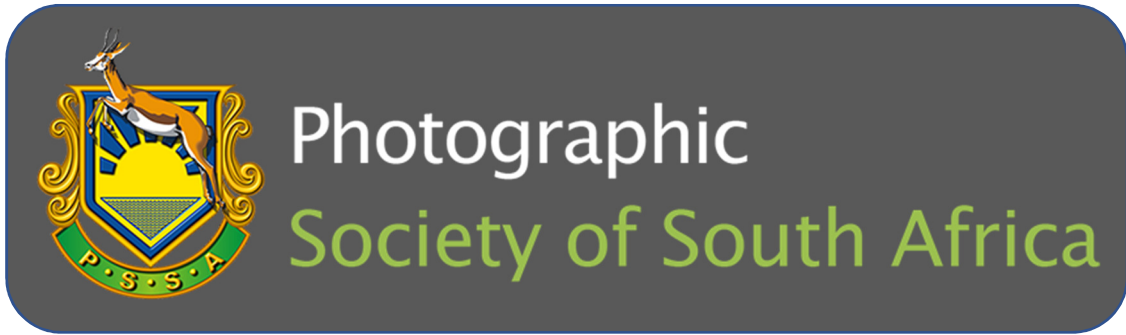


www.centurioncameraclub.co.za

Rules of Competition and Participation in Club Events

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www.pssa.co.za

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.

Centurion Camera Club is affiliated to the Photographic Society of South Africa.

Photographic Oath

(just for fun)

I swear to fulfil, 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)

CCC Chairperson 2011

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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 via the official e-mail address as can be found on the club's website (www.centurioncameraclub.co.za). New members are required to pay a once-off joining fee, determined annually by the Committee.

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

- Proof of a higher grading from a previous PSSA affiliated club is provided.
- Where the new member did not previously belong to a PSSA affiliated club 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.

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 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. Where a club member acts as a judge, the club member or any of his family members may not enter in the same competition.

This member is then awarded club points (4 Gold awards) and his family members may then enter a maximum of 8 images, 1 of which may be in the Set Subject category (Theme entry), and a maximum of 7 from the other categories in the following month.

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

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 Photo Vault Online (www.photovaultonline.com) 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 processed.

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.

Club Competition Evening Submission Requirements

1. JPG file format.
2. Image file size may not exceed 2MB.
3. No image may exceed 1920 pixels horizontally and 1080 pixels vertically.
4. 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.
5. No text identifying the author may be added to images.
6. Frames or borders are acceptable, subject to the image size limits given above.

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.

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.

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

Club Points

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

Although we choose a Theme Winner for the evening, the winning member will not be awarded additional points other than the point associated with the award.

Salon Points

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

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.

Club Points Scoring

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.

From Star Grade	To Star Grade	Gold or COM Awards	Club Points	Salon Points
1	2	15	60	0
2	3	30	120	0
3	4	40	160	5
4	5	50	200	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 of the year.

Image Category Definitions

Nature

Entrants warrant that they adhere to the PSSA Nature Photographer's code of ethics (<http://www.pssa.co.za/images/Documents/Administration/Definitions/PSSA-Conditions-of-Entry-incl-Definitions-and-Nature-Code-of-Ethics-17.01.2019.pdf>) and that "The welfare of the subject is more important than the photograph."

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

The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality.

Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces like hurricanes or tidal waves.

Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible.

Photographs of artificially created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted.

Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. All allowed adjustments must appear natural.

Colour images can be converted to greyscale/monochrome.

Stitched images are not permitted. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed.

Please note for Salon entries:

Images used in Nature Photography competitions may be divided in two classes: Nature and Wildlife.

Images entered in Nature sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above can have landscapes, geologic formations, weather phenomena and extant organisms as the primary subject matter. This includes images taken with the subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food.

Wildlife images entered in Wildlife sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above are further defined as one or more extant zoological or botanical organisms living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat.

Landscapes, geologic formations, photographs of zoo or game farm animals, or of any extant zoological or botanical species taken under controlled conditions are not eligible in Wildlife sections.

Wildlife is not limited to animals, birds and insects. Marine subjects and botanical subjects (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild are suitable wildlife subjects, as are carcasses of extant species. Wildlife images may be entered in Nature sections of salons and exhibitions.

Photojournalism

Photojournalism entries are images with informative content 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, Photojournalism images that misrepresent the truth and model or staged set-ups are not permitted. Techniques that add to, relocate, replace or remove any elements of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted.

Techniques that enhance the presentation of the image, without changing the photojournalism story content, are permitted. All enhancements must appear natural.

Colour images can be converted to greyscale/monochrome.

Street photography –Street photography records unposed scenes in public places. The primary subject is people and/or symbols of people, at rest or in motion, alone or with others, going about their everyday activities.

Manipulation should be confined to colour correction and judicious cropping.

Sports Photography – Sports photography covers any aspect of a sporting event. Images must depict an active pastime or recreation involving physical exertion and/or skill that is governed by a set of rules or customs and often of a competitive nature. The level of sport can range from children playing a sport to the Olympic Games. Images in this section could include the spectators or judge or umpire in a sporting event.

Photo Travel –A Photo Travel image expresses the characteristic features or culture of a land as they are found naturally. There are no geographic limitations.

Images from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography are not appropriate.

Close up pictures of people or objects must include features that provide information about the environment.

Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. The only allowable adjustments are removal of dust or digital noise, restoration of the appearance of the original scene, and complete conversion to greyscale monochrome. Other derivations, including infrared, are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural.

Open

In this category the subject matter is totally open. All elements must be photographic; if graphic elements are included they should enhance the photographic image but not take over from it.

Any graphics used should be created by the photographer using his/her own artwork.

Creative

Creative or Visual Art - These images should 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. However all work should be that of the author and not copied or derived from elsewhere.

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.

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.

Theme

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

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Adding an element to the image that was not contained in the original capture;
- Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original capture;
- Moving or repositioning an element of the image that was contained in the original capture.

In the categories Nature and Photojournalism, manipulation is not allowed.

In Open there is no restriction whatsoever in the way authors choose to post process an image.

The following actions are allowed and are not seen as manipulation:

- Cropping
- Correction of lens distortion, chromatic aberrations, purple fringing, lens vignette and vertical/horizontal perspective adjustments;
- Removal of dust spots or scratch marks from sensor or scanned images;
- The blending of different exposures of the same scene to broaden the dynamic range e.g. High Dynamic Range (HDR);
- Photo stacking to overcome the limitations of the digital sensor heat artefacts in long exposures.
- Focus stacking to widen the depth of field especially in Macro photography. In the case of Nature and Wildlife, HDR and focus stacking will not be considered as manipulation and may be used provided that the end result is a faithful representation of the original scene.

Please note:

HDR and Focus stacking are not allowed in Photojournalism.