



ADVICE TO APPLICANTS

Achieving PSSA Honours is something to be proud of - Honours are not given away easily but neither are they unattainable.

PSSA does not prescribe to applicants how a panel should be compiled, but rather makes recommendations.

All work should be well presented. Entries should be neatly and uniformly mounted/framed and should be free of dust and other marks, including, in the case of prints, dog-eared corners.

The panel should be presented in such a manner as to satisfy the judges that the work hangs together as a panel and does not appear to be a series of disparate images. The applicant must indicate the order in which the work is to be viewed by the judges.

Good presentation will always help to make a good impression on the judges. The photographs are viewed individually and as a panel and it is therefore important that they hang together as a panel as well as being individually good pictures.

The mounting/framing, if present, should be compatible and the colour and form of the mounts and images should flow harmoniously. It is preferable, in the case of prints, that the panel be printed specifically for the application, this ensures a consistency of quality.

Applicants are reminded however that once a print has a credit it may not be reprinted or remounted for future applications.

All prints must bear the entry number as given in Photovaultonline. The applicant's name should not be visible to the judges except in the case of audio-visual sequences.

Prints will be judged in a single display where all prints are exhibited and viewed at once. The prints will be arranged in rows dependent on the size of the application and the available space at the judging venue.

No work or similar work submitted for any award may be utilised for any other award in the same or different medium. The exception being Audio Visual.

Subject matter is entirely open, applicants should acquaint themselves with the rules pertaining to their specific field of entry.

Both general and specialist panels may be entered and an applicant may apply for more than one honour of the same level using different specialist subjects.

As a guideline when presenting a general panel one should try to include at least three subjects/techniques for the LPSSA, four for the APSSA and six for the FPSSA. A single image of a different subject in an application is not a good idea. A panel should be balanced in terms of subject matter and techniques used.

A wider understanding and mastering of technique and treatment will be required as the applicant moves through the various levels.

A Specialist Panel refers to the concept of focusing on a single theme, subject or aspect and could include a single subject or a specific photographic technique.



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One should consider technique as an integral part of the picture. In an Honours application one's technique should be impeccable. A picture well handled should hardly need to be considered for technique. If the image is not technically correct the subject matter is unlikely to be considered unless the picture is exceptional.

What is technique? It is the orthodox/correct use of exposure, focus, composition, lighting etc. Bear in mind that unorthodox technique is very effective in many instances, particularly in creative work. Sloppy technique however e.g. poor focus, bad lighting etc. is not acceptable.

We can ask ourselves if there are any technical faults which detract from the picture and whether the technique has enhanced the picture or was it merely used as a gimmick.

In today's world we all tend to want to do everything too quickly and Honours applications are no exceptions but a few words of caution

- Remember that the difference between the different levels of application is not just an increase in the number of images. Be sure that you have reached that level before applying.
- Closing date is 25 January and 1 July – results only come out two months later – don't sit around waiting for the results to come out before shooting more images.

That only leaves you 4 months to get your next application in. And if you have succeeded, the new images you have shot needn't go to waste, there is always a club judging or salon you can enter them into.