

3DD (ISCC) PSA INTERCLUB SCORING GUIDE

This Scoring Guideline is for 3DD (ISCC) judging.

A copy of 3DD Interclub Documents can be found at *PSA website*:

<https://psa-photo.org/page/interclub-overview>

Image Creation and Authorship: All submitted images must be entirely the photographer's original work, including post-processing, with every pictorial element captured by the submitting photographer. Images must not incorporate or present other artists' work as the photographer's own, in whole or in part (clip art, stock images, replacement skies, photos of others' artwork, AI generated content, etc). The term author refers to the person who is the original creator of a submitted image; photographers may own the rights to use purchased content; however, authorship requires that all visual elements in the submitted photograph be personally created by the photographer. Photographers must retain copyright ownership of all visual elements contained within any submitted image, including composites. A violation of this rule constitutes plagiarism, a serious PSA ethics offense.

Statement on Artificial Intelligence (AI):

- 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.
- 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.

Statement on Subject Matter

- 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 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 Image Identical or similar Images shall not be allowed in the same Division competition for the competition Season. Similar images are those which are practically equivalent, as defined on this page: <https://psa-services.org/pdf/Practical-Equivalence.pdf> . "similar images may be entered in different Competitions

- 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, 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: The following apply when an image is considered for disqualification:

- Any image designated as a DQ must be reviewed by all the judges with a majority agreement of DQ before the awards are chosen.
- The judges, via the Interclub Competition Division Director can request that the Interclub Rep ask the photographer to submit an original, unaltered image. If the photographer of the image does not comply within a week or reasonable time frame to the Competition Director, the Image will remain a DQ with a score of 0.
- The Interclub Competition Division Director must ensure the reason/s for the DQ decision is correctly listed on the score report. The entrants should, be given the opportunity to justify their submission
- If judges determine a score 1 is inappropriate, the image must be rescored before awards are chosen.
- If an image is discovered to be disqualified during the current competition season, that image will be scored 0 and image removed from the Slideshow.
- If an image is discovered to be disqualified in a previous competition season there can be no changes since all files are archived. However, the award image will be removed from the season's Slideshow.
- If the Interclub Division Competition Director believes that an entrant is guilty of cheating, plagiarism, or is on the PSA Penalty List, the PSA Interclub Director is directed by PSA Board to report this incident to the PSA Ethics board.

Makeup Images:

- If a club enters fewer than 6 images in a round, they are unable to makeup missed images. A club that missed an entire Round 1 or Round 2 can enter 6 makeup images in a subsequent round. There are no make-ups if a club misses Round 3. Clubs that missed both Round 1 and Round 2 are permitted to make up only one of these two rounds. (They are permitted to enter only 6, not 12 makeup images in Round 3.)
- **3D Competition** clubs enter 6 images. Individual club members allowed to enter two images.
- If a club photographer receives a DQ it may not be made-up in future rounds.
- Makeup Images are eligible to receive scores and awards as the regular submitted round of 6 images.
- Makeup image scores are added by the software to the round where they were submitted with the missed round showing no scores.

3D Division

The content or subject matter of an image submitted to a 3DD program or activity is unrestricted. There may be a theme specified for some PSA-recognized 3DD exhibitions and the exhibition's definition of the theme should be consulted.

Attention is drawn to the PSA Statements on Artificial Intelligence and Subject Matter above which apply to all sections.

Judges evaluate Stereoscopic photos based on Depth and Stereoscopic Quality, Technical Excellence, and Composition and Impact.

If judges observe evidence that a photograph is a Stereoscopic Conversion, they should disqualify that photograph, and include an explanation of the basis for the disqualification.

Depth and Stereoscopic Quality

- **Natural Depth Perception:** The 3D effect must feel comfortable to the eyes without causing strain, excessive binocular disparity, or "cardboarding" (where flat elements look like cut-outs stacked in space).
- **Proper Window Violation Management:** Objects should not awkwardly intersect the left or right edge of the stereo frame, which breaks the illusion of depth.
- **Volume and Relief:** Subjects should display true spatial volume rather than looking flat or hollow.

Technical Excellence

- Judges evaluate 3D photos (stereoscopic images or 2D photos used for 3D/photogrammetry reconstruction) based on depth quality, technical clarity, and compositional realism.

Composition and Impact

- **Strong Focal Point:** A clear central subject must anchor the 3D space so the viewer's eye moves naturally through the foreground, midground, and background.
- **Background Suitability:** Backgrounds should be clean, non-distracting, and devoid of chaotic textures or heavy reflections that confuse depth perception.
- **Emotional or Visual Impact:** The sense of wonder or "being there" that the third dimension adds should enhance the storytelling of the image rather than acting as a gimmick.

Stereoscopic Conversion

Both the left and the right view of stereoscopic images must be captured photographically. Neither manual (by the photographer) nor AI conversions of 2D photographs to 3D are permitted.

Harold Baize (aka Silverman) was featured on NYSA Presents on December 6, 2025. Harold suggested six errors commonly made by current 3D conversion software. Judges should be alert for these errors to help them detect and disqualify illegal 2D to 3D conversions:

- Small objects (e.g. bubbles, drops of water, insects) are not depth mapped at all. They are placed at the depth of whatever is behind them.
- Long thin things (poles, antennas, stems, branches, guitar necks, hair, sometimes arms and legs) are bent toward the background.
- Some parts of objects (possibly because of a difference in color or brightness) are not included with the primary object, and therefore appear at different (incorrect) depth.
- The closest object (the primary focus of the composition of the image) is often placed too close (much closer than it should be) to the observer. As a result, objects that are in front of the closest object are not given enough space (depth) in the composition.
- The nature of a depth map is that every point in the image is assigned a single depth (distance from the observer). Thus, a depth map cannot represent variable transparency; for example, smoke from a cigarette.
- The generated depth maps generally do not accurately reflect the stereoscopic depth of reflections (e.g. in a mirror or a pool of water) or objects viewed through transparent surfaces (e.g. through glass windows). The depth map often indicates the depth of the transparent or reflective surface itself, rather than the object that the observer sees.

INTERCLUB SCORING GUIDELINES

This scoring guide is for interclub competitions with 3D definition and Depth and Stereoscopic Quality, Technical Excellence, and Composition and Impact.

SCORE 9 points: This photo meets the Stereo qualities above. 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. Generally, such a score is associated with a first place photo.

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 2-3 points: A competition image that appears extremely weak, has several flaws involving technical, compositional or other issues and considered an inappropriate competition image.

SCORE 1* points: This score is reserved for serious and provable violations and needs a comment from list below.

1. Photographer has more than two images in this competition's round. (If a club has submitted six makeup images for a missed round, a photographer is permitted to have a total of four image in the 12 images submitted.)
2. The image won an award previously in the same competition.
3. The Image has already been submitted this season in this competition.
4. Photographer's name or identifying information is on the image.
5. Image violates Division Definition. State Disqualification. Directors are asked to ensure the specific Division Definition infraction is written on the scoresheet.

****An image with questionable editing or suspected non-compliance without proof should be given a different low score, not a score of 1.***