

Rules For PSA - PPD- INTERCLUB COMPETITION Id 8/29/26

Image Creation and Authorship

In all sections of an exhibition, images must originate as photographs made by the entrant. Entrants may not incorporate images or image elements authored by anyone else (for example Photoshop replacement skies or textures, clipart of stock images), and there is zero tolerance for plagiarism. Editing or alteration of images is only permitted within the limits specified in the Division Definitions.

Prints may be in color or monochrome (see the definition for Monochrome below on this page). Digital capture, film photography, desktop and darkroom processing, and commercial prints are all included in the PPD Interclub Print Competition activities. The content or subject matter of an image submitted to a PPD program or activity is unrestricted. The prints are divided into five divisions, Large Color, Large Monochrome, Small Color, Small Monochrome and Creative Altered Reality (CAR).

Statement on Artificial Intelligence (AI)

1. Permitted AI-enhanced editing includes editing tools that perform transformations, enhancements, or corrections based exclusively on the existing pixel data captured in the author's original photograph without introducing externally sourced content.

2. Prohibited AI editing: includes any AI-assisted processes for synthetic image generation that incorporate external image data, visual elements, textures, objects, or scenes not originally present in the author's photograph are prohibited.

definitions that are available here <https://psa-photo.org/page/division-definitions>

Statement on Subject Matter - applicable to all sections

PSA's fundamental rule prioritizes animal welfare over photography, prohibiting baiting with live creatures, nest disturbance, endangering subjects, or depicting feeding of live prey to captive animals. Aerial photography must not disturb

individuals or animals and must comply with local regulations. The images must comply with the division and section definitions listed on the PSA website; images that do not comply will be disqualified by the judges.

While subject matter is not restricted, please be conscious of religious and civic sensibilities when submitting to Interclub, especially nudes.

Similar Images:

Identical or similar Images shall not be allowed in the same Division during the Interclub competition season. Similar images are those which are practically equivalent, as defined below. Pictorial Print interclub, with its different division competition within the PPD Interclub competition is still considered only one Pictorial Print Division Interclub Competition

Two images are considered practical equivalents unless two of the following parameters vary between the images

- Noticeable change in camera position: examples of a camera position change include high angle vs low angle, pan, tilt or tracking shots, etc.
- Noticeable subject movement: a subject's movement may be slight (a head movement) but must be obvious. This parameter may also apply to inanimate subject matter (arrangement of subjects in a lightbox)
- Noticeable change of compositional or design elements: this includes a wide variety of possible changes, from lighting and lines to spaces and shapes

Disqualification:

- If an interclub image is disqualified later in the competition season, that image will be scored 0 and awards removed.
- If an image is found to be disqualified later in a previous competition season, that image is simply removed from the slide show as all files are archived and standings cannot be changed.
- If the Director believes that an entrant is guilty of cheating, plagiarism, or is on the PSA Penalty List, the PSA Director is directed by PSA Board to report this incident to the PSA Ethics board.

MAKEUPS: (New Ruling) A Club can do an entire Round make-up for one missed Round, except for Round 3. A Host Club for Round 3 may submit their club make-up prints in either Round 1 or 2.

There are no makeups for a club who missed the full count of submission (example: entering 1 image to makeup when there is a missing image in a round that had 3 and required 4 images) and no makeups for DQ images.

A Make-up submission is the same as a normal Round submission in that there are four entries per category by four different makers. Make-up prints may receive awards as appropriate with regularly submitted prints.

Scores for the Make-up prints will be recorded in the Round that they are submitted in. (Example, if a club misses Round 1 and submits Make-up prints in Round 2, their scores will be recorded in Round 2 while the Round 1 scores will be 0.

INTERCLUB SCORING GUIDELINES

The purpose of this section is to achieve uniformity in scores between Rounds and Competitions.

SCORE 9 points: a photo of superior quality, craftsmanship, and artistic impact. Any perceived weakness would be offset by outstanding redeeming qualities that elevate it. A photo earning this score has an impact that makes the image significant and memorable. This score is considered a Merit Award.

SCORE 8 points: an outstanding image of the highest technical quality, well processed, with strong composition and impact. Generally, such a score is associated with an award-winning photo.

SCORE 7 points; a very good to excellent competition quality image with only minor, if any, technical weaknesses; well, composed and with strong visual impact. An image with this score often may receive an award.

SCORE 6 points: a generally competent competition image where the technical and compositional aspects have been handled appropriately.

SCORE 4-5 points: a competition image with several problems or a single serious flaw involving technical, compositional, or other issues that result in it not being a strong competition image.

SCORE 3 points: extremely weak or inappropriate competition images.

SCORE 2* points: This score is reserved for serious and provable violations and needs a comment from list below.

Director may request an original, unaltered image from the maker. If the maker does not comply within a week, the image will be removed and the image will receive a score of 0

- Maker has more than one image in the competition
- The image won an award previously in the same competition
- Maker's name or identifying information is on the image
- Image violates Division Definition. State violation.

An image with questionable editing or suspected non-compliance without proof should be given a *different low score, not a score of 2.

ENROLLEMENT

Each PSA-Member Club that is enrolled in PPD Interclub Competition may enter any or all three competitions which are in November, February and May. The fourth and final competition is the End Of Year [EOY] in June which is a competition among the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and HM award winning prints during the competition year. Note: Only PSA-member clubs may enroll in PPD-IC. Individual PSA membership is encouraged but not required. All club members may participate in PPD-IC through their club. If an individual belongs to more than one club that participates in PPD-IC, the individual can only participate with one club in the PPD-IC competition.

PRINT DIVISIONS

There are five (5) categories of prints,

- **Large Color [LC, 11x14 to 17x22 or A2],**
- **Large Monochrome [LM, 11x14 to 17x22 or A2],**

The print image size and **NOT** the size of the paper it is printed on determines which Category it should be entered in. The Borders around the print do not count in the size. For example, a color print that is 8"x10" printed on 11x17" paper, does not qualify for the Lg Color Category. Borders should be trimmed so that the print with or without borders fits in the appropriate division.

Definition of Monochrome: An image is considered to be monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no color (i.e. contains only shades of gray which can include pure black and pure white) OR it gives the impression of being a grayscale image that has been toned in one color across the entire image. (For example, by Sepia, red, gold, blue, etc.) A grayscale or multi-colored image modified or giving the impression of having been modified by partial toning, multi toning or by the inclusion of spot coloring does not meet the definition of monochrome and shall be classified as a Color Work."

Keep in mind, an image submitted to both color and mono sections **MUST** have the same title. An image may not be entered in more than one section of the same round.

- **Small Color [SC, 5x7 to 8½ x12 or A4],**

- **Small Monochrome [SM, 5x7 to 8½ x12 or A4],**
- **Creative Altered Reality [CAR, 5x7 to 17x22 or A2, color or mono].**

CAR prints can be large or small, color or monochrome. For the PPD Inter Club Print Competition the rules for CAR entries are: All prints entered in the CAR theme category must be entirely the work of the maker. Therefore, it is not permissible to incorporate photographic material from a third party or from other sources such as the internet or an AI-generator. All parts of the image must originate as photographs; therefore, no elements of the image may originate as “clip art,” text, or computer graphics. Manipulation of an image that originated as a photograph is not limited in CAR. CAR prints may be monochrome or color, and sizes may range from 5x7 inches to 17x22 inches or A2.

Up to four prints may be entered in each division. It is possible that a club could enter a total of 20 prints, four (4) each in the five (5) Division Categories: CAR, SC SM LC LM. There is no minimum number of entries or categories required.

Within a category, each of the **four (4) prints entered must be by four (4) different photographers**. Prints from the same maker may enter in multiple categories.

The image must be entirely the work of the photographer. The print may be made by any photographic process such as digital printer, darkroom, or made commercially.

Pictorial Print Division: The subject matter is unrestricted for PPD Interclub Print Competition in separate color and monochrome (see above for Monochrome definition) classes.

ELIGIBILITY: Print titles which have been entered in an PPD Interclub Print Competition are not eligible to be entered in the same PPD Interclub competition during the same competition year. Prints which have received a 1st, 2nd, 3rd or HM award are no longer eligible to be entered in any subsequent PPD Interclub Competition in any division.

Images that are substantially the same image by the same maker may not be entered in the same PPD Interclub Print Division Competition during the same competition season.

Images that are substantially the same image should have the same title regardless of if it is color, monochrome or cropped from the same image

END OF YEAR: Prints receiving a 1st, 2nd, 3rd or HM award are eligible to be entered in the End of Year [EOY] competition in June. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and the HM winners of the EOY competition receive will PSA Interclub Certificates. 1st place winners receive the Print Division Gold Medal from PSA Headquarters.

PRINTING PROCESS: All prints must have originated and be printed by any photographic process, personal or commercial. Non-photographic printing processes such as lithograph, serigraph or silk-screening processes are not permitted. A photograph of any non-photographic image is considered not to have originated as a photographic image and is prohibited. Examples are photographs of artwork, computer graphics or AI-generated images.

Mounted prints are not allowed to be entered in the PPD Interclub Print Competition.

SHIPPING: Prints must be shipped flat to the host club. For international shipping the label should have a comment: "Photos For Competition Only, No Commercial Value." Otherwise, customs may apply a tariff for international shipping. Also, the customs declaration should show a value of "0.00 USD."

Prints may be returned or labeled "Do Not Return." Clubs wanting prints returned must send the host club a return address label and sufficient return postage in the form of check or money order made out to the Host Club Rep. The host club may hold prints until return postage has been received. Please make sure to seal the prints in a heavy plastic bag within the outer box/packaging to withstand any extreme weather elements during shipping.

HOST CLUBS: Each club is required to host a competition in-turn, [approx. once every two or three years]. When a host club's members serve as judges, the host club must not enter prints in that competition but should submit them as make-up prints in the next competition. It is also permissible for the host club to send "make-up" prints in advance to an earlier competition. All make up prints must be clearly marked "Make-Up Prints." If the judges are truly independent, the host club may include their prints in the judging.

MAKE UP PRINTS: Each club is encouraged to enter each competition rather than skipping a competition and subsequently entering "make-up" prints. Make-up prints are only allowed if a club has an entire missed Competition Round and needs the PPD Interclub Director's approval. Although make-up prints are discouraged for all but the host club, make-up prints will not be disqualified. Host clubs may enter one set of make-up prints in any PPD Interclub competition during the year except the End Of Year [EOY]. For EOY competitions, the host club is encouraged to use judges who are not members of the club so the club can enter their prints that are eligible for EOY. Make Up prints are scored for the club's cumulative points and are eligible for awards.

CUMULATIVE Year End Scores and Awards: The total points received by each club in each category are tallied after the three regular rounds. The Clubs with 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place finishes in each division will receive a certificate of achievement and recognition on the PSA website.

Prints in each individual Division will receive 1st, 2nd, 3rd and HM Awards receive digital Certificates they can download on their home page. The 1st Place prints will receive PPD Gold Medals from PSA Headquarters.

PPD - Interclub Print Competition Director:

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