

FAQ: Our New Star-Rating System

Please note that this is a living document and will be expanded and refined as we go along.

Why change?

The Club's traditional Point system had, over time, created a de facto seniority system that had become unwieldy, and that had created an unfair, top-heavy, distribution of members within the Club's old competition groupings. The Competition Process Review (CPR) team was created to examine the Club's competitions and come up with a better way of doing business. The CPR team will continue to monitor and manage the new Star-Rating system going forward.

What will the new Star-Rating system do?

The Star-Rating system will more fairly distribute Club members into competitive peer-groups. This will level the competition field, giving everyone a more equal opportunity to succeed in our monthly competitions.

At the beginning of each new Club year, members are grouped into competition peer-groups based on their adjusted average star score for preceding year.

What are competition peer-groups?

There are three competition peer-groupings, named by color: **Red**, **Green**, and **Blue**.

The members whose adjusted average star score falls numerically *below* the first cut-off limit make up the **Red** competition peer-group.

Those members whose adjusted average star score falls numerically *between* the first and second cut-off limits make up the **Green** Competition peer-group.

Those whose Adjusted average star score falls *above* the second cut-off limit make up the **Blue** Competition peer-group.

What does "Adjusted average star score" mean?

Each member's Adjusted average star score is calculated at the end of the Club year by eliminating one (1) of their lowest star scores before calculating the average. Eliminating one lowest star score is meant to encourage submission and reduce the effect of one unfortunate event.

How are the competition peer-group limits determined?

Peer-grouping limits are set by the CPR team at the beginning of each new Club year. They are based on the distribution of the previous year's adjusted averages, and further adjusted to populate the three peer-groupings with a reasonable number of competitors. These peer groups remain in effect for the entire Club Year.

What if choose not to submit at all?

There are quite a few members who currently do not participate in Club competitions. These members form a fourth grouping: **Gray**.

How many submissions do I need to be placed in my peer group?

Over the course of the Club year, members must have **five (5) submissions/star scores** in order to arrive at an adjusted average to begin the following year.

If, at the end of the year, I don't have 5 star scores, then what happens?

The CPR group will use the star scores you *did* accumulate, and using those and the comments provided by our judges, place you in an appropriate group for the following year.

If I'm a current member, and I choose to submit for the first time, how do I know which competition peer-group to submit in?

Current members who have not competed in the past year, but want to start submitting, should contact any member of the CPR team for placement guidance.

I don't think I've been placed in the right group. What can I do?

At the beginning of the new Club year on October 1st, *and prior to submitting to the first competition of the new year*, if your adjusted average star score places you in a peer group where you feel you don't belong, you have a one-time option to move into a **higher** average Star Score grouping, but not into a **lower** average Star Score grouping. Such requests should be directed to any member of the CPR team. *Note that self-placement can only be made into a higher average Star score group, not into a lower average Star score group.*

How does the new system measure a member's photographic growth?

Recognition of photographic achievement within each peer-group will continue to relate directly to success in Club point competitions. Place points will continue to be awarded for competition successes. The Star-Rating System will measure each member's individual growth through their adjusted star scores throughout the year, and from year to year.

I'm considering joining PTCC. If I join, in which group will I compete?

New members will be advised of the Star-Rating criteria and simply asked within which of the three peer-groupings they would feel most comfortable competing. An option for the new member would be to submit samples of their photography and be advised after review by members of the CPR team.

When does the new system begin?

The Star-rating system will be put in place on October 1, 2020.

What about the Club's Pro Members?

By Board action, our Pro Members do not participate in Club competitions.

If you didn't find a satisfactory answer to your question here,
please contact any member of the CPR team for help.

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