



Rules of Competition

2025

v2.1

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1. 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 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 the Committee in private correspondence.

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

2. Rules of Competition

2.1 General

Competition entry 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 the club uses it.

The committee will decide on any matter not covered by these Rules. The committee may amend the Rules from time to time. The committee may amend the type and number of competitions in a given year. The 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 you before the judging night.

2.2 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 Print together.

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

2.3 Grading

For 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 grade at another Club or undertaken professional photography, and as such will be graded appropriately by the 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.



2.3.1 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:

- The 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

2.3.2 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
- Best in Grade 1 additional point

- Champion Image 2 additional points

Points will also be gained when an image is selected to represent the Society as an entry into an external competition:

- 1 point per image, per external competition

This does not include external competitions where the member submits entries on their behalf.

Any points accumulated are only for the year in which they are awarded. The competition year runs from 1 January to 31 December and all members’ points commence at zero each year. No points are awarded for the 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.

2.4 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.

3. Competition Entries

3.1 Method of Entry

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

Before uploading to the website, the image shall be re-named to match the title being entered on the online competition form.

TYPE	TITLE	IMAGE FILE
Digital	Cape Foulwind	 Ext-471-A-471_Cape_Foulwind.jpg

3.1.1 Digital

Submissions must be:

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

Note: The author is not restricted to the use of a 1920 x 1080 format and may choose to use dimensions that suit the image, e.g. a panorama could be, say, 1920 pixels wide by 660 pixels high.

3.1.2 Prints

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

- On the back of the print, record the membership number and image title. Your name must not appear anywhere on the print or mount
- All prints must be matted or mounted on light card or foam board
- Maximum size of print (including mount) is to a maximum of 50 cm on the longest edge
- Framed prints, those containing glass, or any mounted on thick, heavy backing (e.g. custom wood 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 the 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 after the judging or have someone collect it on his or her behalf. The Society takes no responsibility for uncollected prints.

3.2 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.

3.2.1 Editing Definitions

- I. **BASIC EDITING** - cropping, exposure adjustment, white balance adjustment, sharpening, contrast, focus stacking, panoramic stitching, HDR, 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.

Using AI to add to an image is not allowed unless stated.

- II. **ADVANCED EDITING** - includes composite elements, alteration of content, liquefying, borders, textures, etc. All elements, **(including composite images)**, must be the original work of the entrant.

3.2.2 General Rules

1. The entry must be the photographic work of the entrant, both in **ORIGIN** and **MANIPULATION**
2. Competitions may be restricted to Digital only or Print only, and this will be stated on the entry
3. Two entries maximum per competition - whether Digital, Print, or one of each
4. Where a competition accepts both Prints and Digital, an image can be entered as one or the other, not both
5. A 'set' of Digital Images or Prints may be entered as one entry where it contains four or fewer images in one entry and fits within the relevant sizing requirements for Print or Digital
6. Entries must be entered on or before the closing date for the competition. No late entries will be accepted
7. The entrant's name must not appear anywhere on the Print or Digital Image, or within an Audio Visual production
Note: if you usually put watermarks on your images, remember to exclude the watermark on the conversion of the image being used for competition
8. Any image not given a title during the submission stage will show as 'Untitled'

9. 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)
10. If no award is received, an image may be entered into other competitions
11. If an entry does not meet the competition requirements the Competition Secretary may remove the entry
12. Any Print submitted to competition with unsatisfactory matting/mounting could be rejected

4. Rules Specific to a Competition Category

4.1 *Abstract*

Presents a recognizable subject either in an unusual way or lines/form/colour from an unrecognizable subject. **NO EDITING RESTRICTIONS, however, using AI to ADD to an image in any software is NOT PERMITTED.**

4.2 *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, however, using AI to ADD to an image in any software is NOT PERMITTED.

4.3 *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] that can be created in some software programs 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.
- Entries are to be submitted on a DVD/CD or USB flash drive, labelled with membership number and Title.

4.4 Black and White

Any image presented in 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 and white, so bear this in mind when entering outside competitions.

NO EDITING RESTRICTIONS, however, using AI to ADD to an image in any software is NOT PERMITTED.

4.5 Field Trip

The organiser (who can be any member) will organise an RPS field trip, and the times/dates/cost will be conveyed to the membership. This excludes workshops, tutorials, camera craft, etc. (unless held during the field trip).

NO EDITING RESTRICTIONS, however, using AI to ADD to an image in any software is NOT PERMITTED.

4.6 Landscape

Capturing the outdoors in a way that evokes meaning for the viewer.

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, although they are not the dominant feature. Urban landscapes would be a city/town/urban scene, emphasising structures or landscapes rather than people. This can be a detail or wider shot. **BASIC EDITING ONLY, however, using AI to ADD to an image in any software is NOT PERMITTED.**

4.7 Natural History

Suitable subjects are untamed animals, birds, 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 is acceptable. Correct identification of the subject with the use of scientific and/or common names is recommended.

BASIC EDITING ONLY, however, using AI to ADD to an image in any software is NOT PERMITTED.

4.8 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, however, using AI to ADD to an image in any software is NOT PERMITTED.

4.9 Photojournalism

Images that could be in a magazine or newspaper, i.e. informative content and/or emotional impact. Set-up situations are not permitted. Integrity is paramount in this section. Editing must not alter the

story, truth, context of the image. Changing the context of the shot by posing or editing is not allowed. Colour or greyscale are acceptable. Suitable subjects might be news events, sports, or celebrities, for example.

BASIC EDITING ONLY, however, using AI to ADD to an image in any software is NOT PERMITTED.

4.10 Supreme Image of the Year

Up to two Digital and two Printed images can be entered (i.e. 4 total)

- a) The image must be in the same format as that entered during the year, e.g. an Honours Print cannot 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

4.11 Portrait

Portrays a likeness of a person/animal 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, however, using AI to ADD to an image in any software is NOT PERMITTED.

4.12 Still Life

An arrangement of diverse inanimate objects, for example, plants, food, flowers, and artefacts.

NO EDITING RESTRICTIONS, however, using AI to ADD to an image in any software is NOT PERMITTED.

4.13 Street Photography

Features subjects in candid situations within public places, such as streets, parks, malls, etc., often caught at a decisive or poignant moment. Basic Editing Restrictions however heavily edited images are not typical of the genre, and **using AI to ADD to an image in any software is NOT PERMITTED.**

4.14 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, however, using AI to ADD to an image in any software is NOT PERMITTED.

4.15 Themed Portfolio

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

4.15.1 General

- A set of 6 images with a common theme
- No editing restrictions
- Whether entering Prints or Digital, your competition entry **must be made online**, using one digital composite of the six images

- ✦ Digital: enter your composite along with the six individual images
- ✦ Print: enter your composite only
- ✦ For prints, this allows the Competition Secretary to see how the images are to be hung
- ✦ The composite can also be helpful for display on the TV monitor on judging night

4.15.2 Digital

- Size and format as per Rule 3.1.1
- The title of each of the digital entries needs to have the number/order in which they are to appear and be the first part of the name, e.g.
 - ✦ 1_sandcastle
 - ✦ 2_shell
 - ✦ 3_seagull
 - ✦ 4_footprint
 - ✦ 5_driftwood
 - ✦ 6_waves

4.15.3 Print

- Images can be mounted individually or on one display board
- Refer to Rule 3.1.2 for conventions on naming and use of materials, noting that the title also needs to include the number order, as per the 'Digital' example above
- Sizing: for individual mounts follow Rule 3.1.2, and if using one display board the maximum size is 1016 mm x 816 mm
- The Society will do its best to accommodate the display/layout of your images on the night

4.16 Creative

The rules for this competition are full use of the AI, but all work generated must be the work of the artist/creator/photographer. **USING/COPYING IMAGES FROM ANOTHER SOURCE OR SOMEONE ELSE IS NOT ALLOWED.** *(The rules, may, from time to time, be altered by the committee, but entrants will be advised when this is applicable).* **NO EDITING RESTRICTIONS**

4.17 Macro /Closeup

Your submission must be a macro / closeup photograph, with high level of detail, that showcases an interesting feature, or group of features. The topic is not limited and can be any type of macro photograph.

BASIC EDITING, however, using AI to ADD to an image in any software is NOT PERMITTED

4.18 Tryptych

The images must be made up of three (and only three) distinctly separated photographs presented on a common background. The subject matter is open.

BASIC EDITING, however, using AI to ADD to an image in any software is NOT PERMITTED.

NOTES 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. The galleries on the RPS website show 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 and White

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

Landscape

Eye-catching 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 species use the Genus with ‘sp’ after it, e.g. ‘Bombus sp’ signifies it is a species of bumblebee. Alternatively, 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 do not need to be matching sizes. The theme could be generated by subject matter, colour, processing treatment, any number of ways. The eye should flow through them, and none should not be 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. close-up's that are not location specific are not what is needed.

