

SSPS Club Competitions

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SSPS Club Competitions
(Effective January 2010)

1. Changes effective January 2010

- The slide category has been merged with digital images into a projected image category and members are requested to scan their slides and submit them as projected images.
- Small print workers now have their own categories for monochrome prints and projected images.
- The practice of having "Open" and "Set Subject" has been discontinued and from February 2010 there will be only one subject for each month.
- Each month a member may submit up to 2 images for each category for which they are eligible, subject to a total maximum entries of 5 per month per member.

2. What types of Club competitions are there?

Regular monthly competitions plus the Print and Projected Image of the Year in November.

The categories for the competitions are:

Members	Categories
Large print workers	Large colour prints Large monochrome prints Projected images A
Small print workers	Small colour prints Small monochrome prints Projected images B

3. Who can enter?

All financial and life members of the club. There are no entry fees.

There is no "minimum standard". Beginners are always encouraged to get involved. The judge's comments can often provide useful suggestions about how the photograph might be improved. The 3 categories for small print workers are specifically focused on newer members.

4. When are competitions held?

Regular monthly club competitions are held each month from February through to October.

In addition, entries for the Print and Projected Image of the Year are judged in December. (See para 17 for details of this competition)

Full details of the timing of competitions are included in the current syllabus which is available on the club website at www.ssps-photographicclub.org.au

5. When are entries due?

Monthly competitions:

- Entries for the projected image categories are due one week before the first meeting of the month. (See para 11.2 below for more details.)
- Entries for the print categories are due at the first meeting of the month (1st Tuesday).

Print and Projected Image of the Year:

- Entries for the projected image categories are due one week before the first meeting in November. (See para 11.2 below for more details.)
- Entries for the print categories are due at the first meeting in November.

6. Which sections are available?

The competitions are divided into two sections – Large Print Workers and Small Print Workers and each of these have several categories. See para 8 to identify which section you can enter.

There is a nominated subject for each month. Details of the subject for each month are included in the syllabus for the year.

Judging and Prize cards are awarded for each category.

6.1. Large Print Workers

6.1.1. Large Prints – colour and monochrome

Colour and monochrome prints are treated as two different categories and are judged separately.

All print entries must be the bona fide production of the member, with the following exceptions:

- (a) Negatives may be professionally processed.
- (b) Prints may be commercially made prints.

Maximum size for entries is 50cm x 40cm (20"x 16") including the mounts. This is in line with Australian Photographic Society and international standards. There is no minimum size for prints. Panoramic prints and cropping of images either by printing a portion of the negative or by cutting an image to non standard dimensions is permitted providing the area of the image does not exceed the maximum size constraint.

Entries must comply with any set subject definition for that month as noted in the syllabus and defined in your kit information.

Presentation must comply with the competition rules set out in para 9.1 below.

See para 15 below regarding restrictions on whether or not an image can be re-entered.

6.1.2. Projected Images – A Section

All projected image entries must be the bona fide production of the member. They may be enhanced using computer image editing software, but the original image must have been taken by the entrant.

Images may be created with a digital camera or a conventional camera (and scanned into electronic format). Members who have slides that they wish to enter in the club competition must scan them and submit them as digital images.

Entries may be colour or monochrome. They will all be judged as one category.

See para 9.2 below for details of how projected image entries must be formatted and submitted.

Entries must comply with any subject definition for that month as noted in the syllabus.

See para 15 below regarding restrictions on whether or not an image can be re-entered.

6.2. Small Print Workers

Emphasis in this section is on less experienced members whose skills are not yet developed sufficiently to enter in the Large Print Worker section. Constructive comment given by the competition judges can be a major factor in helping people improve their photography, thus members are encouraged to enter regularly.

6.2.1. Small Prints – colour and monochrome

Colour and monochrome prints are treated as two different categories and are judged separately.

All print entries must be the bona fide production of the member, with the following exceptions:

- (a) Negatives may be professionally processed.
- (b) Prints may be commercially made prints.

Prints must not exceed 35 square inches (the equivalent of 7" x 5" (17.5cm x 12.5cm)) and the mounts must be 10" x 8" (25cm x 20cm). Panoramic prints and cropping of images either by printing a portion of the negative or by cutting an image to non standard dimensions is permitted providing the area of the image does not exceed 35 square inches and the mount is 10" x 8".

Presentation must comply with the competition rules set out in para 9.1 below.

See para 15 below regarding restrictions on whether or not an image can be re-entered.

6.2.2. Projected Images – B Section

All projected image entries must be the bona fide production of the member. They may be enhanced using computer image editing software, but the original image must have been taken by the entrant.

Images may be created with a digital camera or a conventional camera (and scanned into electronic format). Members who have slides that they wish to enter in the club competition must scan them and submit them as digital images.

Entries may be colour or monochrome. They will all be judged as one category.

See para 9.2 below for details of how projected image entries must be formatted and submitted.

Entries must comply with any subject definition for that month as noted in the syllabus.

See para 15 below regarding restrictions on whether or not an image can be re-entered.

7. How many images can I submit?

You may enter up to 2 images in each eligible category, subject to a total maximum number of 5 entries by each member in any competition.

8. Which section can I enter?

The Small Print Worker Section is intended for less experienced members and new members may choose to enter in this section or the Large Print Worker Section, unless they are ineligible for the Small Print Worker Section. People who have worked or trained as professional photographers or those who have been in the A Grade section of any photographic club are ineligible to enter in the Small Print Worker Section.

Small Print Workers wishing to gauge how their work might perform in the Large Print Worker Section may enter up to three images throughout the calendar year. However, awards will not be given. Separate entry forms are required noting the fact that this is a Small Print Worker trying out the Large Print Worker Section and noting the image number (i.e. 1st, 2nd or 3rd for the year).

Members who are not Small Print Workers will enter images in the Large Print Worker Section.

Transferring to be a Large Print Worker

Small Print Workers can request to transfer. Transfers will only be possible at certain times of year, e.g. mid year and end of year, at the committee's discretion. There may also be occasions where transfer from the small to the large section may not be approved based on the strength of the member's photography. Likewise the committee may transfer a Small Print Worker where the photographer's work is of such a high standard as to warrant the transfer.

As some people may move to being a Large Print Worker part way through the year, they will be permitted to split their FIVE Image of the Year entries across both the Large and Small Print Sections for this year if they wish (e.g. 3 entries in the Small Print Worker section from the start of the year and 2 entries in Large Print Worker section from the latter part of the year). In each instance the image must be entered in the section in which it was originally entered. As per the usual rules the print must be entered exactly as it was presented for entry during the year i.e. same matt etc.

9. Presentation

9.1. How should my print be presented?

All prints should be mounted securely with cardboard or equivalent rigid backing material covering the rear of the photograph for ease of presentation and the protection of the print.

Mounted prints may not exceed a total thickness of 4mm.

All images must be given a title.

Large stickers are available which must be filled in as indicated and adhered to the rear of the print in the top left hand corner. Circle the Large/Small print option according to the section in which the print is being entered not the actual print size (i.e. Members in the Large Print Workers section can enter small images but must still enter them in the Large Print Workers section and circle "Large" on the sticker).

A new sticker should be attached with the new details each time the image is entered but the print's title must not be changed. When entering the image for the second time, place a line through the old sticker and attach the new one below it. In this way it is easy to tell whether you have entered your print more than once, and when, such that you can check your record sheet to see if it got an award.

It is optional as to whether a matt is used to frame around the print. This is commonly done to

enhance the presentation and protect the edges of the print. See separate information sheet titled "Mounting and Presentation of Prints - Requirements and Recommendations".

Frames or mounts involving glass or metal are not permitted as they pose a risk to other peoples' work in transit.

9.2. How should my projected image be presented?

Projected images must be able to be displayed using a normal laptop computer and data projector using Microsoft Windows XP Operating System.

The following details are given as guidelines for the format of the images submitted:

- Format - JPEG
- Maximum size – 1024px wide x 768px high
- Colour space – sRGB – the profile should be embedded in the file
- Bit depth – 8 bits/channel
- The file should be saved as RGB colour.

All images must be given a title which must be included in the filename.

The format for the filename of each image will be:

YYYYMM-image title-XX-ZZZZ.jpg

YYYY = year, MM = month, XX = LP for Large Print Worker or SP for Small Print worker and XXXX = your club membership number

Note that there are no spaces between the dashes and the text. You can only use spaces within the title section of the filename.

eg: 200903-Flinders Is-LP-1000.jpg This is an entry for the March 2009 monthly competition, the title of the image is "Flinders Is" and it is submitted by member number 1000 who is a large print worker.

Do NOT use any of the following characters in the filename:

/ : * ? " < > |

Strict adherence to this filename format is important to enable the judging sheets to be prepared efficiently.

10. What entry forms are needed?

A separate entry form should be filled out for entries in each category i.e. projected image A and B, small monochrome print, small colour print, large monochrome print and large colour print.

Separate entry forms are required for each category.

In the case of a Projected Image submitted by email, the email must include:

- Members number
- Title(s) of image(s) submitted
- Category entered for each image

Record Sheet.

A pre-printed Record Sheet is available to help you keep a record of your competition entries, the scores that they were given and any awards they received. It can be helpful if you need to check if the image is eligible for re-entry. If you miss a judging night scores can be checked via the Competition Stewards records.

11. Where do I hand in my competition entries?

11.1. Print Entries

A table is set up in the hall for you to place your entries upon.
Please place your entries on the correct pile with the applicable entry form accompanying them.

It is preferred that prints are loose and are not in a bag.

Please remember to collect your print bags from the same table at the end of the night. Occasionally these may need to be collected at the next meeting in the event that the Steward has not completed packing and paperwork for the judge.

11.2. Projected Images Entries

Please note that Projected Images are due the week before the other entries so as to allow time for the images to be burned onto a CD/DVD before handing to the judge.

Projected images may be submitted via –

- Email to the Competition Steward at sspsprojectedimages@gmail.com
- Handed to the Competition Steward either on a CD/DVD or a USB storage device accompanied by the relevant completed entry form

Email is the preferred method of submission.

Where a CD/DVD or USB storage device is used for submission, ensure that your name is visible on the media.

12. Do I have to be present on entry or judging nights?

You do not have to be present at the meetings to either enter your pictures or to have your work judged.

Entries may be dropped off to the Competition steward's home by prior arrangement or may be sent along to club with another person.

If you are not present on the night that your pictures are judged, your pictures will be collected at the end of the night and placed in storage at the club rooms by the competition steward. It is of course helpful if you can arrange for someone else to collect your work for you. Any prize cards that you win will be presented to you at the next meeting you attend.

Please remember to bring an appropriate bag or container to take your images home in at the end of the judging night.

13. What happens to my entries, what does the judge do?

The titles of the entries are listed on judging forms by the Competition Steward. These forms together with all the prints are placed in a solid box for transport to the judge. In the case of Projected Image submissions, the Competition Steward will burn all entries received on to a CD/DVD and this will be included with the prints for transportation to the judge.

Entry forms are retained by the Competition Steward for club records.

Competitors' names are not provided to the judge on any correspondence.

Whilst there is no rule about placing your name on your work it is preferred that you just apply the required entry sticker.

The judge awards each image a mark out of 15 and decides the placings. These results are phoned through to the Competition Steward prior to the judging night so that prize cards can be prepared.

The judge brings the images when he/she comes to present the judging.

14. What happens on judging night?

Each entry is shown one at a time.

Depending on the number of entries being display, the judge usually makes constructive comments about the small prints and all place getters. In addition the score of all entries will be announced. Place getting images are shown last and prize cards are awarded at the conclusion of all the judging.

Print images are left on display until the end of the evening for members to view and are collected as you leave. Projected images are displayed on the club's computer until the end of the evening.

A table showing the running aggregate scores is pinned on the notice board each month and is available on the club website at <http://www.ssps-photographicclub.org.au/>.

The judge will usually give a short presentation of their own photographs prior to judging.

15. How many times can I enter the same image?

You may enter your image twice in the monthly competitions (can be in the same year or years apart) unless they are ineligible.

The following images are ineligible to be entered in the normal monthly SSPS club competition for a second time:

- An image that has received a prize (first, second or third) in a normal SSPS monthly competition;
- An image that has received a prize (first, second or third) in a SSPS annual Print / Projected Image of the Year competition.

All other images are eligible to be entered in the normal monthly SSPS club competitions for a second time.

Entries in Interclub competitions do not affect the eligibility of images for the SSPS club monthly competitions.

All images entered during the monthly competitions during the year, including those that received a prize, may be entered in the Print / Projected Image of the Year competition.

16. What is the same image?

Any image made from the same original file/negative/positive is treated as being the same image. Reprocessing an image does not make it a new image. An image that has been re-cropped is the same image. A monochrome version of a previously colour image is still the same image. In addition, images taken of the same subject will also be treated as the same image, unless the images are substantially different.

17. Print and Projected Image of the Year requirements?

You may enter up to 2 images in each eligible category, subject to a total maximum number of 5 entries by each member.

The images do not need to have won any prizes, but they must have been entered in one of the club's monthly competitions during the year. The image must be exactly the same as submitted during the year. No alterations at all are allowed. Even the title must be the same.

18. End of Year Awards

Trophies will be awarded at the End of Year Awards for:

- Best Small Colour Print of the Year – determined by the judge of the awards
- Best Small Monochrome Print of the Year – determined by the judge of the awards
- Best Large Colour Print of the Year – determined by the judge of the awards
- Best Large Monochrome Print of the Year – determined by the judge of the awards
- Best Projected Image - A of the Year – determined by the judge of the awards
- Best Projected Image - B of the Year – determined by the judge of the awards
- Most outstanding entrant in small Prints during the year – determined by the club committee