

STAR RATINGS PRACTICES

Approved: January 30, 2016

I. DIVISIONAL STAR RATING STANDARDS

A. STAR REQUIREMENTS for all Divisions except 3D

| STAR AWARD | TITLES (Minimum) | ACCEPTANCES |
|------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1 | 6 | 18 |
| 2 | 12 | 36 |
| 3 | 24 | 72 |
| 4 | 48 | 144 |
| 5 | 96 | 288 |

GALAXY AND DIAMOND REQUIREMENTS for all Divisions except 3D

| AWARD | TITLES | ACCEPTANCES |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Galaxy 1-5 | 25 New Titles Each | 3 Acceptances Each Title |
| Galaxy 6-10 | 50 New Titles Each | 3 Acceptances Each Title |
| Diamond 1-5 | 50 New Titles Each | 6 Acceptances Each Title |
| Diamond 6-10 | 75 New Titles Each | 6 Acceptances Each Title |

Additional Rewards

1. Nature Division Photo-Naturalist (ND)

Each Photo-Naturalist Award is for a restricted subject chosen by the photographer. Each Award requires 50 new titles with 2 acceptances each. This award cannot be awarded until the 5th star has been awarded. There is no limit on the number of Photo-Naturalist awards a person can earn. The same titles may not be used for both Nature Division Galaxy/Diamond awards and Photo-Naturalist awards

2. Photojournalism Division (PJD)

Photojournalist Award.

This award is presented upon the attainment of the 4th PJD Galaxy. The Photojournalism Division presents this award in addition to the Galaxy 4 Award.

Master Photojournalism Award

This award is presented upon the attainment of the 8th PJD Galaxy. The Photojournalism Division presents this award in addition to the Galaxy 8 Award.

Note: For all star ratings in the Photojournalism Division up to 40% of the required titles and acceptances may be from published photographs in a traditionally printed (hard copy) publication with a distribution of at least 2,500 copies. Photographs appearing in catalogs or other publications distributed by electronic media are not eligible. Images printed in PSA recognized catalogs dated prior to Jan. 1, 2009, can also be counted as acceptances.

3. Photo Travel Division. (PTD)

Photo Travelers Award

This Award requires the attainment of the 4th PTD Galaxy.

B. STAR REQUIREMENTS 3D Division

| STAR AWARD | TITLES (Minimum) | ACCEPTANCES |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1 | 6 | 18 |
| 2 | 12 | 36 |
| 3 | 24 | 72 |
| 4 | 48 | 144 |
| 5 | 96 | 288 |
| 6 | 120 | 488 |

3D Division Master Awards

The 3D Division awards MASTER AWARDS in lieu of GALAXY and DIAMOND Awards.

Each Master Award requires 25 new titles with three acceptances each for a total of 75 acceptances. There is no limit on the number of Master Awards that can be earned.

C. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

An applicant for a star rating must be a PSA member in good standing. Acceptances must be achieved in PSA-recognized International Exhibitions recognized by the PSA Division administering the particular star ratings programs or in recognized PSA Divisional contests.

D.- FIRST STAR APPLICATION

1. A member may apply for their 1st Star in each division using at least 18 acceptances and 6 titles that were earned in PSA-recognized exhibitions prior to joining PSA.
2. While acceptances earned at any time prior to joining PSA can be used when applying for a 1st Star in all divisions, there is a practical issue to consider. The Star Ratings Directors (SRDs) only maintain records pertaining to acceptances earned during the past 10 years. Therefore, for each acceptance that was earned more than 10 years before the date of the application, the member must provide a copy of the exhibition catalog cover page and the page listing the acceptance. See Paragraph VI. A.

E. BUY BACK PROGRAM

1. The Buy Back program enables members, within their first 2 years of membership, to use acceptances gained before joining PSA which are more than required for their 1st Star in each division. This would require the purchase of no more than 5 consecutive “Buy Back” years that will result in the establishment of a Stars Buy Back Date (SBBB), which shall be based on the member’s Join Date and the number of years purchased. The SBBB becomes a part of the member’s record and may only be used for the Stars Rating Program.

2. The link “psa-photo.org/index.php?new-member-stars-buy-back” must be used to submit a “Buy Back” payment. Careful attention should be paid in determining the number of years that are required because there will be no refunds. Any SRD will be glad to help, if assistance is needed.
3. The following guidelines shall be used when determining the number of “Buy Back” years that must be purchased.
 - a. The required number of "Buy Back" years is based on the date (month and year) of the oldest acceptance, regardless of division, which was gained prior to joining PSA and that it is not being used when applying for a member's 1st Star.
 - b. The “Buy Back” years must cover, within the 5 year limit, all acceptances which were not used when applying for a 1st Star.
 - c. Acceptances gained prior to joining PSA which were earned more than 5 years before a member's Join Date and are not being used for 1st Star applications cannot be used when applying for 2nd Star and above ratings.
4. Examples.
 - a. Example 1: An exhibitor earned 8 acceptances and 3 new titles in 2012; 13 acceptances and 6 new titles in 2013; and 12 acceptances and 4 titles in 2014 in the Photo Travel Division. On January 1, 2015, the exhibitor joins PSA and subsequently applies for their first star. The application listed 6 titles and 20 acceptances; those acceptances were earned in 2012 and 2013. The remaining “unused” acceptances and titles were earned in 2013 and 2014. In order for those acceptances and titles to be used in any subsequent Star Ratings application, it will be necessary for the new member to “buy back” 2 years.
 - b. Example 2: Before joining PSA, an exhibitor earned 39 acceptances and 16 titles in Project Image Division (PID)-recognized exhibitions between January 2011 and July 2015. The exhibitor also earned 38 acceptances and 14 titles in Nature Division (ND)-recognized exhibitions between December 2011 and July 2015.

After joining PSA in August 2015, the exhibitor applied for their 1st Star in both PID and ND. For PID, 18 acceptances and 7 titles, earned between January 2011 and December 2012, were used to gain their 1st Star. Their 1st ND star required 18 acceptances and 8 titles, which were obtained during the period December 2011 and November 2013.

As can be seen, the exhibitor also earned sufficient acceptances and titles for a 2nd star in each division. However, they cannot be used until a number of “Buy Back” years have been purchased. The remaining unused acceptances (20) and titles (6) in the ND earned during the period November 2013 through July 2015 would have required that 2 “Buy Back” years be purchased. However for PID, there were 21 acceptances and 11 titles, earned between December 2012 and July 2015, remaining when applying for a 2nd Star. Therefore, the purchase of 3 “Buy Back” years are necessary.
 - c. Example 3. Prior to joining PSA in December 2015, an exhibitor earned 26 Photojournalism Division acceptances and 14 titles between February 2003

and November 2010 in PSA-recognized exhibitions. 19 acceptances and 6 titles were used by the exhibitor when applying for their 1st Star. The remaining 7 acceptances and 8 titles could not be included in their 2nd Star application as they were not earned during the allowable 5 year “Buy Back” period, which started on December 1, 2010.

F. BRIDGING PROGRAM

1. The Bridging program is available for returning members who have earned acceptances while their membership was inactive. This benefit may be used only one time.
2. There is no limit on the number of consecutive “Bridging” years that may be purchased to cover the acceptances that were gained while their membership was inactive. The purchase shall result in the establishment of a SBBD, that will be based on the member’s current Join Date and the number of years purchased. The SBBD becomes a part of the member’s record and may only be used for the Stars Rating Program and specifically excludes all other benefits such as prior printed journals and awards based on length of membership.
3. The link “psa-photo.org/index.php?bridging-buy-back” must be used to purchase Bridging “Buy Back” years.
4. Example. An exhibitor was a PSA member for 6 years (November 1996 through November 2002). During that time, they earned 3 stars in the Photojournalism Division (PJD) and 2 stars in the 3D, formerly Stereo, Division (3DD). Between June 2008 and April 2015, they earned sufficient acceptances for 3 more stars in each division even though the exhibitor was not a PSA member at the time. The exhibitor renewed their PSA membership in May 2015. As a former member, they are permitted to purchase an unlimited number of “Buy Back” years. In order to use all acceptances that were earned while not a member, it was necessary to purchase 7 “Buy Back” years.

II. JUDGING CREDITS

No title credits may be earned in Judging International Exhibitions. No title or acceptance credits may be earned in judging Divisional competitions. Judging (acceptance) credits, to the limits imposed in Parts D, E, and F below, may be claimed towards Star Ratings 1 through 5 in the Division judged in a PSA recognized exhibition with the following restrictions and limits

- A. In a multiple class Division where star ratings are awarded separately for each class:
 1. Three acceptances may be earned in each section of that class judged in a single exhibition but no more than six judging credits may be earned in a single division for that class regardless of how many sections are judged subject to II.H below.
 2. Multiple class Divisions are PID with the Color Class and the Monochrome Class and PPD with the Large Color Print Class, the Large Monochrome Print Class, the Small Color Print Class, and the Small Monochrome Print Class.

- B. In a multiple-section Division where the titles and acceptances of each section can be combined toward a single star rating regardless of media.
 - 1. A judge may earn three acceptance credits for each section judged but no more than six judging credits may be earned regardless of how many sections are judged subject to II.H below.
 - 2. Multiple media Divisions with single star paths are Nature (Projected/Digital and Prints), Photo Travel (Projected/Digital and Prints), Photojournalism (Projected/Digital and Prints), and 3D (Digital, Slides, and Prints).
- C. A person judging for more than one Division in a given exhibition may earn whatever judging credits are allowed in each Division.
- D. A maximum of 2 judging credits can be applied to a 1st Star rating.
- E. Up to ten percent of the qualifying acceptances for Star Ratings 2 through 5, to a maximum of 25 credits whichever is the lesser, may be judging credits regardless of when these judging credits were earned.
 - 1. Judging credits earned since the last application must be listed to be validated and considered.
 - 2. Unused validated judging credits can be applied to the next Star award up to Star 5.
- F. In all Divisions awarding Galaxy, Diamond, or Master awards.
 - 1. No more than nine Judging Credits may be used on any Galaxy, Diamond or Master application.
 - 2. All Judging Credits must have been earned since the applicant's 5th star was awarded or since the Application for the previous Galaxy or Diamond Award was received if the applicant has already received a Galaxy or Diamond.
 - 3. Only one Judging Credit may be used with each title.
- G. A judging credit may be used only once, and all judging credits earned at one exhibition must be used on the same application.
- H. Judging credits are based on the number of judges on the judging panel.

| Panel Size | Credits for 1 Section | Credits for 2 or More Sections |
|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 4-5 | 2 | 4 |
| 6-10 | 1 | 2 |
| > 10 | 0 | 0 |

III. CREDITS FOR ANNUAL DIVISION COMPETITIONS

- A. **Projected Image Division (PID)** Photo Essays - Each medal and HM winner receives 4 acceptance and 2 title credits.
- B. **3D** (Sequences) Each accepted sequence receives 3 acceptances and 2 title credits. Each medal winning sequence (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) receives 4 acceptance and 2 title credits. Regardless of how many sequences are accepted, the maximum number of credits from each contest that can be applied toward Star awards is 8 acceptance credits and 4 title credits.

(Traveling Competition) Each accepted slide receives one acceptance and one title credit.

- C. **PJD** (Annual PJ Photo Story) Each medal and HM winner receives 4 acceptance and 2 title credits.
- D. **PTD** (Photo Travel Essays) Each medal and HM winner receives 4 acceptance and 2 title credits.
- E. **ND** (Photo Essays & Conservation Essays) Each medal and HM winner receives 4 acceptances and 2 title credits.
- F. **For all Divisions**, the number of entries submitted governs the number of places and HMs that may be awarded in each photo essay and/or sequence competition:
 - 1. A 1st place Gold Medal or Plaque may be awarded if entries number three or more.
 - 2. A 2nd place Silver Medal and one HM Ribbon may be awarded if entries number five or more.
 - 3. A 3rd place Bronze Medal and two HM Ribbons may be awarded if entries number seven or more.
 - 4. If entries number more than ten, additional HM Ribbons may be awarded up to a maximum of 4. The total number of places plus HMs that are awarded should not exceed 50% of the total number of entries.
 - 5. Donor funded awards (plaques, trophies, etc.) may be given in addition to, but not in conjunction with, the specific place medal(s). Donor funded monetary awards may be given in conjunction with any of the other awards. An appropriate award may be given for “The Best.....” in any specially recognized subsection of an essay or sequence competition. A Division may elect, at its own discretion, to not give an award.
- G. Acceptance and title credits earned in photo essay and sequence competitions can be applied toward Galaxy 1 through 5 awards, with each medal and HM winner receiving 1 title credit with three acceptance credits. Acceptance and title credits earned in photo essay and sequence competitions cannot be applied toward Galaxy 6 through 10 awards, Diamond awards or Photo-Naturalist awards or toward annual Who’s Who listings.
- H. Regardless of how many sequences are accepted or how many credits are earned, the maximum number of credits an exhibitor can claim in each Division for any given calendar year is 8 acceptance and 4 title credits.

IV. EXHIBITION ACCEPTANCE LIMITS FOR STAR RATINGS.

(For entry and acceptance specifications, see the current Exhibition Standards. The following is an Abstract of these specifications and is included here for the benefit of Divisional Star Ratings Chairpersons. These title and acceptance credits may be applied to all levels of star ratings.)

- A. In Photo Travel, and 3D Exhibitions, up to 4 acceptances per section may be applied to star ratings. Each accepted image receives 1 title and 1 acceptance.

- B. In Photojournalism Exhibitions prints or projected images may be entered as sequences by placing multiple images in (or on) a single mount or file. Single images in (or on) a single mount can also be entered. Up to 4 mounts may be entered in each section recognized. Each accepted mount or file, whether a sequence or a single image, receives 1 title credit and 1 acceptance credit.
- C. In Nature Division Exhibitions, both prints or projected images may be entered as a sequence in exhibitions offering this option. A sequence may be composed of from 2 to 10 images. Each accepted sequence receives 1 title and 2 acceptance credits. For images not entered in sequences, each accepted image receives 1 title credit and 1 acceptance credit. Each entry may be composed of 4 single images giving a maximum of 4 titles and 4 acceptances. The titles and acceptances from prints and projected images in a single exhibition may be combined toward a single star.
- D. The Projected Image Division (PID) awards separate star ratings in two Classes: Color and Monochrome. In PID Exhibitions, 4 titles and 4 acceptances from each section offered in each Class may be applied toward a star in that Class. Titles and acceptances from one Class cannot be combined with titles and acceptances from the other Class toward a single star.
- E. The Pictorial Print Division awards separate star ratings in two sections: Color and Monochrome, and two classes within each section, Class A (large) and Class B (small). In Pictorial Print Exhibitions, 4 titles and 4 acceptances from each section per class may be applied toward a star in the class. Titles and acceptances from one class of prints cannot be combined with titles and acceptances from another class of prints to be applied toward a single star.

V. TITLE & ACCEPTANCE CREDITS

The following applies only to Star Awards granted by Divisions that combine acceptances of one media or class with acceptances of another media or class toward a single star.

- A. In exhibitions approved by Divisions that accept two or more media (prints, slides, and/or digital) each image produced from any of the accepted media must have the same title in all media as the original. Only one acceptance credit per title from a specified section of the exhibition may be applied toward a star rating. (**NOTE:** This stipulation of one acceptance credit per title from an exhibition does **not** apply to Photojournalism Division stars if one of the acceptance credits is earned by the titled image having been printed in the exhibition's catalog prior to January 1, 2009). A title accepted in a section of an exhibition may never again be accepted in the same section or other sections of the exhibition regardless of media.
- B. In exhibitions recognized by Divisions which accept both slides and/or digital, a color slide produced from a digital image or a digital image produced from a color slide must have the same title as the original image and only one acceptance credit per title from a specified exhibition may be applied toward a star rating. This titling restriction does not prohibit modifying and subsequently re-titling an image as long as the new image produced is dramatically different when it is compared to the original image and a reasonable person would consider the new image to be a different picture.
- C. Each image must have a unique title. It may not be re-titled for entry in any other PSA recognized exhibition.

- D. Color images and Monochrome images derived from the same original shall not be considered the same image and should have different unique titles.
- E. Acceptance credits earned in an exhibition may be applied toward star awards only in the Division that granted recognition for that section in that exhibition.

VI. DIVISIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

- A. Each Division Star Rating Director will maintain a complete set of catalogs from PSA recognized Exhibitions for the last ten years.
 - 1. It shall be the responsibility of applicants to furnish reasonable proof of acceptances and titles that were made prior to the required period of catalog retention.
 - 2. The Division Star Ratings Director will make any final decisions of acceptability of the proof.
- B. Each Division Essay Contest Director will report the names and titles of all medal winning essays and honorable mention winning essays to their respective Star Ratings Director for filing as proof of eligibility should the essay be claimed in a Star Ratings Application.