

CHRISTCHURCH PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY (Inc) - COMPETITION RULES

(Effective for the 2010 Competition year)

(Italicized notes do not form part of the rules but provide explanations and rationale for provisions.)

“Executive Summary” of competition structure.

Competition structure

The term “open” has two applications in competitions:

Open grade - All competitions are open to all members with the exception of C grade competitions which are open to members graded C Grade only. (While these feature work from what are generally less experienced members the quality is considered by many to being innovative and refreshing.)

Open topic – All competitions are open to all topics with the exception of those specified as Natural History. (The judging criteria for natural history emphasize factual presentation of animals and plants in nature and natural phenomena. while for open competitions judges are directed to be receptive to all modes, manners and styles of photographic communication. Images will not be judged according to natural history criteria in open competitions.)

- Judges may give Acceptance and Honours awards in those open grade competitions counting for eligibility for the end of year exhibitions. These are the open topic and natural history print and projected image competitions. An entry which has gained an Acceptance or Honours award in any open grade club competition may not be entered into another open grade competition regardless of whether the originating image is converted from one medium to another.**

Images which have gained Commended or Highly Commended awards in other competitions may be subsequently entered in other competitions.

- Members are assigned to C, B or A grade with promotion from C to B or A grade determined primarily by performance in open grade competitions over a year. Promotion in one medium subsequently applies to other media. New members are placed in C grade unless they have had experience in other clubs or hold relevant photographic distinctions. An entrant achieving an average score for entries during the competition year which is higher than that for a higher grade will be promoted to that grade,**

- For calculating annual aggregate awards and re-grading calculations acceptances gain 3 points and honours 5.**

- Open aggregate awards are determined over all open competitions for the year for prints and projected images. Within these competitions there are separate awards for members in each grade.**

Champions within specific topics, such as altered reality, New Zealand landscape, portraiture and photojournalism are chosen at the end of the year from all images gaining acceptances or honours during the year.

Natural history awards are determined over all natural history competitions for the year for prints and projected images.

A “health” warning!

- Competitions are intended to provide enjoyment and help in improving photography. Please remember the images are being judged, not the photographer. Further, judging is inevitably a subjective process and while there is often general agreement between judges variations are inevitable.**

GENERAL

1. Only financial members may enter Competitions.
2. The Committee reserves the right to use, as it sees fit, copies of Accepted and Honours prints and projected images for publicity or promotional activity in the interest of the Society and also for inclusion in inter-club competition sets.

Any member not wishing his or her work to be used in this manner must advise the Membership Secretary in writing that images are not to be so used.

All images entered in competitions must be the bona fide work of the competitor.

3. An entry which has gained an award in any open grade Christchurch Photographic Society competition may not be entered in another open grade competition. This rule applies to the image itself and thus the re-entry of any awarded image in an alternative medium is prohibited.

Entries which have gained awards in any C grade competition or any "salon" competition may be entered in any other type of competition.

4. Judges for competitions shall be appointed by the Competition Secretary in consultation with the Competition Secretaries Co-ordinator. Judges shall be the sole arbiter of awards given and his or her decisions shall be final.

5. Judges may give Honours and Acceptance awards in open grade CPS competitions. Awards determine eligibility for presentation into end of year competitions and display at the Society's annual displays. Highly Commended and Commended awards may be given in C grade competitions and other competitions not qualifying for end of year exhibitions.

For the purposes of calculating aggregate awards and promotion between grades members shall be assigned five points for each Honours award and three for each Acceptance.

Annual Aggregate Awards: The maximum number of entries available to be counted for calculating aggregate points in open print or projected images competitions shall be equal to the total number of potential entries during the year less two. "Potential" shall mean the total allowable entries in open competitions during the year.

(The ability to discard a small number of entries in competitions is intended to encourage entrants to experiment with their style of entries without destroying their competition prospects and also to allow for variation in judges' preferences.)

The Natural History Aggregate shall be the total points gained by a competitor in each medium in all Natural History competitions during the year.

In the event of a tie aggregate awards will be shared, but the Committee may vary this rule should an excessive number of persons tie for an Award.

The Competition year shall be from January to December inclusive. Perpetual trophies remain the property of the Club but may be held by winners until recalled by the Club in advance of the annual prize-giving ceremony.

6. The number of entries which may be entered in any competition shall be one in each of 10 open projected image competitions, two in each of five open print competitions, and two projected images and/or two prints in each of two Natural History competitions.

Under circumstances approved by the Committee a member who is unable to enter all competitions may be permitted to make good a shortfall in total entries. Application for such dispensation should be made through the appropriate competition secretary. Such dispensation could apply in cases of members judging CPS competitions, suffering ill health or other extenuating circumstances. The provision applies to existing members and is not to be used to allow a member joining during the year to make up entries.

7. Entries must be conveyed by approved means to the Competition Secretary, on or before competition closing dates.

- 8) The submission of an entry in any competition is deemed to be acceptance and understanding of these Rules. If the entry does not conform to the competition requirements the secretary may exclude that entry from the competition.

All possible care will be taken to safeguard entries, but no responsibility will be assumed by the Society or its officers for any damage to or loss of entries during transit, judging or exhibition. Entries not claimed within 12 months may be disposed of.

Protests.

Any member of the Society who considers that any Competition rule has been infringed has the right to protest, in writing, to the Committee not later than seven days after learning of the infringement. The Committee will discuss and rule on the complaint, the ruling will be provided in writing to the complainant and no further correspondence will be entered into.

Entrants to Competitions should consider the provisions of the Privacy Act and obtain any appropriate permissions and model releases.

GRADING

For the purposes of Competitions members shall be graded into A, B, and C grades and the grading shall apply to all media.

Open grade competitions may be entered by any member. C grade competitions may be entered by C grade members only.

New members will automatically be classified as C grade except as provided in section (b) or (c) below.

Promotion between grades shall be determined as follows:

(a) By performance in Open competitions:

If a B or C grade member's average points scored for entries in open grade print or projected image competitions in a competition year is equal to or higher than the average score per entry in a higher grade the member shall be promoted to that grade provided that such member shall have made a minimum of 8 entries during the year.

The average points in each grade in Open competitions shall be calculated by dividing the total number of points awarded to entries in that grade for the year by the total number of entries in that grade.

(This calculation samples all images in a grade so is not skewed by extraordinary individual performers.)

The average points of a member in Open competitions shall be calculated by dividing the total number of points he or she has received in such competitions that year by the number of entries the member has submitted for the year.

(b) By assessment of a portfolio.

A member may ask the Competition Secretary to arrange a re-grading, up or down, by submitting to the Grading and Selection Committee a portfolio of images. Portfolios must comprise no fewer than 10 images for promotion to B grade and 12 for promotion to A grade. Three members of the Grading and Selection Committee shall constitute a quorum for this purpose.

The Open Competition Secretaries may request the Grading and Selection Committee at any time to review the work of outstanding workers in who appear misplaced in any grade. Such request shall be supported by proof of achievement and the committee shall consider the re-grading of these members on the basis of the facts supplied.

(c) By attaining recognised photographic distinctions.

Unless not already in an equivalent or higher grade holders of a licentiateship in a recognised society shall automatically be graded "B" and holders of an associateship or fellowship in a recognised society shall automatically be graded "A". A recognised society is one which is a National Society and has similar honours criteria, or the same intent as the Photographic Society of New Zealand.

MEDIA

Projected Images – digital files and transparencies

Digital files:

Digital images must be JPEG files whose maximum sizes are no greater than 1024 pixels horizontally nor 768 pixels vertically.

Transparencies:

Each entry must be titled so that it can be read when the transparency is in the projector and be spotted on the top right corner.

(The spot is on the bottom left hand corner when held for direct viewing by eye.)

Transparencies too thick for projection such as bulky "sandwiches" or mounted in glass over ready mounts will not be accepted. There must be no labels which are likely to peel or become loose.

The entrant's membership number is to be written on the back of the slide. The Competitor's name and Grade must be marked on the package in which entries are submitted but must not appear on the slides.

Prints

The film or digital image from which a print is produced must be the sole work of the competitor but processing and mounting may be carried out commercially providing it is at the explicit direction of the photographer.

All prints must be mounted and be titled. The front and back of the matt must be smooth and clean to obviate damage to other prints when placed against them.

The overall size of the matted print must not exceed 16 by 20 ins. or 40.6 cms. by 50.8 cms. There is no minimum size.

The entrant's identification number and image title must be written on the back of the print at the top right corner. The Competitor's name and grade must not appear on prints.

The member's name, identification number and print titles must be shown on the package in which they are delivered to the competition secretary.

A digital JPEG file of the print at a maximum size no greater than 1024 pixels horizontally nor 768 pixels vertically should also be submitted.

(This file is not for judging, it is to show the print on screen during judging so all viewers can appreciate the judge's comments and also to provide a record for the archives.)

Digital Audio Visual Presentations:

(These provisions are generally, though not necessarily, consistent with those for the PSNZ Jack Sprosen Trophy competition.)

An Audio Visual is a sequence of still photographs with accompanying audio built around a storyline or theme. An effective sequence will have unity of these elements - the storyline, the visuals, the audio and transitions. These elements should reinforce each other, such that any one without the others would be inadequate. The sequence should have an introduction, an interesting development of the storyline and a close. Narrative, text and graphics may be used. The Audio Visual medium is very flexible and artistic expression within it can take many forms. It is much more than images to music.

There is no restriction on subject matter.

The entry may run for any duration up to five (5) minutes.

Sound may be mono or stereo.

The inclusion of video clips is not allowed.

Movement such as panning and zooming of static images is permissible.

It is recommended that the inclusion of graphics be limited to a maximum of 20% of the viewing time where such items form an essential part of the AV. In this context, graphics is used to cover any design elements included in the AV including the title slides, credits, text but does not include the photographs taken by the photographer.

The entry must be a stand alone digital production, able to be run by clicking on an icon without the need of the software that first produced it or any other conversion software.

The output must be able to run on a Windows based PC.

(Programs prepared on a Mac output as a ~.mov file and able to be run on a PC using the free Quick Time viewer will be accepted.)

The entry is to be submitted on a CD or DVD disc with the title printed or marked with permanent pen showing the author's name, title of the Audio Visual, the exact running time and the software used to create it (e.g. Fotomagico, Pictures to Exe, ProshowGold).

The production must be the original work of the entrant. Any computer-assisted editing and/or manipulation, including voice-overs, must have been performed by the author or at the specific direction of the author.

All Credits should be declared at the end of the sequence. All material not the original work of the entrant such as music or text must be acknowledged but the Audio Visual author's name must not be revealed.

All images in the presentation must be exposed by the entrant.

Images will be displayed with the proportions they have been entered and within a 4:3 ratio at a screen resolution no greater than that of 1076 pixels horizontally and 768 pixels vertically in the sRGB colour space and on a black background.

SUBJECT MATTER

Open Competitions

With the exceptions listed below all competitions are open to any subject matter and judges are to be instructed to consider all topics and approaches equally. Natural History images will not be judged according to natural history criteria in open competitions.

Natural History Competitions.

Natural History Photography depicts living untamed animals and uncultivated plants in a natural habitat, geology and the wide diversity of natural phenomena, from insects to icebergs. This excludes anthropology and archaeology. Images of animals which are domesticated or caged or under any form of restraint, as well as cultivated plants, are ineligible. The subject must be there of its own volition and is free to come and go whether it be in a natural or adopted habitat.

Minimal evidence of humans is acceptable for Natural History subjects, such as barn owls or storks adapting to an environment modified by humans, or natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves reclaiming it.

Human elements shall only be present on the rare occasion where those human elements enhance the nature story. The story telling value of an image must be weighted more than the pictorial quality and the image should be presented in such a fashion that a well- informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to clarify as to its honest presentation. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable. Images of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible. The photographer must have taken the original image.

The only manipulation permitted is resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening and restoration of original colour of the scene. No special filters can be applied and any sharpening must appear natural. These restrictions to manipulation or modification of the image reinforce adherence to the concept of maintaining reality in a Natural History image. After satisfying the above requirements, every effort should be made to use the highest level of artistic skill.

Correct identification of subject is strongly recommended and titles should use scientific or descriptive names wherever possible.

END OF YEAR COMPETITIONS

Images gaining awards in open competitions during the year will be considered by judges for specific topic competitions. The choice of specific topic and overall champion prints and projected images shall be made by a judge or panel of judges appointed by the Competition Secretary with the approval of the Committee. In general entries will not be pre-selected for consideration for specific topic competitions; the question of which images meet the various prescriptions will be decided upon by the judge or judges.

Special topic categories will include altered reality, monochrome print, natural history, New Zealand landscape, photojournalism and portrait.

The champion in each category will be that which best meets the essence of the category in the opinion of the judge or judges.

Of the categories specific requirements apply to:

New Zealand Landscape

The image must have been taken within New Zealand and generally depict the NZ landscape.

Photojournalism

Photojournalism consists of story telling pictures such as are seen in the news media and in periodicals. They will include documentary, sports, spot news, and contemporary life portrayal subjects. Special emphasis is usually given to pictures depicting human beings and their world.

Image Manipulation.

In the natural history, NZ landscape, and photojournalism categories the original image as captured must not be manipulated or altered in any way that would materially alter the physical facts of the subject.

Any image presenting a view other than the unaided eye would see normally shall be considered as comprising "altered reality".

(An "altered reality" image need not involve digital manipulation; it may also be achieved by creative use of a camera alone.)

Copyrights and Responsibility.

By participating in any competition authors indemnify the Society against all and any action which may be taken against them by owners of copyrights.

Labelling entries

Entries are to be labelled thus:

0123_Comp_Title_NZRE.jpg

where:

0123 = Membership Number padded with leading 0s if required to fill four places.

Comp – competition and number thus:

PIxx = Projected Image/Competition number, eg PI01 to PI10

Prxx = Print/Competition number, eg Pr01 to Pr10 or whatever lesser number of competitions we hold.

NHxx = Natural History/Competition number

CGxx = C Grade/Competition number

Title = image title. Try not to exceed 30 characters, overlong titles will be truncated.

Note: Capitals and lower case characters may be mixed and spaces can be used.

Some characters cannot be used in computer filenames. Systems vary but in general these are reserved: \ / : * ? " < > | . It is best to avoid full stops also.

CODE(s) as applicable:

NZ = image was taken in New Zealand. This confirms eligibility for NZ Landscape and also the Bledisloe inter-club competition.

RE = “realistic” and “representational”, i.e. the physical facts within the image have not been altered.

Thus a representational New Zealand landscape image entered by member 123 in the 10th PI competition could be labelled: “0123_PI10_Under the nor-west arch_NZRE.jpg”.

Note: Please do not add an additional “.jpg” within the filename.

Use either – or _ to separate label components. (The underscore, _, gives a more distinct separation and sorts more conveniently.)

Competition secretaries are not to disqualify images for minor errors in labelling.

Note: To assist adding consistently sized titles to images for display at Photo & Video it is helpful if the dot pitch is set at 72dpi. This does not affect the image quality in any way; the amount of image information is determined by the number of pixels and the dpi setting merely tell some software how to display the image.