

# SOUTHLAND PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY Inc

# COMPETITION RULES

## 1 GENERAL RULES APPLYING TO ALL CLUB COMPETITIONS

- 1 Competitions are open to financial members only.
- 2 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, unlimited use of software for creative purposes is permitted. Unless otherwise stated, any print may be trade or home processed. Note that an image may not be entered into both print and projected image in the same competition (ie 'Open', 'Natural History', etc).
- 3 All images can be colour or monochrome unless otherwise stated in rules.
- 4 There shall be no restriction as to subject nor when the photograph was taken, unless otherwise stated in the rules.
- 5 All images for competition entry must be submitted via the SPS website ([www.southlandphotographicsociety.com](http://www.southlandphotographicsociety.com)), using the form 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 check that the name you enter in the form is exactly the same as the image file name.** To ensure your entry has been received, please allow time for the information on the form to upload before leaving the page.

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.

- 6 Prints should be labelled with the following sequence of information:

- Firstly the section:

Natural History – NH

Open – OP

Photojournalism – PJ

Portrait – PT

- Secondly the number of the competition (ie. 1 – 4)

- Thirdly your grade (A, B, or C)

- And finally, the image title

There will be some Championship codes –

Creative – CR

Monochrome – MN

Landscape – LS

- 7 Each piece of information should be separated by a hyphen. So, for example, a natural history print, to be entered in the second round of competition, by somebody in 'B' grade, and with a title of 'Spotted Shag', would end up being correctly labelled on the back of the print as 'NH-2-B-Spotted Shag'.
- 8 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.
- 9 Print competitions: 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 510 x 410mm, with a maximum thickness of 10mm. Prints need to be labelled as in section 1, paragraph 6.
- 10 Digital image competitions are for digital images. 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). Images should be entered using the process detailed in paragraph 5.
- 11 Audio-Visuals: **(This category has been suspended and will not be included in championship competitions from 2020)** The entry must be a stand-alone digital production, presented in MP4 format.
- 12 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
  - Saturation adjustments
  - Dodging / Burning
  - Contrast adjustments
  - Sharpening
  - Removal of scratches or dust spots
- 13 Entries awarded an Acceptance, Merit, or Honours in A, B, or C grade competitions or trophy competitions, may not be re-entered in that competition section. 'Not Accepted' images may be re-entered in the same section. Images that receive Acceptance, Merit, or Honours in a lower grade may be entered in a higher grade.
- 14 Competition secretaries may exclude images which do not comply with the rules for entries.
- 15 All judges shall be appointed annually by the Committee. 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.

- 16 Any member can enter an ungraded competition but in competitions with grades (A, B, or C) members may only enter in their respective grade.
- 17 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.
- 18 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.
- 19 Set subject competitions may be staged on meeting nights and the subject published in advance in the annual programme or by group email.
- 20 For end of year competitions, the maximum number of images that can be entered in any one section is three.
- 21 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.
- 22 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
- 23 Any matter not provided for in these Rules shall be decided by the committee, who may alter these rules at their discretion.

## 2 GUIDE TO IMAGE SELECTION FOR EACH SECTION

- 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.
- **OPEN (OP)** A graded competition with A, B, and C grades. 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.
- **NATURAL HISTORY (NH)** A graded competition with A, B, and C grades.  
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 1.12 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 the scientific, Maori, native, or common names must be used, with preference being given to the scientific name where possible. **Cute, humorous or other such titles will not be accepted.**

- **PHOTOJOURNALISM (PJ)** An open competition where images are awarded non-acceptance, acceptance, merit or honours. These points accrue towards the aggregate trophy awarded at the end of each year. 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 100 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 1.12 of the General Rules**, and events recorded must not be set up by the photographer.

- **PORTRAIT (PT)** An open competition with no grades.  
A Portrait is a representation of a person, especially of the face – sometimes refers to a group of people. 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

- **LANDSCAPE (LS)** An open competition with no grades in 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 evokes.

- **CREATIVE (CR)** An open competition with no grades in Championship competition.  
All parts of Images must have been exposed by the entrant and no part of any image can be solely computer generated.
- **SET OF SIX DIGITAL IMAGES** A set of images which have flow and may be constructed using colour, line, shape of subject to achieve this objective. An open competition with no grades in Championship competition.

### 3 SOCIETY MEETING COMPETITIONS

**Entries** are submitted at regular intervals throughout the year as outlined in the annual programme, with results presented back to meetings and printed in the newsletter, and images achieving Merit or Honours are posted on the website.

Two images per competition round.

Points awarded are by evaluating images as follows:

Not Accepted	0 points	Accepted	1 point
Merit	2 points	Honours	3 points

Members can submit images to be assessed and graded in three sections and two media.

Open	Print, Digital Image
Natural History	Print, Digital Image
Photojournalism	Print, Digital Image

1. **OPEN** A, B, and C Grades for prints and digital images.
2. **NATURAL HISTORY** A, B, and C grades. Points are awarded for end-of-year aggregate competition by evaluating images as in section 3, paragraph 1(b) above
3. **PHOTOJOURNALISM** Competition with no grades and open to all financial members. Number of entries two. Points as in section 3, paragraph 1(b) above.

Members commencing graded (ie Open, N/H), print and digital image competitions shall enter at C grade. After attaining **15 points** advance to B grade and after attaining an additional **30 points** advance to A grade. At the discretion of the committee, members transferring from other PSNZ clubs may be permitted to enter competitions at a grade equal to or less than the grade they held at the previous club.

### 4 AGGREGATE COMPETITION TROPHIES

- 1 Points gained in the Open, Photojournalism, and Natural History Sections throughout the calendar year are recorded by the competition secretaries and tallied up after the last competition in each year. Trophies are awarded to the member with the highest points tally across all grades in each section.

### 5 TYREE BROTHERS PORTRAIT COMPETITION

- 1 This is a portrait competition, in memory of the pioneering photography by William and Fred Tyree in the South Island in the late 1800s.
- 2 Limited to two entries per member in each of the two sections, digital and print.

- 3 An image can only be entered once, and cannot be entered in both the print and digital image sections in the same year.
- 4 Prints can be in any form including montages, darkroom or digitally manipulated, but of the size noted in General Rules section 1, paragraph 9.
- 5 The judge will select up to ten images in each of the two sections as the best images, presenting Honours, Merit, and Acceptance awards, depending on the quality of entries. They will award the trophies to the photographer of the Champion Print and Champion Digital Image

TYREE BROTHERS' PRINT PORTRAIT TROPHY - Champion Portrait Print

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

## 6 ANNUAL END OF YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

- 1 Close off date for entries is in the Annual Programme and is normally on the day of the Annual General Meeting, the third Thursday in September.
- 2 These are for both Print and Digital images.
- 3 Three images per section.
- 4 Members can submit images in the following categories for Championship.

<b>OPEN</b>	Print and Digital
<b>NATURAL HISTORY</b>	Print and Digital
<b>PHOTOJOURNALISM</b>	Print and Digital
<b>LANDSCAPE</b>	Print and Digital
<b>CREATIVE</b>	Print and Digital
<b>MONOCHROME</b>	Print and Digital
<b>SET OF SIX</b>	Digital only