

Judging Responsibilities of the Host Club – August 2019

The designated host club is responsible for downloading the entered images and running the competition in a controlled manner. The person designated within the club to run the competition should have a good understanding of how to use Excel and be able to follow directions to download the images from the internet.

Select three qualified judges, and notify them of the date, place, and time of the event. No judge or relative of the competitors' clubs may have images submitted into the competition. A judging of one Group is by a host club that belongs to another Group to avoid conflicts. Host clubs may invite judges that are not members of the host club, as long as the outside judge is not a participant in any of the clubs being judged. If a division has special rules or guidelines for judging images, the judges should be reminded of these parameters before judging.

Use a suitable means of viewing the images for the judging. If a digital projector is used, the resolution must be at least 1400 pixels wide with enough brightness, contrast, and sharpness to display the images properly. Individual monitors may be used, as long as the judges can comfortably view the image. Extreme care must be taken to show the images on a calibrated device. There are many hardware/software solutions. Verifying the accuracy with a grayscale and an image with flesh tones is highly recommended. (A calibrated public domain image is available from the Inter-club website for downloading.) Previewing non competition images to the judges may be useful so that they understand the projected quality before judging. For optimum viewing using a projector, the judges should be viewing from 2 to 2 1/2 times the distance of the width of a horizontally projected image. (This usually eliminates concerns about seeing actual pixels.)

It is up to the host as to the preferred software to use for viewing and scoring the images. Many methods are available, but none of the selected methods may show the original file name while viewing the image to the judge, due to the information in the filename. The results of the competition will be sent by email to the Interclub Competition Chair

for further dissemination. The Competition Director provides templates for score sheets.

Images should **not** be previewed, to avoid positioning images relative to each other, rather than by absolute merit. Images shall be scored from 1 to 5, with the maximum total score of 15 possible. 20% of the scores, excluding non-eligible make-ups, will be eligible for honors, based on highest scores and judges' discussions. If required, from that lowest eligible score group only, entries in excess of the needed number shall be dropped using the standard "IN" and "OUT" voting method. (At least two judges must vote an image in.) Once the approximately 20% have been selected, the judges will select approximately one half for Honorable Mention, and one half for Award, again using "IN" and "OUT" method, and any further discussion, if needed.

Scores are **not** to be readjusted, based on the honors level received. Judges decisions are always final.

Brief Explanation of the Scoring System

The purpose of this section is to help achieve uniformity in scores between competitions. Please make sure the judges understand the scoring system.

1 point- Image has a flaw such as unintentional blur, or has major parts out of focus. Image is cluttered to point of distraction, or distracting elements are overwhelming.

2 points- An image that has no significant technical flaws, but which likewise has no significant strengths. It is the quality of image that we would expect that most hobbyists should be able to take as a minimum standard. It has the technical proficiency that modern auto-exposure, auto-focus cameras allow.

3 points- This is a good solid image, an image towards which every PSA member should be striving as a minimum. Such an image is technically correct and more. It exhibits AT LEAST ONE element towards which

photographers who are working at polishing their craft should be striving (for example, showing a knowledge of the importance of choice of subject, of good lighting, of dramatic composition, of handling depth of field effectively, of eliciting emotional impact, or of exhibiting freshness and creativity). The elements of the image work together. If there are flaws, they are minor and compensated for by other elements in the image.

4 points- An image that scores a 4 is a very strong image. Such an image is technically correct and much more. The elements must work together. If there are flaws, they are minor and hard to find. Obvious flaws must be compensated by other elements in the image. When the rules are broken, they are broken for impact. Technical excellence is expected in an image scoring 4. Difficult exposures, effective use of selective focusing and depth of field, as well as other advanced photographic techniques are commonly found in such an image. The image exhibits SEVERAL elements towards which those who are working at polishing their craft should be striving. Think of a 4 score used to determine if the image is an HM or AWARD.

5 points- An image that scores a 5 is an exceptionally strong image; i.e. true photographic excellence. It need not be a perfect image, just a very, very strong image. Such an image is technically correct and much, much more. The elements of the image must work together to form a whole that is far greater than the sum of the parts. There should not be any obvious flaws. Technical excellence is expected in an image scoring 5. Makers should not be made to feel 5 is impossible to achieve. A 5 should be a guarantee of an award.