

SOUTHLAND PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY Inc

COMPETITION RULES

1. CLUB COMPETITIONS

1.1. There are 3 club competitions which run during the calendar year.

- Aggregate Competition
- Tyree Brothers Portrait Competition
- End of Year Championship Competition

2. AGGREGATE COMPETITION

2.1. **Categories** Members can submit images to be assessed in the categories listed below.

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| • Open | Digital Image | (GRADED) |
| • Open | Print | (GRADED) |
| • Natural History (NH) | Digital Image | (GRADED) |
| • Photojournalism (PJ) | Digital Image | (NOT GRADED) |

2.2. **Grading** For the purpose of the Graded categories , shown above, members are designated as C, B, or A grade: C being the starting grade and A the highest. New members will normally commence at C grade. At the discretion of the committee, members transferring from other PSNZ clubs may be permitted to enter those competitions at a grade equal to, or less than the grade they held at their previous club. Members progress through the grades by meeting the upgrading criteria outlined in paragraph 2.5 below.

2.3. **Entries** Entries are submitted at regular intervals throughout the year as outlined in the annual programme. Members may submit a maximum of two images per category, per round.

2.4. **Judging** Images are judged and evaluated, and points are awarded as follows:

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| • Not Accepted | 0 points |
| • Acceptance | 1 point |

- Merit 2 points
- Honours 3 points

2.5. Grade Progression

- **From C to B grade** : You must have achieved a minimum of 2 Merits in a 12 month period and have accumulated a total of 20 points or more.
- **From B to A grade**: You must have achieved a minimum of 2 Honours and 3 Merits in a 12 month period and have accumulated a total of 40 points or more.

2.6. Results Results are presented at club meetings in the form of an audio-visual presentation (AV) which incorporates feedback from the judges. Results AVs are subsequently posted in the members-only section of the website as soon as possible after the meeting at which they are presented. Individual's results are also posted in the monthly newsletter.

2.7. Trophies and Certificates Points gained in each of the categories, throughout the calendar year are recorded by the competition secretaries and tallied up after the last competition in each year. Certificates are awarded to the top three placings in each grade (i.e. A, B and C). A Trophy is awarded to the member with the highest points tally across all grades, in each category.

3. TYREE BROTHERS PORTRAIT COMPETITION

3.1. Background The Tyree Brothers Portrait Competition was inspired by the pioneering photography of William and Fred Tyree in the South Island in the late 1800s.

3.2. Portrait Definition A Portrait is a representation of a person, especially of the face. Ideally it gives some insight to their character. The photograph may be posed or candid, of an individual or group, be full length or close-up. If the person is the most important part of your photograph, then it is deemed to be a portrait.

"There is a brief moment when all there is in a man's mind and soul and spirit is reflected through his eyes, his hands, his attitude. This is the moment to record." Yousuf Karsh

3.3. Categories This is an ungraded competition. Members may submit a maximum of two images to be assessed in each the categories listed below.

- Portrait Digital Image
- Portrait Print

3.4. **Submission Date** The submission date for entries will be detailed in the SPS Annual Programme.

3.5. **Trophies and Awards** The judge will select up to ten images in each of the two categories as the best images, presenting Honours, Merit, and Acceptance awards, depending on the quality of entries. The following trophies will be awarded:

TYREE BROTHERS' PRINT PORTRAIT TROPHY - Champion Portrait Print

TYREE BROTHERS' PROJECTED IMAGE PORTRAIT TROPHY - Champion Portrait Digital Image

4. ANNUAL END OF YEAR (EOY) CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

4.1. **Categories** This is an ungraded competition. Members may submit a maximum of three images to be assessed in each the categories listed below.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| • Open (OP) | Digital Image |
| • Open (OP) | Print |
| • Creative (CR) | Digital Image |
| • Creative (CR) | Print |
| • Landscape (LS) | Digital Image |
| • Landscape (LS) | Print |
| • Monochrome (MN) | Digital Image |
| • Monochrome (MN) | Print |
| • Natural History (NH) | Digital Image |
| • Natural History (NH) | Print |
| • Photojournalism (PJ) | Digital Image only |
| • Set of Six | Digital Image only |

4.2. **Submission Date** The submission date for entries will be detailed in the SPS Annual Programme and is normally on the day of the Annual General Meeting, the third Thursday in September.

5. GENERAL RULES APPLYING TO ALL CLUB COMPETITIONS

5.1. Competition Eligibility To be eligible to enter competitions a membership fee must be paid prior to the first club meeting of the year. For members joining during the year a membership fee must be paid prior to entering any competition. Life Members are exempt from this requirement.

5.2. Images

5.2. 1 All parts of an image entered into any competition must have been exposed by the member. Apart from processing restrictions applying to Natural History and Photojournalism (see “Post Processing” at paragraph 5.3.1 below), unlimited use of software for creative purposes is permitted, but see policy issued by the Photographic Society of New Zealand (PSNZ) regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) at Appendix 1.

5.2. 2 It is entirely the responsibility of the photographer to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act and to gain permission (if necessary or appropriate) from any identifiable person in their competition entries.

5.2. 3 All images can be colour or monochrome unless otherwise stated in these rules.

5.2. 4 There shall be no restriction as to subject nor when the photograph was taken, unless otherwise stated in the rules.

5.3. Image Preparation

5.3.1 Post Processing Most images may be improved by a judicious amount of processing. The following processing only is permissible for Natural History and Photojournalism images. Basic processing allows cropping and moderate use of

- Colour correction
- Contrast adjustments
- Saturation adjustments
- Sharpening
- Dodging / Burning
- Removal of scratches or dust spots

5.3.2 Digital Images Format and Sizing Digital images should be saved as a jpg file, with a maximum width of 1920 pixels, and a maximum height of 1080 pixels. (NOTE: It does not matter what orientation the image is, landscape or portrait, the horizontal must be 1920 pixels or less, and the vertical 1080 pixels or less. This means these limits are NOT interchangeable.) The file size must not exceed 2MB.

5.3.3 Prints Sizing Prints must be either matted and mounted, or flush mounted on card, foam coreboard or coreflute. The base size must be a minimum of 230mm x 180mm and a maximum of 500 x 400mm, with a maximum thickness of 10mm.

5.3.4 Print Labelling Prints should be labelled with the following sequence of information.

- Category e.g. Op
- Competition Round i.e. 1-4 (for Aggregate Competition)
- For EOY Championship - the name of the category
- Your Grade i.e. A,B or C (applies to Aggregate Graded categories only)
- Your image title

5.3.5 Labelling Conventions Each piece of information should be separated by a hyphen. So, for example, an Open print, to be entered in the second round of competition, by somebody in 'B' grade, and with a title of 'Spotted Shag', would be correctly labelled on the back of the print as 'Op-2-B-Spotted Shag'.

5.3.6 Print Processing Unless otherwise stated, any print may be trade or home processed.

5.4. Submission of Entries

5.4.1 Method All images for competition entry must be submitted via the SPS website (www.southlandphotographicsociety.com), using the jotform on the competition entry page. This applies to digital images as well as the digital files of print entries. Fill in all the relevant sections on the form (including entering the title of your image in the relevant space) and upload your images before submitting your entry. **Please ensure that the title of the image matches the image file name. DO NOT** add section prefix or any other information. **DO NOT** leave the original file name on the file. Image files incorrectly named may be disqualified. To ensure your entry has been received, please allow time for the information on the form to upload before leaving the page.

5.4.2 Submission Dates Entries must be submitted on the appropriate form via the club website prior to 10pm on the date designated in the programme as the 'close off' for the competition. Prints are to be handed to the print secretary at the meeting on the 'close off' date.

5.4.3 Anonymity The photographer's name is **NOT** to be included on a print image or mat, or on the digital image or in the file name, or a digital image file.

5.4.4 Resubmissions As a general rule, an image may only be entered once in any club competition. Similarly, an image may not be entered into both print and digital versions of any competition. Exceptions to these rules follow below.

5.4.4.1 Aggregate Competition

- Images “Not Accepted” may be re-entered in the same category.
- Images that receive Acceptance, Merit, or Honours in a lower grade may be entered in a higher grade.

5.4.4.2 EOY Championships. Images submitted to both the Aggregate and Tyree Brothers Competitions may be subsequently entered in the EOY Championships and vice versa.

5.5. Competition Secretaries- Compliance Competition secretaries may exclude images which do not comply with the rules for entries.

5.6. Competition Secretaries -Records Competition Secretaries shall be required to maintain records showing the grading and aggregate points of all A, B, and C grade members. Secretaries shall also maintain a list of current trophy winners.

5.7. Judges-Appointment The Committee shall annually appoint all judges. A and B grade and trophy competition judges shall be chosen from outside the Society. C grade judges may be chosen from A grade members within the Society.

5.8. Judges -Anonymity As far as possible no judge will know the name of the author of any image in any competition until after all images are evaluated and/or judged. To this end, members should consider whether they will post to social media any images they may later wish to enter into a club or national competition.

5.9. Trophies Trophies are held for 12 months, and the winners shall be responsible for their safe custody and return to the competition secretaries before the end of September.

5.10. Tasks and Challenges. Members may be encouraged to undertake photographic “tasks” or “challenges” e.g. to enter images in our regular “Set Subject” category. These are more of a non-competitive fun event to encourage members to engage in mediums or genres that they might not otherwise consider. Such challenges may also be used to test members’ enthusiasm for extending the scope of our current formal competition format.

5.11. Changes to these Rules. Any matter not provided for in these Rules shall be decided by the committee, who may alter these rules at their discretion.

6. GUIDE TO IMAGE SELECTION

- 6.1. The final image is what counts the most and the following definitions and quotes are to be used by both photographers and judges as guidance.
- 6.2. **OPEN (OP)** A graded competition. There are no limits to subject matter in the Open section. The emphasis is on visual interest, impact, composition, and technical excellence. Images are not confined to any particular subject, type, or style of photography and may include scenery, close-ups, buildings, portraits, and still-life. Special techniques are also allowed and include unlimited digital or darkroom manipulation. Composites are permitted, but they must not include copies of images, or parts of images, taken by another photographer.
- 6.3. **NATURAL HISTORY (NH)** A graded competition. 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. The aim of Natural History photography is to educate. Photographs of animals that are domesticated caged or under any form of restraint, as well as photographs of cultivated plants are **ineligible**. Minimal evidence of humans is acceptable for natural history subjects, such as leg bands for wild birds, buildings with barn owls or storks. Natural History excludes anthropology and archaeology. Artificially produced plants or animals, mounted specimens or obviously set arrangements, will not be eligible. **Only basic processing is allowed as defined in section 5.3.1 of the General Rules.** After satisfying the above requirements, every effort should be made to ensure the highest level of artistic skill in all Natural History photographs. Correct identification of subjects is strongly recommended. The use of scientific, Māori, native, or common names must be used, with preference being given to the scientific name where possible. **Humorous or other such titles will not be accepted.**
- 6.4. **PHOTOJOURNALISM (PJ)** An ungraded competition. Photojournalism is about capturing story telling images as they happen. It is a form of documentary photography, and emphasis should be given to life in our world. The theme of people and their environment should be used although people are not essential i.e. a shot the day after a house fire, if well taken, can still tell the essential tale. Images revealing aspects of life not often seen or thought about – images that are likely to be of interest in one hundred years' time. An image should be able to stand alone and **tell its story** without a title but if carefully chosen a title can often add to its impact. Photojournalism often consists of human interest and portrays people in everyday situations. Here one tries to record body language, facial expressions, and a range of emotions. Good timing is essential, and one should strive to catch the key moment in any action/activity. In photojournalism, the technique, composition, and lighting (although important) remain secondary to the story. Photojournalism images must represent the truth,

so **only basic processing is allowed as defined in section 5.3.1 of the General Rules**, and events recorded must not be set up by the photographer.

6.5. LANDSCAPE (LS) An ungraded Championship competition.

A landscape is an image of scenery. It can include cityscapes, seascapes, sunsets, single trees, boats in a harbour, people enjoying the outdoors or groups of animals in their outdoor habitat.

Landscape photography is not so much about what is contained in the image, but what it portrays about a place. While a landscape photograph might be a wide-angle image of a pristine lake or an ocean sunset, it might just as well be a dormant plant in a winter pond. Grand or tiny, a landscape is not so much about the subject itself, but rather about the place in which the subject exists and the feeling the subject and place evoke.

6.6. MONOCHROME (MO). An ungraded Championship competition. A monochrome image consists of varying shades of a single colour, typically black and white. This type of image emphasizes contrast, texture, and composition without the distraction of colour. For a good monochrome image, consider the following elements:

- **Contrast:** Ensure there is a contrast between the light and dark areas to create depth and interest.
- **Composition:** Pay attention to the arrangement of elements within the frame. Use leading lines, shapes, and patterns to guide the viewer's eye.
- **Texture:** Highlight textures to add detail and dimension to the image.
- **Lighting:** Use lighting to enhance shadows and highlights, which can add drama and mood to the image.
- **Subject:** Choose a subject that stands out well in monochrome, such as landscapes, portraits, or architectural details.

6.7. CREATIVE (CR) An ungraded Championship competition.

All parts of Images must have been exposed by the entrant and no part of any image can be solely computer generated.

6.8. SET OF SIX DIGITAL IMAGES An ungraded Championship competition. A set of images which have flow and may be constructed using colour, line, shape of subject to achieve this objective.

PSNZ Policy Document on the Use of Artificial Intelligence
in Photographic Competitions and Salons

1. Originality of Optical Captures

All image entries must be based solely on original optical capture(s) made by the submitting photographer.

2. AI-Assisted Capture

AI systems can be employed to assist in the capture of images, provided they only aid in the capture process, without adding, removing, or altering elements that were present in the real world scene.

3. Non-Generative AI Post-Processing

AI technologies may be used for non-generative post-processing to manipulate only the pixels from the original optical capture(s).

4. Generative AI Techniques

The use of Generative AI Techniques either during the capture process or in postprocessing is strictly prohibited. Entries found to have used Generative AI Techniques to generate visual content not present in the original optical capture(s) of the original real world scene(s) may be disqualified.

5. Verification

PSNZ reserves the right to request original, unedited files for any image submitted, to verify an image is consistent with the guidance provided in this policy.

3. Amendments

This policy may be amended from time to time by PSNZ to reflect the evolving nature of AI technologies in photography. Any amendments will be communicated to members in a timely manner