JUDGING PANEL

In the interest of consistency and fairness to both applicants and PSSA judging is done twice a year by a panel of experienced, active photographers. These judges are selected for their overall knowledge and experience and for their ability to assess, regardless of their own personal taste.

Digital and Print Honours judging is done by a panel of 12 judges. Smaller panels of between 3 and 8 members meet to judge the Audio Visual applications.

The combined expertise of these photographers covers most, if not all genres. In instances where specialized panels covering a subject outside their gambit are submitted, specialist judges will be outsourced.

The Board has the power to remove any judge, at any time, who is not working effectively as a member of the Judging Panel.

During their term of service on the judging panel no judge, or family member, may apply for honours excepting for EPSSA, MPSSA and certain applied applications.

Prospective judges may, at any time, submit an application to be a part of the judging panel, application should be made to the Honors division.

JUDGING PROCESS

All judging is done live by the judging panel and the applications are assessed one at a time. The panels are judged anonymously.

Digital applications are projected twice in their entirety using a calibrated projection system. During the second projection judges are asked to mark the images as either "Up to" the required Standard or "Below" the required Standard.

Print applications are exhibited on correctly lit exhibition stands in order for the judges to assess the panel as a whole and individually. The judges are asked to mark the images as either "Up to" the required Standard or "Below" the required Standard.

Each sequence in an Audio Visual application is projected using calibrated projection and suitable sound equipment. The judges will mark each sequence as "up to standard" or "below standard" basing their marking on the aspects as detailed in the PSSA Audio Visual Judging Sheet.

8 of the 12 judges (66.6%) must pass all the images in an application in order for it to be successful. In the case of Audio Visual (60%) must pass all of the sequences in an application in order for it to be successful.

Once each panel has been judged the resultant spreadsheet is shown to and discussed by the judges. This is not a matter of one judge dominating the process as each member of the judging panel has a valuable contribution to make.
In Digital and Print applications images that missed passing by only one or two judges are discussed and the judges may then rescore those specific images.

If a panel is only one or two images short then the whole panel will be shown again and discussed - the judges will then rescore that panel. If it is still not successful but only misses by one image then the applicant is invited to submit an additional image. This final image is judged remotely and if 66.6% of the judges feel that it is of the required standard to pass then the panel will be passed.

CREDIT SYSTEM

Credits are awarded to unsuccessful applicants for individual images or Audio Visual sequences that were passed by 75% or more of the judges.

It is possible to achieve honours by credits alone as shown by the spreadsheet below. In this LPSSA application only 6 judges i.e. 50% passed the panel and yet all 10 images were passed by 9 (75%) or more of the judges, it was therefore successful.

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The Credit System will run for a period of two years from the date of an original application. Credits will be awarded at each of four successive judging sessions.

The credits help to make up the necessary requirements for a panel to be successful and must be resubmitted with all applications made within two years of the date of the original application. Thereafter all the credits will become null and void. A credit may not be failed by a judge during the time of its validity.

Credits in a resubmitted panel need not be in the same order or position as in the previous panel.

In the case of prints the original prints with the credit certification on the back must be resubmitted for future applications. Prints may not be reprinted or remounted. No credit will be accepted if the original certification has been altered in any way.
JUDGING and the CREDIT SYSTEM

Application credits will be automatically retained. On Photovault applicants will just need to change the order if required.

There is no limit to the number of times one may apply, but credits are only valid for the two year application period. While expired credits may be re-submitted in subsequent applications there is no guarantee that they will pass in the new application.

Unsuccessful panels will only be allowed to be submitted for a second round of judging provided that a minimum number (33%) of credits are obtained on the first application.

The required minimum number of credits is

- LPSSA Digital & Prints - 3 Credits
  Audio Visual - 1 Credit
- APSSA Digital & Prints - 5 Credits
  Audio Visual - 1 Credit
- FPSSA Digital & Prints - 8 Credits
  Audio Visual - 2 Credits

Should the applicant not receive the required minimum the panel will be rejected in its entirety and the applicant will have to ‘sit out’ the next application date and may only apply at the application date thereafter (in effect 1 year later). These credits will not carry through to any future application but may be resubmitted in the new application.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Honours are awarded for mastering the art and craft of photography to varying degrees.

Photography is a subjective art and as such no hard and fast rules can be set for the grading of images, because of its subjectivity it can provoke controversy. This is healthy, in that discussion usually follows and hopefully more knowledge can be imparted.

The panel acts with absolute sincerity and wholehearted fair play in assessing the applications.