



Photographic Society of South Africa

Patronage C 2025/29

The Photographic Society of South Africa proudly presents the 27th National “Up-and-Coming” Photographic Competition

PSSA invites junior members of an affiliated PSSA Club (1 Star to 3 Star) and Scholars, whether they are PSSA members, to enter.

The main purpose of this competition is to create an opportunity for club members and scholars, who do not yet feel ready for National Salons, to compete in a national competition with their peers.

The competition includes a separate section for scholars up to the age of 21 whether they are from a recognised scholastic institution or are home schooled.

This competition will be conducted within the requirements and practices for salons as prescribed by the Photographic Society of South Africa.

CALENDAR

Closing date:	21 June 2025
Judging:	Completed by 28 June 2025
Result will be published:	5 July 2025
Winners:	The winning entries will be posted to the PSSA Website

To avoid disappointment and disqualification of entries please read this document thoroughly and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the convenor.

SALON DIRECTOR :

Phillip De Lange APSSA, DPSSA (Vers), DPSSA (CIs) AFIAP

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PHOTOGRAPHERS ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY:

SECTION 1: JUNIOR CLUB MEMBERS

Anyone who

- is currently a 1 to 3 Star worker and
- who does not hold a Star Rating higher than 3 Star in another club and
- is a member of an affiliated PSSA club and
- need not be an individual member of PSSA and
- who does not hold any honours titles from PSSA and
- who is not in the process of applying for any honours titles with PSSA is eligible to enter this section of the competition.
- A member who upgrades from 3 – 4 Star within 30 days of the Closing date may still enter. Proof of upgrade from the club will be required.

SECTION 2: SCHOLARS

This section is reserved **FOR SCHOLARS ONLY**

- who is a scholar from a recognised scholastic institution or are home schooled and
- scholars who are 1 to 3 Star member of a PSSA affiliated club and
- is not older than 21 years of age at the closing date and
- need not be an individual member of PSSA and
- who does not hold any honours titles from PSSA (except for a CoE) and
- who is not in the process of applying for any Honours titles with PSSA (except for a CoE – Certificate of Excellence)

NOTE - Entrants may only enter in one OF THE SECTION Section.

ENTRY FEE

Entry to the competition is FREE.

AWARDS

PSSA Bronze Medals will be awarded for the overall winner in each category.

PSSA Runner-up Medal will be awarded for the runner-up in each category.

Certificates of Merit will be awarded according to PSSA guidelines.

CATEGORIES:

SECTION 1 – JUNIOR (1 Star to 3 Star) at a PSSA Affiliated Club

- A: **NATURE** – Manipulation is **NOT** Allowed - Colour
- B: **OPEN COLOUR** – Manipulation is Allowed - Colour
- C. **OPEN MONOCHROME** – Manipulation is Allowed - Monochrome

SECTION 2 – SCHOLAR

- D: **OPEN COLOUR** - Manipulation is Allowed - Colour
- E: **PHOTOJOURNALISM & SPORT** Manipulation is **NOT** Allowed - Colour
- F. **OPEN MONOCHROME (DIGITAL & CELL PHONE)** – Manipulation is Allowed - Monochrome

ADJUDICATION PANEL:

1. **NATURE - Manipulation is NOT Allowed - Colour**

Judge 1:	Peter Hardcastle APSSA, EPSSA, AFIAP	Swartland FK
Judge 2:	Andre Stipp LPSSA, DPSSA(Vers), DPSSA(CIs)	Swartland FK
Judge 3:	Herman Olivier APSSA, DPSSA	Swartland FK

Judging to take place on 26th Oct at TAF Klub, Bellville

2. **OPEN COLOUR - Manipulation is Allowed - Colour**

Judge 1:	Jane Booyse DPSSA	Centurion CC
Judge 2:	Helouise Mulder APSSA, LPSSA (Vers)	Centurion CC
Judge 3:	Andre Norris LPSSA	Centurion CC

Judging to take place on 28th June at Centurion CC

3. **OPEN MONOCHROME - Manipulation is Allowed - Monochrome**

Judge 1:	Henk Scheepers APSSA, DPSSA	Vanderbijlpark FV
Judge 2:	Renee Storme LPSSA	Vanderbijlpark FV
Judge 3:	Chanel Enslin LPSSA	Vanderbijlpark FV

Judging to take place on 28th June at Vanderbijlpark FV

4. **SCHOLARS - OPEN COLOUR - Manipulation is Allowed - Colour**

Judge 1:	Mayra Dold LPSSA	PECC
Judge 2:	Julia Mukheibir LPSSA, DPSSA	PECC
Judge 3:	Francois van Straten	PECC

Judging to take place on 28th June at PECC

5. **SCHOLARS - PHOTOJOURNALISM & SPORT Manipulation is NOT Allowed - Colour**

Judge 1:	David Wolstencroft LPSSA, DPSSA(Vers), DIPA	Edenvale PC
Judge 2:	Arnold Bester APSSA	F-Stop
Judge 3:	Natasha Bird LPSSA, DPSSA	Southern Suburbs CC

Judging to take place on 28th June at Southern SCC

6. **SCHOLARS - OPEN MONOCHROME – Manipulation is Allowed – Monochrome**

Judge 1:	Anton La Grange FPSSA, DPSSA(Vers), EPSSA(CIs), AFIAP	Mosselbaai KK
Judge 2:	Amanda Whiteman LPSSA, DPSSA	Mosselbaai KK
Judge 3:	Kitty Steyn	Mosselbaai KK

Judging to take place on 28th June at Mosselbaai KK

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS:

SECTION 1 JUNIOR

- Entrants **must supply the name of the club** they are a member of. Don't leave the "Nominated Photo Club" field blank or select "Independent" on the Photo Vault Online entry form.

SECTION 2 SCHOLAR

- **Date of birth:**
 - Scholars who have previously registered on PhotoVaultOnline
 - must please update your account by going to "My Details" and ensure you have entered your date of birth.
 - Scholars registering on PhotoVaultOnline for the first time **must** include their **date of birth**. This is a non-compulsory field but is required for this competition.
- **Name of School:**
 - In "My Details" enter the name of your school (a non-compulsory field but is required for this competition) On the last line of the Address (just above the postal code).
 - Please check on the list of drop-down club name and if your school is registered with PSSA, please select it from the tab.
 -

There is a detailed user manual available for download under the Help menu option.

SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES:

Four images may be entered per Category – Maximum of Twelve overall

Images must be in the following format.

- JPEG file format
- File size may not exceed 2.0MB
- Images must be resized to a maximum of 1920 pixels on the horizontal axis OR a maximum of 1080 pixels on the vertical axis.
- It is recommended that the image is converted to the sRGB colour profile to ensure correct colour rendition during display and adjudication.
- Borders are optional but must be within the size restraints above.

The competition uses the PhotoVaultOnline.com online entry system. Type the address

<http://www.photovaultonline.com> in your browser and log in or register if you are not already a user.

Entry to the competition will be found under the Featured Events on the Home Tab.

DEFINITIONS

MANIPULATION

Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible, except that conversion to grayscale monochrome is allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Adding an element to the image that was not contained in the original scene;
- Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original scene, whether done via cloning, darkening, lightening, blurring or any other photo editing technique except for cropping and straightening;
- Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene;
- Adding a vignette during processing;
- Darkening or lightening parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.
- Moving or repositioning an element of the image that was contained in the original scene. In the categories Nature, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism, manipulation is not allowed.

In Open there is no restriction whatsoever in the way authors choose to post process an image.

The following actions are allowed and are not seen as manipulation:

- Cropping, straightening and vertical/horizontal perspective correction;
- Correction of lens distortion, chromatic aberrations, purple fringing, and lens vignette;
- Flipping an image horizontal or rotate;
- Removal of dust spots or scratch marks from sensor or scanned images;
- Global and selective adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation and contrast to restore the appearance of the original scene;
- The blending of different exposures of the same scene to broaden the dynamic range e.g. High Dynamic Range (HDR);
- Photo stacking to overcome the limitations of the digital sensor heat artefacts in long exposures;
- Focus stacking to widen the depth of field especially in Macro photography;
- Complete conversion of color images to grayscale monochrome.

In the case of Nature HDR and focus stacking will not be considered as manipulation and may be used *provided* that the end result is a faithful representation of the original scene.

Please note:

HDR and Focus stacking are not allowed in Photojournalism. Study the rules for each event as they will be unique.

MONOCHROME

Monochrome is a black and white image.

A black and white work fitting from the very dark grey (black) to the very clear grey (white) is a monochrome work with the various shades of grey.

A black and white work toned entirely in a single colour will remain a monochrome work able to stand in the black and white category.

A black and white work modified by a partial toning or by the addition of one colour becomes a colour work (polychrome) to stand in the colour category.

CATEGORY DEFINITIONS:

SECTION 1 JUNIORS

Category A: NATURE – Manipulation is NOT Allowed.

Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both animate and inanimate, that have not been made or modified by humans. Nature images must convey the truth of the scene that was photographed. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity that threatens the life or welfare of a living organism are not allowed. The most important part of a Nature image is the nature story it tells. High technical standards are expected, and the image must look natural. Adding a vignette or blurring the background during processing is not allowed. Objects created by humans, and evidence of human activity, are allowed in Nature images only when they are a necessary part of the Nature story. Photographs of human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domesticated animals, human-created hybrid animals and mounted or preserved zoological specimens are not allowed. Images taken with subjects under controlled conditions, such as zoos, are allowed.

Controlling live subjects by chilling, anaesthetic or any other method of restricting natural movement for the purpose of a photograph is not allowed. No modification that changes the truth of a Nature image is allowed. Images may be cropped but no other technique that removes, adds or moves any part of the image is allowed. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise and lens flare are allowed. Complete conversion of colour images to greyscale monochrome is allowed. Partial conversion, toning and infrared captures or conversions are not allowed. Images of the same subject that are combined in camera, or with software, by focus stacking or exposure blending are allowed. Multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively and combined in camera or with software (image stitching) are allowed.

Original RAW File(s) with EXIF data intact of a series of JPEG will be requested from those Entrants who have initially been selected for the Medals and COM's.

Category B: OPEN – Colour – Manipulation is Allowed

In this category the subject is totally open. Monochrome images will be disqualified. All elements must be photographic; if graphic elements are included, they should enhance the photographic image but not take over from it. Any graphics used should be created by the photographer using his/her own artwork.

Category C: OPEN – Monochrome – Manipulation is Allowed

In this category the subject is totally open. Colour images will be disqualified. All elements must be photographic; if graphic elements are included, they should enhance the photographic image but not take over from it. Any graphics used should be created by the photographer using his/her own artwork.

SECTION 2 SCHOLARS

Category D: OPEN COLOUR – Manipulation is Allowed

In this category the subject is totally open and the images **MUST** have been captured with a digital camera. Monochrome images will be disqualified. All elements must be photographic; if graphic elements are included, they should enhance the photographic image but not take over from it. Any graphics used should be created by the photographer using his/her own artwork.

Category E: PHOTOJOURNALISM & SPORT - Manipulation is not allowed -Colour

Photojournalism entries are images with informative content reflecting the human presence in our world and emotional impact which usually include human interest, documentary, news or sport. The journalistic value of the image shall receive priority over the pictorial quality. In the interest of credibility, PJ images that misrepresent the truth and model or staged set-ups are not permitted.

Monochrome images will be disqualified.

Category F: OPEN – Monochrome – Manipulation is Allowed

In this category the subject is totally open. Colour images will be disqualified. All elements must be photographic; if graphic elements are included, they should enhance the photographic image but not take over from it. Any graphics used should be created by the photographer using his/her own artwork.

JUDGING

Presented images will be adjudicated via remote judging by 3 nominated judges on calibrated screens. Each image will be judged out of a total of 15 points per judge. The sum of the scores will represent the final score out of a total of 45.

If the adjudicators and/or the organisers reject an image as not conforming to the definition of the specific category or was entered into the incorrect section, the image will be disqualified.

CONDITIONS of ENTRY

1. An image may only be used once in a particular salon, panel, or competition, irrespective of the category or of the image being colour or monochrome. No similar images may be used. Any image found in more than one category will result in the second image being disqualified.
2. Each image must have a unique name i.e. the name of the image may not be changed at any time as all acceptance records are based on the image name. Words such as "Untitled" and "No Title" are not acceptable as part or all the image's title, nor are titles consisting of only camera capture filenames or titles consisting of only numbers. Sanctions for re-titling will be imposed where a previously accepted image or print has been given a different title and/or where a Colour version and a Monochrome version and/or a Print version and a Projected Digital Image version of the same image have been given different titles.
3. Entrants may submit up to four images in each category.
4. Images that were accepted previously in a salon by the hosting club/society may NOT be entered again.
5. The adjudicators will reject an image which does not conform to the definition of the entered category.
6. All the parts of each submitted image must be photographed by the author who must be in possession of the original unretouched 'capture' version(s) of the image and where applicable of all component parts of the image. The author must also hold the copyright to each submitted image and of all component parts of it. The Salon Director may request an entrant to supply him with proof of the authenticity of all the elements in the presented image(s). If the entrant cannot supply such proof, his/her entry in the salon will be disqualified.
7. Except for the restrictions on images described in the Nature, Photo Travel and Photojournalism definitions, images may be altered, either digitally or otherwise by the entrant.
8. Manipulations are prohibited in the Nature, Photo Travel and Photojournalism or in the categories as specified in the category definitions. This means that no elements of the photograph may be cloned, added, or erased.
9. No title, watermark or identification of the maker shall be visible anywhere on the image.
10. Entrants must store and preserve intact, with no alteration, the metadata, the RAW file(s), or the original un-retouched JPEG file(s) for the submitted images (and those taken immediately before and after the submitted image(s) for possible future motivated inspection, with no expiry, prescription, or limitation of PSSA actions. It is recommended to leave the EXIF data in the submitted files intact to ease eventual investigations. It is absolutely forbidden for any entrant or

his/her agent(s), acting on the behalf of the entrant, to tamper with the EXIF or original date in the files submitted to salons / exhibitors.

11. "The entrant accepts without exception and with no objection the following terms:
 - that the submitted images can be investigated by PSSA to establish if these adhere to PSSA regulations and definitions even if the entrant is not a member of PSSA,
 - that any refusal to cooperate with PSSA or any refusal to submit the original files as captured by the camera, or failure to provide sufficient evidence, may result in disqualification. "
12. As of 1st January 2022, the Salon Director will always request the original RAW/JPG file(s) with the EXIF data intact from those Entrants who have been initially selected for the Medals and COM's in the "NO MANIPULATION" categories. If the Salon Director confirms that the image has not been manipulated, then the award will stand for those Entrants. If the Salon Director confirms that an image has been manipulated, then the image will be disqualified, and a note recorded for the PSSA Salon Administrator of the disqualification reason. The PSSA Salon Administrator will keep a list of transgressors which will be reviewed by the PSSA Salon Committee on a regular basis. Persistent transgressors will be notified of their transgressions as well as possible embargoes imposed on the transgressor. The Salon Director and the judging team for that category will decide on the replacement images for the Medals and COMs in line with the recommended acceptance levels. Entrants will be allowed 4 days to provide the Original RAW/JPG file(s) where after the Entrant will not be eligible for Medals or COM's anymore.
13. For the purposes of our salons, panels or competitions, a photographic image is defined "as being a captured image on a light-sensitive device/surface (e.g. photogram technique, film camera, digital camera, smartphone, tablet, etc....) and recorded on paper, film or in a digital format." An artificial intelligence (AI) generated image is not deemed to be a photographic image because it was created from scratch by the AI system and contains no image captured by the entrant. Therefore, this type of image will not be accepted into our salons, panels, or competitions. Use of AI features (limited to clear, de-noise, masking, sharpening, subject selection, tone adjustments, upsizing image) contained within a post processing application are permitted in our competitions provided they comply with a competition's editing criteria and do not contain any elements which were not captured by the entrant (e.g. element, texture, sky, etc....). AI sky replacement is permitted provided that the new sky was captured by the entrant. For all images, the Salon Director may require an entrant to provide all supporting images used in creating a composite image. All components of the submitted image are their original work and do not contain the elements created or captured by someone else; and as such they hold and will retain the copyright for the image. For example: it is okay to take inspiration from other photographers or artists. However, if the inspiration contains the same colour, composition, element(s), perspective, angle, subject, and tone of the original then the inspiration is not deemed to be the original work of the photographer. Another example – A photographer will NOT capture a screen image or photograph an image found on the internet and incorporate it in a composite image that is later submitted into a salon, panel, or competition. All aspects of the post-processing for their submitted image were undertaken by themselves except for scanning of their negatives and printing of the image.
14. The exhibition assumes no liability for any misuse of copyright by the entrant.
15. No judge may enter categories in which he or she is judging.
16. If a judge entered any section in which he / she acts as a judge, the images must be removed or disqualified.
17. Family members (spouse, partner, parents, and children) may enter categories in which a family member is judging but they may not win any of the medal awards (winner or runner-up).
18. If the Host Club's members judge in their own salon, no member of the host club may be considered for any of the top awards (winner and runner-up medals), except for certificates of merit and/or special club awards for the categories judged by the host club.
19. No member of the judging club may be considered for any of the top awards (winner and runner-up medals), except for certificates of merit and/or special club awards for the categories judged by the judging club.
20. A club is considered a judging club if it dominates the composition of the judging panel of the category involved.

21. The Salon Director may not serve as a judge for the salon. Any other person who, prior to or during the judging, is involved with processing the images or has access to the images may NOT serve as a judge for the salon. When it is unavoidable that the Salon Director must judge a category, another person must be appointed as the Salon Administrator to download and prepare all the images and scoresheets for judging.
22. Members are also reminded that the medal awards (winner and runner-up) may not be won by the host / judging club's members.
23. An entrant's images will not be presented to the judges consecutively but distributed randomly in each category.
24. No late entries will be accepted.
25. **DATA PROTECTION:**
By entering this exhibition, you are explicitly consenting to the personal details you have supplied, including email addresses, being held, processed, and used by the exhibition organizers for purposes associated with this exhibition. You also explicitly consent to such information being sent to organizations that have accorded official recognition, patronage, or accreditation to this exhibition. You acknowledge and accept that entering this exhibition means that the status and results of your entry may be made public.
26. **BREACH OF CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:**
If the exhibition determines before, during, or after the judging that an entrant has submitted entries where one or more images fail to comply with these Conditions of Entry, including the stated definitions, the exhibition reserves the right and discretion to delete the entry from the exhibition and void any or all acceptances or awards. Fees will be forfeited in these circumstances. To ensure that images comply with the Conditions of Entry and definitions, the exhibition may carry out checks on the images to make sure that:
 - the images are the original work of the entrant, and
 - The images comply with the rules and definitions as set out in these Conditions of Entry.This may involve asking the entrant to provide originally captured image(s), with EXIF data intact, by a set deadline. The questioned image(s) of any entrant failing to comply with such a request for the original image(s) may be considered in breach of these Conditions of Entry and be declined. Such entries may be referred to PSSA for further investigation of possible ethics violations. PSSA retains the right to investigate in any way all complaints/suspensions of breaches of entry conditions, impose sanctions if deemed necessary, include the entrant's name on the list of sanctions provided to Exhibitions, and share such investigations with FIAP and PSA. Entrants automatically agree to these.
27. You are entitled to appeal against a disqualification within 14 days after receipt of your results. Appeals must be sent to the Salon Director at upcomingpssa@gmail.com.
28. **Submission of entries signifies acceptance of these conditions of entry.**

PSSA WISHES YOU GOOD LUCK IN THIS COMPETITION