STAR RATINGS PRACTICES
(PART A – Revised, October 1, 2013)

I. DIVISIONAL STAR RATING STANDARDS

A. STAR REQUIREMENTS for all Divisions except 3D

Star	Acceptances	Titles
1	18	6
2	36	12
3	72	24
4	144	48
5	288	96

Galaxies 1 – 5	25 new titles with 3 acceptances each for each Galaxy awarded.
Galaxies 6 –10	50 new titles with 3 acceptances each for each Galaxy awarded.
Diamonds 1 – 5	50 new titles with 6 acceptances each for each Diamond awarded.
Diamonds 6 –10	75 new titles with 6 acceptances each for each Diamond awarded.

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.

2. Photojournalism Division (PJD)
   Photojournalist Award.
   This award requires the attainment of the 4th PJD Galaxy
   Master Photojournalism Award
   This award requires the attainment of the 8th PJD Galaxy
   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	Acceptances	Titles
1	18	6
2	36	12
3	72	24
4	144	48
5	288	75

3D Diamond Star. 120 titles with a total of 488 acceptances.

3D Division Master Awards

Each Master Stereographer Award requires 25 new titles with 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 or recognized PSA Divisional contests.

1. All acceptances earned in Exhibitions closing on or before Dec. 31, 1999, may be applied toward any star rating.
2. Acceptances earned on or after Jan. 1, 2000, but prior to the applicant joining PSA, may be applied only toward the first star in the Division awarding the star.
3. All other acceptances beyond the last awarded star must be earned during the applicant's current period of membership.
4. A lapsed membership can be reinstated by the payment of back dues.

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 and E below, may be claimed towards Star Ratings in the Division Judged in a PSA recognized exhibition with the following restrictions and limits. **Exception:** No judging credits may be used with the Nature Division Photo-Naturalist Awards.

A. In a multiple section Division where star ratings are awarded separately for each section:

1. Three acceptances may be earned in each section judged but no more than six judging credits may be earned in a single division regardless of how many sections are judged.

B. In a multiple-section Division where the titles and acceptances of each section can be combined toward a single star rating.

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.
2. If a judge enters and has acceptances in a section he/she does not judge, then a maximum of three judging credits from this exhibition may be applied toward a star rating. If a judge enters and has acceptances in two sections he/she does not judge then no judging credits from this exhibition may be applied toward a star rating.

   Note: The above restrictions (B-1 & 2) apply to all multi-section division exhibitions held under one sponsor in a calendar year.

C. A person judging for more than one Division in a given exhibition may earn whatever judging credits are allowed in each.

D. Up to ten percent of the qualifying acceptances for a Star Rating, to a maximum of 25 credits whichever is the lesser, may be judging credits regardless of when these judging credits were earned except in Galaxy, or Diamond awards.

E. In all Divisions awarding Galaxy or Diamond awards.

1. No more than nine Judging Credits may be used on any Galaxy or Diamond 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.

F. A judging credit may be used only once, and all judging credits earned at one exhibition must be used on the same application.

G. Each judge on a judging panel that does not exceed three members may earn three Judging Credits.
Each judge on a judging panel that consists of four or five members may earn two Judging Credits.
Each judge on a judging panel that consists of six to ten members may earn one Judging Credit.
Any judge serving on a panel of more than ten members will earn no Judging Credits.

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 winner receives 4 acceptance and 2 title credits. Each HM winner receives 3 acceptance and 2 title credits. An individual (or team if entry is from more than one person) may submit entries in more than one format (i.e. print, slide, EI) but, in each format entered, an entrant may receive only one medal and the appropriate star rating credits for the entrant's highest winning entry. If the entry is done by a team, then the star rating credits must be distributed among the team members (as outlined in Item III-G below).

D. PTD (Travel set) Each medal winner receives 8 acceptance and 4 title credits. Each HM winner receives 6 acceptance and 4 title credits.
(Travelette) Each medal winner receives 6 acceptance and 2 title credits. Each HM receives 3 acceptance and 2 title credits.

E. **ND** (Photo Essays & Conservation Essays) Each medal and HM winner receives 4 acceptances and 1 title credit. These credits may be applied through the 5 Star level.

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 may be awarded if entries number five or more.
3. A 3rd place Bronze Medal may be awarded if entries number seven or more.
4. If entries number more than ten, HMs 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. Donor funded awards (plaques, trophies, etc.) may be given in lieu of, but not in conjunction with, the specific place medal. 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. If a team of two or more photographers submit an entry to a photo essay or sequence competition, the acceptance and title credits earned will be divided equally amongst the team members.

H. Acceptance and title credits earned in photo essay and sequence competitions cannot be applied toward Galaxy, Diamond or Photo-Naturalist awards or toward annual Who's Who listings.

I. 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 both 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, 2 single images and 1 sequence giving a maximum of 3 titles and 4 acceptances, or 2 sequences giving a maximum of 2 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 which 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 which granted recognition for that section in that exhibition.

VI. DIVISIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

A. Each Division Star Rating Chairman 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 Chairman will make any final decisions of acceptability of the proof.