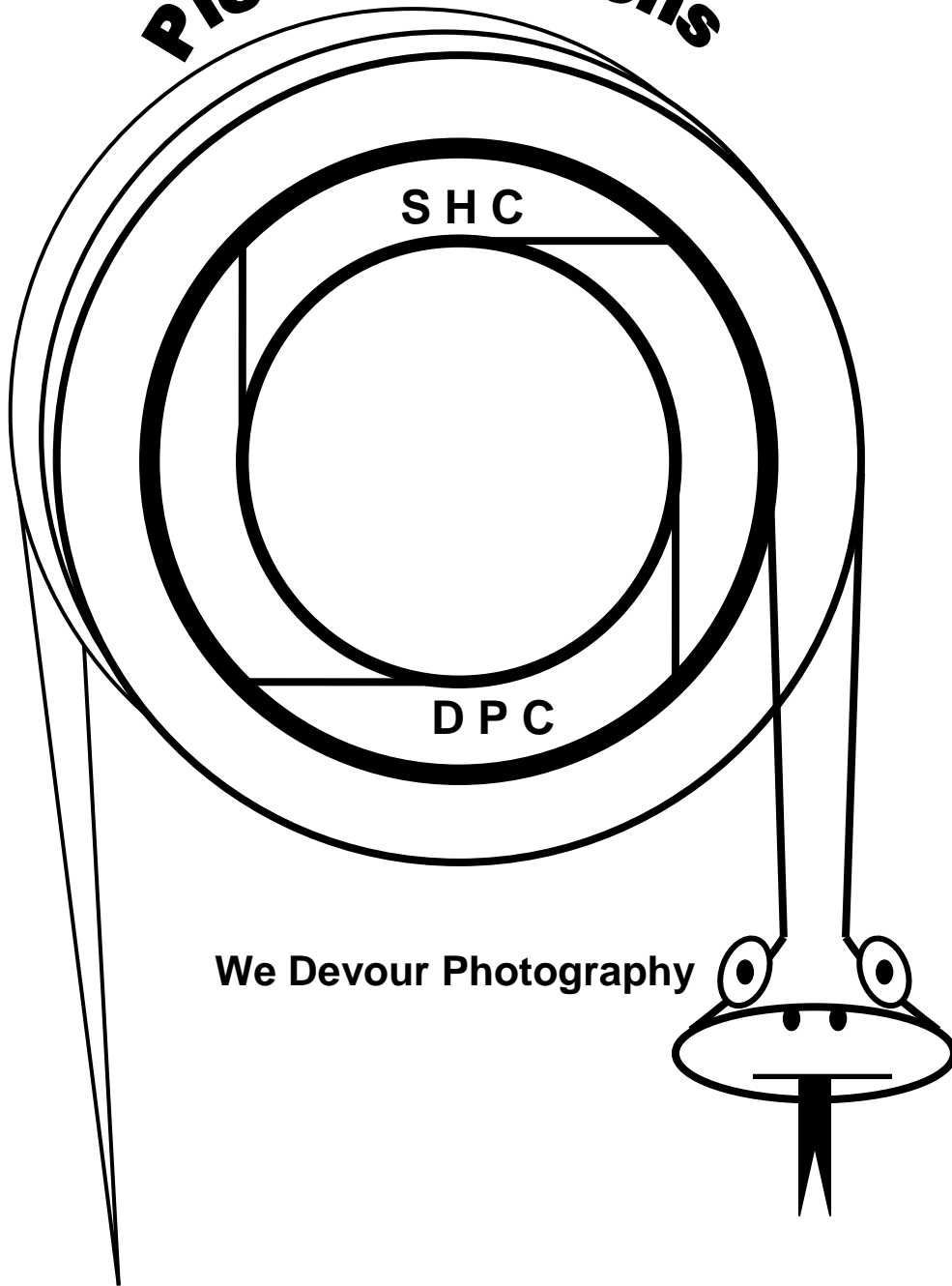


# Picture Pythons



We Devour Photography

Members' Handbook

2015

Dear Member

Welcome to the SHC PICTURE PYTHONS!

## **AIMS**

SHC PICTURE PYTHONS is a new club (started in January 2010) that allows learners and staff to express themselves through the medium of photography. There are several aims that can be realized as a contributing member of this club:

- To enjoy the craft of photography.
- To participate in tasks and competitions in order to hone your own technical skills as a photographer and to enhance your imagination and visual literacy skills.
- To have ready access to fellow photographers and their specific knowledge and skills, so that you can discuss any aspects of the craft in a relaxed setting.
- To enjoy and learn from the work of fellow photographers.
- To have photographic FUN!!!

## **MEMBERSHIP SECTIONS**

You join the club as a novice, irrespective of your personal abilities as a photographer. Based on your level of participation, skill and dedication you will progress to become a member of different sections of the club over time:

### **a) SECTIONS**

|         |           |
|---------|-----------|
| Level 1 | HATCHLING |
| Level 2 | EGG-EATER |
| Level 3 | PUFFADDER |
| Level 4 | COBRA     |
| Level 5 | MAMBA     |

## b) PROMOTION

You will be promoted to the next higher level once you have accumulated the points and you have fulfilled any other requirements for promotion:

- 1) To EGG-EATER: accumulate 15 points.
- 2) To PUFFADDER: accumulate a further 30 points  
+ gain at least FIVE SPECIAL MENTIONS
- 3) To COBRA: accumulate a further 75 points – a maximum of 20 points may come from any **one category**  
+ gain at least FIFTEEN SPECIAL MENTIONS  
+ win at least TEN SECTION WINS  
+ win at least FIVE PICS OF THE DAY  
+ win at least THREE THEME COMPETITIONS
- 4) To MAMBA: accumulate a further 190 section points – a maximum of 40 points may come from any **one category**  
+ gain at least FIFTEEN SECTION WINS  
+ win at least TEN PICs OF THE DAY  
+ win at least FIVE THEME COMPETITIONS

Accurate records are kept by the club of all the point allocations for every member.

## POINT ALLOCATIONS

You gain a number of points by participating in the competitions:

- Each submission - 1 pt
- Special Mention - 2 pts
- Section Winner - 3 pts
- Pic of the Day/Theme Winner - 5 pts

(You can thus gain a maximum of 14 points per meeting: you submit two images for judging (2 x 1pt = 2 pts), both of which gain Special Mentions (2 x 2 pts = 4 pts); one of your pictures is judged best in your section (= 3 pts) and this image is chosen also as Pic of the Day (= 5 pts).)

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

- a) You may enter a maximum of TWO images per ordinary meeting. Special competitions may invite you to submit more images; special competition regulations will be announced as the need arises.
- b) A submission slip must accompany each submission (see example at the end of this booklet).
- c) Each image must have a unique FILE NAME that does NOT identify you as the photographer – do not use your name or nickname, and change your style of naming your files regularly. You must stay anonymous during the judging to give you and everyone else a fair chance.

Digital images will be projected. In order for us all to share in your work and to enjoy your images, you need to submit digital files with the following specifications:

- d) Digital Files:
  - 1) Format: JPEG only!
  - 2) Resolution: 200 – 300 dpi
  - 3) Dimensions: Horizontal – 700 - 900 pixels, or  
Vertical – 500 - 700 pixels, depending on the orientation of your picture
  - 4) Colour Space: RGB (either Adobe RGB or sRGB or similar)
- e) No excessive manipulation of the digital image files (such as sandwiching, major retouching, photomerging, etc.) is allowed, except for submission to Category 5 (Abstract/Digital Manipulation/B&W).
- f) Images must be prepared for competition in your own time. Images you wish to enter must be supplied on a FLASH DRIVE at the start of the meeting. Do not forget to complete and hand in a SUBMISSION SLIP for each image.

## **CATEGORIES FOR SUBMISSIONS**

You may submit work in any of the following categories. These categories have been chosen carefully so that any photograph can be accommodated in at least one of these. But, **BE CAREFUL!** – if your image does not suit the category for which you have submitted it, it will be disqualified from judging.

- Category 1: **THE DETAILED IMAGE**  
(Portraits, Still Life, Architectural, Close-Up/Macro, etc.)
- Category 2: **THE SWEEPING IMAGE**  
(Landscapes, Seascapes, Cityscapes, Panoramas, etc.)
- Category 3: **THE MOVING IMAGE**  
(Action, Sport)
- Category 4: **THE DOCUMENTARY IMAGE**  
(Photojournalism, News, Paparazzi, etc.)
- Category 5: **THE CHANGED IMAGE**  
(Abstract, Digital Manipulation, B&W)

Study the criteria for promotion to a next level carefully: in the higher sections you will need to submit work to more than one of these categories in order to gain promotion – so plan your photography and your submissions carefully.

## **THEME COMPETITIONS**

Unlike ordinary competitions where any image can be submitted in a suitable category, **THEME COMPETITIONS** are restricted to entries that interpret a particular, set theme.

Special regulations for **THEME COMPETITIONS** are:

- a) Take place once a month.
- b) Themes will be announced **TWO WEEKS** prior to the next theme competition.
- c) Judging procedures and point allocations are essentially the same as for ordinary competitions, except that judges will also consider the level of creativity of your interpretation of the set theme.

## JUDGING

- a) The judges' decisions are final and no discussion will be entered into.
- b) You personally may be called upon to act as judge for any competition:
  - 1) You may judge any entries submitted in your own or a lower section.
  - 2) If you are called upon to judge in your own section, you may not submit images in that section, unless you excuse yourself from the categories in which you have submitted material. Such an arrangement needs to be discussed and agreed to before the commencement of the judging, and a replacement judge nominated.
- c) **Guidelines for judging:**
  - 1) Photography is a creative form of expression; as such, no rules can and should be formulated. **HOWEVER...**
  - 2) Shoddy work, technical incompetence or submission of material in an inappropriate category can not be regarded as creative work!
  - 3) Look for **technical competence:**
    - ✓ Good focus – sharpness in important areas of the image
    - ✓ Good exposure – not too light or too dark; inspect highlight and dark areas for detail
    - ✓ Good colour range and saturation – colour should look natural and should be free from colour cast; over-saturation is as bad as washed out colours

Look for **competence in expression and creativity:**

- ✓ Good interest value – boring material is usually self-evident!
- ✓ Good composition – the arrangement of the graphic elements/objects in the image enhance the message the photographer is conveying; the entire image is interesting and there is no unnecessary clutter of graphic elements/objects
- ✓ The title of the image must enhance your understanding of the image
- ✓ The image has been submitted in an appropriate category.

- 4) Remember that different sections require different levels of competence – do not kill HATCHLINGS!
- 5) Be positive in your feedback. Give constructive criticism rather than rubbishing someone else's effort.
- 6) A SPECIAL MENTION is awarded if all of the judges (usually three individuals) agree that the image is outstanding in its particular section and category.
- 7) The SECTION WINNER is chosen from all of the special mentions of all of the categories of a particular section.
- 8) The PIC OF THE DAY is chosen from all of the section winners.
- 9) Finally, you will never judge alone. There will be a lot of back-up, so do not be nervous.

## **RECORDING RESULTS**

- a) Extensive records of the achievements of all club members are kept on a computer database.
- b) Once points have been recorded your submission slips will be returned to you for your personal records. Keep all submission slips. In the case of a dispute over promotion to the next section, you will need to submit these slips as evidence.

## **YEAR-END COMPETITION**

- a) The regulations and specifications will be given to you in the last term.
- b) You will need to submit a PORTFOLIO of your work rather than single images.
- c) The photographers of the winning portfolios will receive the

Junior Trophy (to be named) – Hatchlings/Egg-Eaters/Puffadders

Senior Trophy (to be named) – Cobras and Mambas

(NOTE: “Junior” and “Senior” apply to the different sections of the club and not the ages of the participants.)

**AWARD CRITERIA**  
**PICTURE PYTHONS (Digital Photography Club of Sacred Heart College)**

**Certificate of Participation**

Minimum of 85% attendance of possible meetings  
Promoted to Puffadder (see p.3, Promotion)  
Minimum of 50 points accumulated (see p.3, Promotion)

**Certificate of Excellence**

Minimum of 85% attendance of possible meetings  
Promoted to Puffadder (see p.3, Promotion)  
Minimum of 85 points accumulated (see p.3, Promotion)  
1 or more photographs published in the school magazine

**Badge (Blue)**

Minimum of 85% attendance of possible meetings  
Promoted to Cobra (see p.3, Promotion)  
Minimum of 150 points accumulated (see p.3, Promotion)  
Reliable and regular supplier of images for the school magazine - at least 5 sets of images supplied from assignments

**Badge (Gold)**

Minimum of 85% attendance of possible meetings  
Promoted to Cobra (see p.3, Promotion)  
Minimum of 180 points accumulated (see p.3, Promotion)  
Reliable and regular supplier of images for the school magazine - at least 10 sets of images supplied from assignments

**Scroll**

The learner must be in Grades 10, 11 or 12.  
Minimum of 85% attendance of possible meetings  
Promoted to Mamba (see p.3, Promotion)  
Minimum of 320 points accumulated (see p.3, Promotion)  
Reliable and regular supplier of images for the school magazine - at least 15 sets of images supplied from assignments  
Involvement in photography outside of the college – respected member of a club/successful online portfolio

**Blazer**

***Only awarded at the discretion of the college***

The learner must be in Grades 10, 11 or 12.  
Winner of a national/international photographic contest open to the general public and adjudicated by award-winning photographers



**SUBMISSION SLIP EXEMPLAR**

**Photographer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Section:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(THEME):** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Leave blank for ordinary competitions)

**File Name of Image:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Category:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Image:** \_\_\_\_\_



**ADMIN:**

**POINTS:**

- Submission**
- Special Mention ?**
- Section Winner ?**
- Pic of the Day Winner ?**

**TOTAL POINTS AWARDED**

**JUDGES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_