



RULES OF COMPETITION AND PARTICIPATION IN CLUB EVENTS

Centurion Camera Club

Version 5.0

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Photographic Oath (just for fun)

I pledge to uphold and share the knowledge passed down by photographers before me, and to support those who come after.

I will promote photography for the enjoyment of all, without bias toward how an image is captured or displayed.

I will honour both the artistic and technical aspects of photography, knowing that emotional impact is often more important than technique.

I will take pride in my work, treating my photographs as art, and proudly display them in my home.

I won't hesitate to ask for help or admit when I don't know something, and I will learn from fellow photographers.

I will respect others' opinions of my work, acknowledging that art is subjective.

I will support and respect my fellow photographers, always working to grow our community and uphold its reputation.

If I remain true to this oath, may I enjoy the beauty of photography, earn respect, and leave behind a legacy of inspiration.

Rewritten, based on the original oath as presented by Dr. David Wimpey

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 This document outlines the rules for monthly club competitions and other club events.

2. MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

- 2.1 Only members in good standing (with fully paid fees) may participate in club events.
- 2.2 Anyone can apply to join using the official form, together with membership fee and once-off joining fee (set annually).
- 2.3 Members joining after January pay a pro-rata membership fee.
- 2.4 New Member Grading:
 - 2.4.1 All new members start at 1-Star, unless:
 - 2.4.1.1 They have a higher grade from another PSSA-affiliated club.
 - 2.4.1.2 They submit a portfolio for review, if they have relevant experience.
 - 2.4.2 The Committee can issue a status report for members transferring to another club.

3. CLUB EVENTS

- 3.1 Monthly competition evenings are held every month at a venue determined by the Committee.
- 3.2 Only digital images are allowed.
- 3.3 Only members in good standing may enter. A member in good standing is defined as those members whose fees are fully paid up.
- 3.4 Visitors and prospective members are welcome to attend.
- 3.5 Club social evenings, photographic trips, training sessions and other ad hoc meetings will be held on a regular basis for fully paid members, as determined by the Committee.
- 3.6 A calendar will be maintained by the Committee.

4. COMPETITION RULES FOR CLUB COMPETITION EVENINGS

- 4.1 Entries must follow PSSA and Club rules.
- 4.2 A maximum of 4 images per member is allowed per evening, divided as follows:
 - 4.2.1 One (1) image in the Theme category
 - 4.2.2 Three (3) images in any of the other categories.
- 4.3 Club judges and their family members cannot enter during the same event. Family members may submit 8 images the following month as compensation, as follows: one (1) in the Theme category and seven (7) in other categories. If not submitted during that month, the opportunity is forfeited.

- 4.4 The club judge is awarded 4 Gold awards as recognition for judging.
- 4.5 All images must be original and the member's own work.
- 4.6 Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as prescribed by the PSSA is not allowed. Please read the FAQ section on the PSSA website (<https://pssa.co.za/?s=faq>).
- 4.7 No repeated or very similar entries.
- 4.8 Copyright violations lead to disqualification and the club assumes no liability for any misuse of copyright by a member.

5. SUBMISSION OF CLUB COMPETITION EVENING ENTRIES

- 5.1 All entries are done through PhotoVault (www.photovaultonline.com).
- 5.2 The deadline for entries are on midnight on the Saturday before competition night.
- 5.3 Members must confirm their entries have been received by way of e-mail notification from PhotoVault.
- 5.4 Late entries will not be accepted.

6. CLUB COMPETITION EVENING JUDGING

- 6.1 The scale for judging will be a score out of 45, comprising of three (3) judges who each award a score out of 15. The scores are then added together for a final score out of 45.
- 6.2 The awards are:
 - Certificate of Merit (COM)
 - Gold
 - Silver
 - Bronze
 - No Award
- 6.3 Special Recognitions include the following:
 - Best in Star Grade
 - Best Junior (1–3 Star)
 - Best Senior (4+ Star)
 - Best Overall
 - Best Theme Image (Junior, Senior, and Overall)
- 6.4 No additional points are awarded for Theme winners.
- 6.5 Conduct: Members are not allowed to influence or challenge judges. Concerns can be raised with the Committee. Judges should be treated with respect, as they usually try their best to be fair and unbiased. Remember that judging is always subjective!

7. POINTS SYSTEM

7.1 Points are used to progress to higher star grades as well as for determining the Club annual winners.

7.2 Points are accumulated from Club competition evenings (referred to as Club Points) and salons (both local/PSSA and international) (referred to as Salon Points).

7.3 Club scores/achievements are advised via email following each competition. Members should record their own scores and report any discrepancies in the club records to the Club Points Master.

7.4 CLUB POINTS: The points associated with the awards, are given in the table below.

Award	Points
Certificate of Merit	4
Gold	3
Silver	2
Bronze	1
No Award (usually used for disqualification)	

Additional points are scored for the following:

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

7.5 CLUB SLIDING SCALE: The following sliding scale is used to calculate the Award per Star Grade level:

Points	1 *	2 *	3 *	4 *	5+ *
40-45	COM	COM	COM	COM	COM
39	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
38	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
37	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
36	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
35	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
34	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
33	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
32	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold	Silver
31	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold	Silver
30	Gold	Gold	Gold	Silver	Silver
29	Gold	Gold	Gold	Silver	Silver
28	Gold	Gold	Silver	Silver	Silver
27	Gold	Gold	Silver	Silver	Silver
26	Gold	Silver	Silver	Silver	Bronze
25	Silver	Silver	Silver	Silver	Bronze
24	Silver	Silver	Silver	Silver	Bronze
23	Silver	Silver	Silver	Bronze	Bronze
22	Silver	Silver	Silver	Bronze	Bronze
21	Silver	Silver	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze
20	Silver	Silver	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze
19	Silver	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze
18	Silver	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze
17	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze
16	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze
15	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze
14	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze
13	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze
12	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze
11	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze
10	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze
1-9	Disqualified	Disqualified	Disqualified	Disqualified	Disqualified

7.6 Salon Points are calculated as follows:

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

7.6.1 A maximum of 3 acceptances per image will count toward salon points.

8. STAR GRADE PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

8.1 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.

8.1.1 Club points reset with each promotion.

8.1.2 Salon points accumulate indefinitely.

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	Grand Master Bronze	50	200	685

9. ANNUAL AWARDS

9.1 The annual awards include the following:

- 1–5 Star & Master Photographer of the Year – Based on club points
- Llewellyn Louw Trophy – Best Junior Photographer (1–3 Star)
- Chris Mulder Trophy – Best Senior Photographer (4-Star+)
- Maartin Coetser Trophy – Most salon points in a year
- Chairman’s Trophy (for outstanding service to club) – At discretion of the Chairperson
- Chameleon of the Year – Most versatile photographer (separate competition annually)

10. IMAGE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

10.1 Digital file format requirements for entry on PhotoVault

(<https://www.photovaultonline.com/>) are as follows:

- JPG format
- Max size: 2MB
- Max resolution: 1920px wide, 1080px high
- Recommended colour space: sRGB
- No watermarks, names, or identifying text
- Frames/borders allowed (must fit size restrictions)

11. CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS

11.1 NATURE

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. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image.

Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity threatening a living organism’s life or welfare are not allowed.

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.

- Objects created by humans, and evidence of human activity, are allowed in Nature images only when they are a necessary part of the Nature story.

- Photographs of human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domesticated animals, human-created hybrid animals, and mounted or preserved zoological specimens are not allowed.
- Photographs made where the scene is natural and the animal is unharmed in a carefully managed environment, such as Zoo, rescue centres, and ethically managed natural environment farms are permitted.
- Attracting or controlling subjects using food or sound for the purpose of photographing them is not allowed. Maintained situations such as provided supplemental food due to hardship caused by weather conditions or other conditions beyond the animals' control, where photography is incidental to the feeding of the animal does not fall under this provision.
- Controlling live subjects by chilling, anaesthetic, or any other method of restricting natural movement for a photograph is not allowed.
- Human-made elements shall be permitted under the following circumstances:
 - When they are an integral part of the nature story, such as a songbird singing atop a fence post a man-made object used as nest material, or a weather phenomenon destroying a man-made structure.
 - When they are a small but unavoidable part of the scene, such as an unobtrusive footprint or track in the background.
 - Scientific tags, collars, and bands are specifically allowed.
- When photographing at a zoo, sanctuary, or rehabilitation centre, it would be construed that the photographer ensured that it is properly accredited and conforms to best practices.

11.2 PHOTOJOURNALISM

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 images that misrepresent the truth and model or staged set-ups are not permitted.

Entries in this category should have informative content and emotional impact. In the interest of credibility, images that misrepresent the truth and model or staged set-ups are not permitted.

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

- 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. Dance productions like ballet and Air Shows are deemed not to be sport and hence not allowed in this category.
- 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.

11.3 OPEN

In this category the subject is totally open. Manipulation is allowed.

11.4 CREATIVE

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. Manipulation is allowed.

11.5 THEME

This category is used for theme specific entries. Theme descriptions and rules will be available on the website (<https://centurioncameraclub.co.za/>) and PhotoVault entry form.

12. MANIPULATION

- 12.1 Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:
- 12.1.1 Adding an element to the image that was not contained in the original capture;
 - 12.1.2 Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original capture;
 - 12.1.3 Moving or repositioning an element of the image that was contained in the original capture.
- 12.2 In the categories Nature and Photojournalism, manipulation is not allowed.
- 12.3 In Open there is no restriction whatsoever in the way authors choose to post process an image.

- 12.4 The following actions are allowed and are not seen as manipulation:
- 12.4.1 Cropping
 - 12.4.2 Correction of lens distortion, chromatic aberrations, purple fringing, lens vignette and vertical/horizontal perspective adjustments;
 - 12.4.3 Removal of dust spots or scratch marks from sensor or scanned images;
 - 12.4.4 The blending of different exposures of the same scene to broaden the dynamic range e.g. High Dynamic Range (HDR);
 - 12.4.5 Photo stacking to overcome the limitations of the digital sensor heat artefacts in long exposures.
 - 12.4.6 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.
- 12.5 Please note: HDR and Focus stacking are not allowed in Photojournalism.

13. About the PSSA

The Photographic Society of South Africa (PSSA) is the official body representing photographers in Southern Africa. It offers local and international connections, protection for clubs, and the opportunity to apply for Society Honours.

Learn more at: <https://pssa.co.za/>