Rules of Competition

2022

Contents

Competition Purpose and Ethics

The competitions set by the Society are to promote the improvement of photographic skills by encouraging members to enter works they have created for judging. The judging comments provide the entrant and audience with valuable feedback on how each member may improve their own images. All entries are anonymous unless an award is achieved.

Entrants will show respect for the decision of the judge, and for fellow entrants' images in the competition. Any disparaging remarks made anywhere, including public forums, will not be tolerated. Any issues regarding judging are to be addressed to Committee in private correspondence.

It is the responsibility of the entrant to ensure that any work they submit is their own work and vision for the final image. Please carefully check individual rules for each category. It is the entrant's responsibility to maintain all ethical requirements.

Rules of Competition

General

Entry to competition is open to financial members of the Rangiora Photographic Society, as well as those who are invited members of the Society.

The Society may use, copy and/or reproduce any image entered for competition as follows: -

- For teaching and publicity
- To represent RPS as a club entry in external competitions

The Photographer retains copyright to their image, even if it is used by the club.

The committee will decide any matter not covered by these Rules. Committee may amend the Rules from time to time. Committee may amend the type and number of competitions in a given year. Committee decisions are final.

Any member not complying with any of the competition rules will have their entry/ies disqualified and best efforts will be made to notify the member prior to judging night.

Judging

All entries will be judged by grade, except at the discretion of the Competition Secretary e.g. where the number of entries is too small to be judged effectively by grade.

Entries in each competition will be judged together, i.e. both Digital and Prints together.

Judge's decisions on awards for competition entries are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Grading

For the purposes of competitions, members are graded either A, B or C.

All new members to the club will automatically be graded C, unless that member has previously achieved a higher grading at another Club or demonstrated a higher level of skill, and as such will be graded appropriately by committee.

Progression through the grades is achieved either by accumulation of points or through a re-grading request. Grade progressions are effective at the end of the year, i.e. if you achieve the required points to upgrade during the membership year, you remain in your current grade until the end of the year.

Request for Regrading

A club member may request, at any time, to be regraded. Requests should be made to the Competition Secretary by providing six digital images plus a short explanation for the regrading request. Images are to meet the requirements for competition entry. Once received by the Competition Secretary the process is:

- Competition Secretary checks the entries to ensure they meet the competition criteria
- A sub-committee is formed to evaluate the supplied images and determine if re-grading is granted
- Decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into

Grade Progression by Points Accumulation

Where an image is given an award by the judge, Competition Points are awarded in each competition as follows: -

- Honours   5 points
- Acceptance   2 points
- Top of Grade   1 additional point
- Champion Image   2 additional points

Any points accumulated are only for the year in which they are awarded. Competition year runs from 1 January to 31 December and all members' points commence at zero each year. No points are awarded for Supreme Image of the Year.

Grade Progression Table:

Grade	Promotion Requirement
C	Promotion to B Grade once an aggregate of 20 points has been achieved in a year (this must include 1 Honours award)
B	Promotion to A Grade once an aggregate of 27 points has been achieved in a year (this must include 2 Honours awards)
A	A Grade Special Merit Award (annual) once an aggregate of 36 points has been achieved in a year (this must include 4 Honours awards)

Note: Points may vary depending on the number of competitions in the programme that year.

Trophies

The club holds a variety of trophies that are awarded at the end of each year. The trophies issued may change each year depending on the requirements of the Society. The Competition Secretary is responsible for establishing the trophies to be awarded each year. The committee may, at its discretion, recommend to the Competition Secretary the addition or removal of trophies at any point in the year.

Any recipient of a trophy shall be responsible for its safe custody and preservation, and its return to the committee when requested.

Competition Entries

Method of Entry

All entries shall be submitted via the entry form on the website of the Society, located under the Competitions tab.

Digital

Submissions must be:

- A maximum of 1920 pixels wide (horizontal) by 1080 pixels high (vertical
- In jpg format.

Note: The website will reject any images over this size. The author is not restricted to this ratio and may choose to use dimensions that suit the image e.g. a panorama could be, say, 1920 pixels wide by 660 pixels high.

Prints

Print submissions [when applicable] must be handed to the Competition Secretary or their agent at the last meeting before the closing date; or earlier by arrangement with the Competition Secretary.

- On the back of the print must be recorded the member's name and image title. Your name must not appear anywhere on the print or front of the mount
- All prints must be matted or mounted on light card or foam board
- Maximum size of print (including mount) is 50cm on the longest edge
- Framed prints, those containing glass, or any mounted on thick, heavy backing (e.g. customwood or hardboard), or metal hanging hooks will not be accepted for judging as these can cause damage to other members' prints
- Digital version, sized to the usual competition proportions, must be entered on the website by competition closing date

Whilst all reasonable care is taken, the Society will not be held liable for any damage to prints submitted for judging.

The entrant is to collect the print at the conclusion of the judging, or have someone collect on their behalf. The Society takes no responsibility for uncollected prints.

Rules For All Competitions

These are the general rules that apply to all competitions, but refer to later sections for 'Special Rules' that apply to particular competitions.

Editing Definitions

BASIC EDITING
Cropping, exposure adjustment, white balance adjustment, sharpening, contrast, focus stacking, panoramic stitching, exposure blending, and dust spot removal are the types of editing permitted. Generally, these are expected to be kept minimal, and no changes to the content of the scene are permitted.

ADVANCED EDITING
Includes composite elements, alteration of content, liquifying, borders, textures, etc. All elements must be the original work of the entrant.

General Rules

1. The entry must be the photographic work of the entrant both in origin and manipulation.
2. Competitions are Digital by default. Where Prints are permitted this will be stated on entry.
3. Two entries maximum per competition - whether Digital, Print, or one of each.
4. An image can be entered as a Print or Digital for a competition, not both.
5. Entries must be entered on or before the closing date for the competition. No late entries will be accepted.
6. The entrant's name must not appear anywhere on the Print or Projected Image, or within an Audio Visual production.
7. Any image not given a title during the submission stage will show as 'Untitled'.
8. Once an image has been awarded an Honours or Acceptance it may not be entered into any further Society competitions. (The Society can use the image for external competitions.)
9. If no award is received, an image may be entered into other competitions.
10. If an entry does not meet the competition requirements the Competition Secretary will remove the entry.
11. Any Print submitted to a competition with unsatisfactory matting/mounting could be rejected.

Rules Specific to a Competition Category

Abstract
Presents either a recognizable subject in an unusual way or lines/form/colour from an unrecognizable subject. No editing restrictions.

Architecture
One or more buildings/structures, or a portion thereof. Focus on architectural features, pattern, texture and the use of space. May contain humans as a minor element. No editing restrictions.

Audio Visual
One entry per member.
- Each AV entry must consist predominantly of a sequence of still images taken by the author.
- Movement [panning and zooming] which can be created in some software programmes, is permissible.
- The use of third party images such as historic photos, reference or similar images taken from other media such as the internet, animated graphics and video clips or other visual material is allowable. It is recommended that they are limited to no more than 20% of the total viewing time and relate strictly to the theme of the AV. It is at the judges' discretion whether there is too much emphasis on third party images, graphics and video clips.
- All credits should be declared at the end of the sequence.
- All material not the original work of the entrant, i.e. images, music and text must be acknowledged.
- Do not include the AV author's name or other information that might identify the entrant during the judging process.

Black & White
Any image presented as a monotone. This includes, but is not exclusive to, toning such as sepia. NOTE: Some external competitions will not accept colour tones such as sepia and the image must be black & white, so bear this in mind when entering outside competitions. No editing restrictions.

Field Trip
Taken on an RPS field trip. The period of time for eligible trips will be stated on entry. Field trips are weekend or day trips including dawn and night shoots. This excludes workshops, tutorials, camera craft etc (unless held during the field trip). No editing restrictions.

Landscape
Portraying the beauty of the wider vista, including sky and seascapes. This can be natural or urban, unless expressly stated otherwise. Natural landscapes can contain people or buildings, etc, provided they are not the dominant feature. Urban landscapes would be a city/town/urban scene, with emphasis on structures or landscape rather than people. This can be a detail or wider shot. **BASIC EDITING ONLY**.

Natural History
Suitable subjects are untamed animals, insects or uncultivated plants in their natural habitat; natural phenomena; geology, etc. All adjustments must appear natural. There should be no evidence of the "hand of man". Editing must be to present the image as you saw it. Greyscale or colour are acceptable. Correct identification of the subject with use of scientific and/or common name is recommended. **BASIC EDITING ONLY**.

Open or Set Subject
Any subject matter is permitted, unless a subject or theme has been specified. In this case, the subject/theme must be adhered to for any award to be given. No editing restrictions.

Photojournalism

Images that could be in a magazine or newspaper, i.e informative content and/or emotional impact. Suitable subjects might be news events, sports, or celebrities, for example. **BASIC EDITING ONLY** permitted.

- The competition could be either Sports or General Photojournalism, or combined, and this will be stated on the entry form. When combined it will be the member's choice to enter either two General PJ, two Sports, or one of each.
- Set up situations are not permitted. Integrity is paramount in this regard. Changing the context of the shot by posing or editing is not allowed.

Supreme Image of the Year

Up to two images can be entered, either Digital, Print, or one of each.

a) The image must be in the same format as that entered during the year, e.g. an Honours Print can not be entered as a Digital.
b) Themed portfolios are not eligible for entry
c) Images may not be altered in any way to that which was originally entered
d) Images entered must meet one of the following criteria in the current year:
    i) Received an Honours or Acceptance
    ii) Been selected to represent the Society in an external competition

Portrait

Portrays a likeness of a person or group of people/animals. The focus of the image should be the face/expression although the whole form may be included. Studio or environmental portraits, candid or posed, are acceptable. No editing restrictions.

Still Life

An arrangement of diverse inanimate objects, for example plants, food, flowers, artifacts. No editing restrictions.

Street Photography

Features subjects in candid situations within public places, such as streets, parks, malls, etc, often caught at a decisive or poignant moment. No editing restrictions, however heavily edited images are not typical of the genre.

Travel Photography

Depiction of a time or place, with distinctive cultural or local features. Close up pictures of people or objects must include distinguishable environment. **BASIC EDITING ONLY**.

Portfolio

The format of this competition may be Print and/or Digital and will be stated on entry.

- A set of 6 images.
- No editing restrictions.
- Whether entering Prints or Digital, your competition entry must be made online and include a digital composite of the six images.
- The composite shows the flow and cohesion of the portfolio as a whole, and for Print entries how the exhibits are to be displayed (the Society will do their best to accommodate this on the night).
- Prints can be mounted individually or on one display board.
- Print sizing - individual images max 500mm on the long edge. One display board - maximum size is 1016mm x 816mm.
- Digital - enter your 6 images in the correct order, plus the composite.
- No images can be used that have received an award in previous Society competitions.

Guidelines for Categories

The following are **NOT** rules and do not need to be adhered to. They are simply intended to give members an idea of what could be commonly entered in each category. However, do not feel you need to restrict your artistic vision to what is suggested below. Judges can exercise their own subjective opinion in every instance so you could find completely different statements on the night. An image that makes you go "wow" will often triumph over a technically perfect but ordinary one. Members of the committee will be happy to help clarify if there is any confusion as to what is required, also have a look at the galleries on the RPS website for successful images from previous competitions.

Titles, though not compulsory, can help get the message of the photo across.

Elements that judges look for include but are not limited to:

- Lighting
- Composition
- Subject/Content
- Impact
- Emotion/Communication
- Technique

Black & White
Judges are generally looking for a good range of tones from white through to black. Subject matter is unrestricted. Borders and grain are often used. Check out some of the black & white masters like Ansel Adams for inspiration.

Landscape
Eyecatching vistas are what generally make up this category.

Natural History
Flora, fauna, weather, geology, ice, natural features are all appropriate subjects. Generally the subject is expected to be in focus from front to back, shallow depth of field is not usually considered part of the genre. Animals in captivity or plants in gardens etc, are not acceptable. Judges in this category are likely to be specialists, and will probably be very particular about accuracy of shots and things like correct naming. Often images of the subject doing something in their environment will do well.
Naming/classifying your subject - judges in this category do not like cute names like 'fun-guy' for a mushroom. If unsure of the specius use the Genus with 'sp' after it, e.g. 'Bombus sp' signifies it is a species of bumblebee. Or revert to English and name it 'Bumblebee'. Maori names are also acceptable. When using Latin only the Genus has a capital letter, so it would be 'Bombus terrestris'.

Open
No limits on creativity here. There tends to be a wide range of subject material presented, and often shots which would fit just as easily into some of the other categories are entered and do well.

Photojournalism
These need to be accurate representations of newsworthy items, like sports, or events, or human interest/documentary type shots - the sorts of things you would find illustrating a story/article. Cropping is an important part of directing the eye to the story in the image.

Portrait
More than a snapshot, a good portrait will show something of the subject - their personality or their environment. Portraits need to engage the viewer.

Street Photography
Spontaneous, cleverly caught moments showing elements of humanity in the urban environment are likely to do well.

Themed Portfolio
Images need to have a common theme, but don't need to be matching sizes. Theme could be generated by subject matter, colour, processing treatment, any number of ways. The eye should flow through them, and there should not be any that are weaker or stronger than the rest.

Travel Photography
Any country including our own. Images portraying the local culture, or features including landscapes, people, and elements, are all acceptable. Closeups that are not location specific aren't what is needed.