

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF INDIA



Date: 08-05-2026

Photographer of the Year Award Official Rules and Regulations

1. Purpose of the Award

The **Photographer of the Year (POTY)** Award is an annual distinction instituted by the The Photographic Society of India to recognize and encourage **consistent photographic excellence, creativity, and active participation** in the Society's Monthly Competitions.

The award acknowledges photographers who demonstrate sustained performance throughout the year by accumulating the **highest total points in the Monthly Competition series**.

2. Award Categories

The Photographer of the Year Award shall be conferred annually in the following categories:

- **PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR - BEGINNERS**
- **PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR - MEMBERS**

Participants shall accumulate points through their performance in the **Monthly Competitions conducted by PSI during the calendar year**.

3. Eligibility

3.1 Only registered participants of the The Photographic Society of India who actively participate in the Monthly Competitions are eligible for consideration for the POTY Award.

3.2 Participants must compete in the **appropriate category (Beginner or Member)** as determined by the eligibility criteria established by PSI.

3.3 A participant shall be required to compete in the **Members Category** if the participant:

- Is engaged professionally in photography; or
- Holds photographic distinctions or recognitions from national or international photographic organizations; or
- Has participated in **National or International Photographic Salons or Competitions** and received **acceptances or awards**; or



- Has publicly exhibited photographic works in recognized photography exhibitions.

4. Advancement from Beginner to Member Category

4.1 A participant registered in the **Beginner Category** shall move to the **Members Category** upon completion of **one year of participation** in the PSI Monthly Competitions.

4.2 If a participant in the Beginner Category achieves any of the following during the course of the competition year:

- Acceptance in a National or International Salon or Competition
- Award or recognition in such competitions
- Recognition through photographic distinctions
- Participation in recognized photography exhibitions

the participant shall **immediately thereafter compete in the Members Category**.

4.3 In such cases, **all points accumulated by the participant during the same competition year in the Beginner Category shall be retained and carried forward in the overall POTY tally.**

5. Monthly Competition Points System

5.1 The POTY Award shall be determined based on the **total cumulative points obtained by a participant through participation in the PSI Monthly Competitions conducted during the year.**

5.2 Points shall be awarded strictly in accordance with the **official scoring system prescribed for the PSI Monthly Competitions.**

5.3 Only points earned through valid participation and adherence to competition rules shall be counted toward the POTY tally.

6. Compliance with Monthly Competition Rules

6.1 All participants must strictly comply with the **rules and submission guidelines of the PSI Monthly Competitions.**

6.2 In the event that a participant **defaults or violates the competition rules** in any month:

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF INDIA



- The **points obtained for that specific month shall be nullified**, and
- The participant shall **not be permitted to participate in the Monthly Competition for the immediately following month.**

7. Lifetime POTY Recognition Rule

7.1 The title **Photographer of the Year (POTY)** shall be awarded to a participant **only once in their lifetime in each category.**

7.2 If a previous POTY recipient again secures the **highest cumulative points in a subsequent year**, the participant shall be recognized with a **“Top of the Table” Certificate.**

7.3 In such a case, the **POTY Award for that year shall be conferred upon the participant who has obtained the next highest cumulative score** in the competition standings.

7.4 This provision is intended to **encourage wider participation, promote emerging talent, and provide opportunities for new photographers to receive recognition.**

8. Tie-Breaking Procedure

8.1 In the event that two or more participants obtain **equal cumulative points in the final POTY standings**, the award shall be determined using the following criteria:

1. The participant with the **greater number of First Prizes** in the Monthly Competitions shall be ranked higher.
2. If the tie persists, the participant with the **greater number of Second Prizes** shall be ranked higher.

8.2 If a tie still remains unresolved, the **Managing Committee of PSI shall determine the final outcome**, and its decision shall be final.

9. Exhibition Privilege

9.1 The winners of:

- **PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR - BEGINNERS**
- **PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR - MEMBERS**

shall receive the **special privilege of exhibiting one photographic work each amongst the awarded images at the Monthly Competition** during the **Annual**

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF INDIA



Exhibition organized by the The Photographic Society of India at the prestigious Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai.

9.2 The exhibited image shall be selected in accordance with the exhibition guidelines determined by PSI.

10. Authority and Interpretation

10.1 The **Managing Committee of the The Photographic Society of India** shall have the authority to interpret, clarify, or amend these rules as deemed necessary.

10.2 In all matters relating to eligibility, scoring, interpretation of rules, and award determination, **the decision of the Managing Committee shall be final and binding on all participants.**

10.3 **All the above rules are effective with immediate effect.**

BY ORDER

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF INDIA

MANAGING COMMITTEE