

NATURE INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS

Guidelines/ Procedures – 2020

General Guidelines

This competition is held three (3) times each competition year, beginning in the fall. Deadline for competitions are November 15, February 15, and April 15. Any club that is a PSA member may choose to compete as a club, with awards going to individuals, and to the top three clubs with the highest accumulated points for the year.

The images are to be digital only (see Image Size). (Traditional film images may be scanned into digital format or entered direct from digital cameras). The photographic work must be the maker's, and commercial clip art is not allowed.

Each club may enter up to 6 images per competition from 6 different makers. (A full complement for one season would be 18 images. Only one image from the same club maker *per competition* is allowed. Once an image has been entered into the Interclub ND-IC Competition, it is ineligible for re-entry in this competition even if the maker moves to another club the following year. No two clubs may submit images by the same maker. (The first club submitting an image by the same maker is considered the legitimate submitter for the season. If possible, the club in error will be given a chance to resubmit another image.) However, clubs may submit the same images to another division's interclub.

One club member shall be designated as the club representative, and will be responsible for uploading the images to the web entry site, and receiving emails and ribbons from Headquarters. A secondary contact and email address is also required, in case problems develop with the first contact's email. Since both emails are in the system, either member can upload images. Interested clubs can join the competition by providing the designated contact information (name of club and PSA number, the Club Rep, Club Rep's telephone number, mailing address and email address along with 2nd contact's name and email address) to the Chair. (Mailing addresses are used by PSA HQ to send out ribbons.)

Depending on the number of participants, clubs will be divided into groups of 25, and a club will compete within its assigned group.

The goal for groups is to have a balanced number of ability clubs in each group. Staying consistent is the step of moving the top 3 clubs to the next Group after each competition season. After this step, the clubs with zero (no participation in any competitions) will be removed, along with clubs who wish to drop out. A club returning to the competition after a year of no participation will be placed back into the lowest group. Standing scores will be established again with the top 3 clubs added. The Director will establish the desired number of clubs in each group to balance each group. The A Groups will be considered the top club. Groups will be established in June. There will be an effort to keep the last group smaller to provide for new clubs. Throughout the summer, groups can be rearranged if the number of clubs in groups change making room to move others up to another group, and always using that year's group's standing scores. Standing scores cannot be used across the groups for placement. Final grouping will be established before the competition is opened. Once the competition season begins groups will not change.

Responsibilities of the Club Representative

The club representative must be sure that any members belonging to more than one club only allows one of those clubs to use his or her images. Clubs may select the qualifying images by a method chosen by the club, such as picking the best of a local competition, or a selection committee. Confirming emails sent to the club rep should be saved to resolve future issues, and each club should maintain records of competition submittals to avoid future conflicts. These records must be passed onto succeeding designated reps, so that no image is ever used again. The upload site is locked after the deadline date and late submittals are not allowed in system. It is suggested that spelling and filenames are checked carefully when uploading to the web entry site; titles will be printed as submitted including errors in names and titles. Any errors in competition results should be reported as soon as possible to the Chair, so that maintained records can be changed and kept accurate.

Image Release Form

Because PSA must protect itself from unwanted claims regarding images on the web, the club representative will also need to collect signatures on the Image Release form. The Image Release form should be signed by all participating club members at the first club meeting of the year. This form gives the Club Representatives permission to upload individual member's files to the competition and guarantees their images are: their own work; they have any necessary model and or property release if ever needed; they give PSA permission to display their images on the ND-IC Interclub web site and can be used in a slideshow at the end of the year; they understand they alone hold all copyrights. Please note that this form is not a requirement with respect to having your club members' images used in the Interclub Competitions; it is only required if they wish to have such images displayed on the ND-IC interclub web site and be part of the end of Year slide Show shown at the PSA conference. It is the Club Rep's responsibility to inform the ND-IC Interclub Director the name of any member who wants to participate but does not want to sign the form.

YES /NO question on Upload Site.

The YES means a person has given the right for their image to be on the web. The person should have signed the release form, too. NO means that they do not give their permission. This becomes part of the file name and is check against the image release form. Not answering this correctly could prevent those wishing their image to be on the web site from being visible. The default is NO. The web site will send an automatic response back to the representative, confirming entry. The portal will be closed after the deadline date and will not accept late entries.

Make Up Entries:

One missed round of competition may be made up during another round of competition. These images are scored and added to the Club Standings. Make-up images are not eligible for honors. No more than one month's images may be made up in one season.

Image Size:

Horizontal images will be no more than 1400 pixels wide or 1050 pixels tall. Vertical images will be no more than 1050 pixels tall. Save the file in jpeg format only.

Unless your image proportions are in the exact ratio of 4 to 3, one of these dimensions will be less than the maximum. The images will be projected as received, as long as not over the maximum.) (There are no file size restrictions.)

sRGB color space is recommended for optimum results. File name restrictions are only those that are designated on the entry web page.

Judging:

A Host Club is defined as the club Judging one group of the designated competitions. (Host clubs usually are participants of the PID competition EXCEPT AT THE END OF THE YEAR COMPETITION.) A Host Club chart for the year is established. Each club is judged by a club from a different group. Clubs from the same group will not be allowed to judge each other. Separate guidelines are available for Host Club duties.

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 awards (Merit and HM), based on highest scores and judges' discussion. 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. Scores are not to be readjusted, based on the award level received.

End of Year

Top Clubs: Group Standings are kept and represent a club's total scores from each round of judging. The top three (3) clubs in every group are determined at the end of the competing season based on these scores. The top scoring club in each group receives an optional Plaque. The 2nd and 3rd place clubs receive a Certificate.

Best of the Best: All Merit Images from each round are judged again to determine the Best of the Best for each group. The End of Year Image Awards given are a Gold Medal, Silver Medal and Bronze Medal, with Best of the Best Honorable Mention Images receiving ribbons. The number of Honorable Mention Awards is determined for each group based on 10% of the number of Merit Images judged.

The Best of Show is chosen from all Gold Medal Images from each group and is awarded a Best of Show Plaque.

NATURE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

1. ELIGIBILITY All images must meet the PSA Nature Definition of Nature Photography: Nature Photography Definition

- A. Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material**

and certify its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality.

- B. Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible.
 - C. Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.
 - D. For more detailed information please see “A Guide for Nature Photography Judges” , which may be downloaded at <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?nature-division>.
2. **ADDING OR REMOVING ELEMENTS:** No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Added border treatment techniques beyond simple white or black backgrounds are not allowed. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. Stitched images are not permitted.
 3. **STACKING & HDR:** Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning.
 4. **APPEARANCE AFTER ALLOWED ADJUSTMENTS:** All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grey-scale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed.
 5. Images submitted in internet digital competitions may be either **NATURE** or **WILDLIFE** class images per the following definitions:
 - a. **Wildlife :** Images entered in Wildlife sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above are further defined as one or more extant zoological or botanical organisms free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Wildlife is not limited to animals, birds and insects. Marine subjects and botanical subjects (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild are suitable wildlife subjects, as are carcasses of extant species.
 - b. **General Nature Images :** Nature images are not required to meet the requirements of the PSA Definition of Wildlife. Zoo shots and Game Farm shots are eligible provided the artificial habitat is not apparent in the image. Images entered in Nature sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above can have landscapes, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant organisms as the primary subject matter. This includes images taken with the subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos,

game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food.

6. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

There is one hard and fast rule, whose spirit must be observed at all times: The welfare of the subject is more important than the photograph. This means that practices such as baiting of subjects with a living creature and removal of birds from nests, for the purpose of obtaining a photograph, are highly unethical, and such photographs are not allowed in Nature competitions. Judges are warned not to reward them.

Killing or injuring any living thing is not proper part of our nature photography. The ethical nature photographer should not participate in, nor endorse, the practice of sacrificing a living animal for the purpose of photographing a predator actually killing live prey under controlled conditions. Any behavior, such as baiting that alters an animal's normal foraging that is done solely for the purpose of acquiring images is contrary to the field ethics promoted by PSA and we discourage the entry of any such images in the interclub competitions.

Aerial photography. Participants of ND-IC may not obtain photographs of animals or birds by the use of drones; nor may a drone be flown in any designated wilderness area. Participants may photograph scenery/landscapes from drones provided that no laws or regulations are violated in the country where the drone is flown.