

NATURE STAR RATINGS CONVERSION PROCEDURES

3/15/10

The PSA Board of Directors approved a Universal Star Ratings Program at the September 2009 Conference. The Star Ratings Directors will perform the conversion process and begin using the new requirements July 1, 2010. Individual's with stars may convert to the new system at any time beginning July 1, 2010. Some will not need to do anything and will be converted automatically with the submittal of their next application for a star. Only one conversion is allowed per star holder. The new requirements are shown on the attached Schedule A.

- There is no change for the Nature Division's Photo Naturalist Award, except that it can be earned after 5 stars.
- The requirements for the first five stars do not change for Nature.
- The Diamond Star will no longer be issued.
- There is no change to the judging credits (UPAC PART A III), credits for annual Divisional competitions (UPAC PART A IV), acceptance limits for Star Ratings (UPAC PART A V) and titles and acceptance credits (UPAC PART A VI).
- The new Star criteria are effective July 1, 2010 and all acceptances received after July 1, 2010 will be based on the new criteria. Note: Acceptance date is the closing date of the exhibition.
- Any unused acceptances received prior to July 1, 2010 which will **no longer** be eligible must be submitted at the time of conversion

WHO NEEDS TO CONVERT ?

Anyone with acceptances beyond the current 5th star must look at their own situation.

Individuals may convert any time after July 1, 2010, or it will be done when they apply for another star.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE CONVERTED ?

The current 5 star holders working towards the Diamond may have additional accumulated acceptances. These were earned under the old rules and may not qualify for the new Galaxies (too many acceptances for the titles or their acceptances are for old titles). These acceptances must be listed for the conversion in order to prevent the loss of the acceptances.

Members working towards Galaxies have been earning more acceptances per title than required for the new Galaxies or Diamonds. In order to prevent the loss of acceptances

earned prior to July 1, 2010, the titles and acceptances must be listed in the conversion. For example, a Nature Galaxy 3 exhibitor who's accumulating 4 acceptances per title for the next Galaxy must submit those titles and acceptances at the time of conversion since they exceed the new criteria of 3 acceptances per title.

All other acceptances, including judging credit, will be listed on applications for **new** awards and the new criteria will apply.

HOW TO APPLY FOR THE CONVERSION

- 1 Determine if the current star rating for the division requires a conversion. Applications for conversion can be sent after July 1, 2010 or with the application for additional awards.
- 2 Determine which acceptances must be claimed during the conversion to prevent their loss. They must be valid under the old requirements but not under the new criteria. (i.e. – if working on a galaxy requiring 4 acceptances per title, only four acceptances can be claimed for that title).
- 3 Prepare a listing of the acceptances determined in Step #2
 - a Sort by year, then alphabetically by exhibition
 - b Number the acceptances
 - c Label each page with name and “Conversion Acceptances”
- 4 Prepare a complete, alphabetical list of all titles used for all stars including conversion titles.
- 5 There is no fee for the conversion.
- 6 Send the following to the Star Ratings Director
 - a. Prior approved acceptance list.
 - b. Prior approved titles list.
 - c. Copy of Membership Card
 - d. Conversion acceptance listing
 - e. Complete titles list.
 - f. Name as it is to appear on the certificate(s) and an e-mail address if available.
7. New levels attained will not be listed in the PSA Journal, nor will tabs, medals, pins nor trophies be issued. Certificates will be issued for all new levels and the cover letter will indicate the amount of carry-forward due to the conversion.
8. If applying for additional awards, proper application and applicable fees must be included.

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Schedule A: UPAC (Part A) II DIVISIONAL STAR RATINGS STANDARDS

<i>Star Rating</i>	<i>Additional Titles</i>	<i>Cumulative Titles</i>	<i>Cumulative Acceptances</i>
1	6	6	18
2	6	12	36
3	12	24	72
4	24	48	144
5	48	96	288
Galaxy 1	25 new titles with 3 acceptances each	121	363
Galaxy 2	25 new titles with 3 acceptances each	146	438
Galaxy 3	25 new titles with 3 acceptances each	171	513
Galaxy 4	25 new titles with 3 acceptances each	196	588
Galaxy 5	25 new titles with 3 acceptances each	221	663
Galaxy 6	50 new titles with 3 acceptances each	271	813
Galaxy 7	50 new titles with 3 acceptances each	321	963
Galaxy 8	50 new titles with 3 acceptances each	371	1113
Galaxy 9	50 new titles with 3 acceptances each	421	1263
Galaxy 10	50 new titles with 3 acceptances each	471	1413
Diamond 1	50 new titles with 6 acceptances each	521	1713
Diamond 2	50 new titles with 6 acceptances each	571	2013
Diamond 3	50 new titles with 6 acceptances each	621	2313
Diamond 4	50 new titles with 6 acceptances each	671	2613
Diamond 5	50 new titles with 6 acceptances each	721	2913
Diamond 6	75 new titles with 6 acceptances each	796	3363
Diamond 7	75 new titles with 6 acceptances each	871	3813
Diamond 8	75 new titles with 6 acceptances each	946	4263
Diamond 9	75 new titles with 6 acceptances each	1021	4713
Diamond 10	75 new titles with 6 acceptances each	1096	5163