

# APS Skill Honours

(Draft 4)

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## PART A: APS SKILL HONOURS: INTRODUCTION

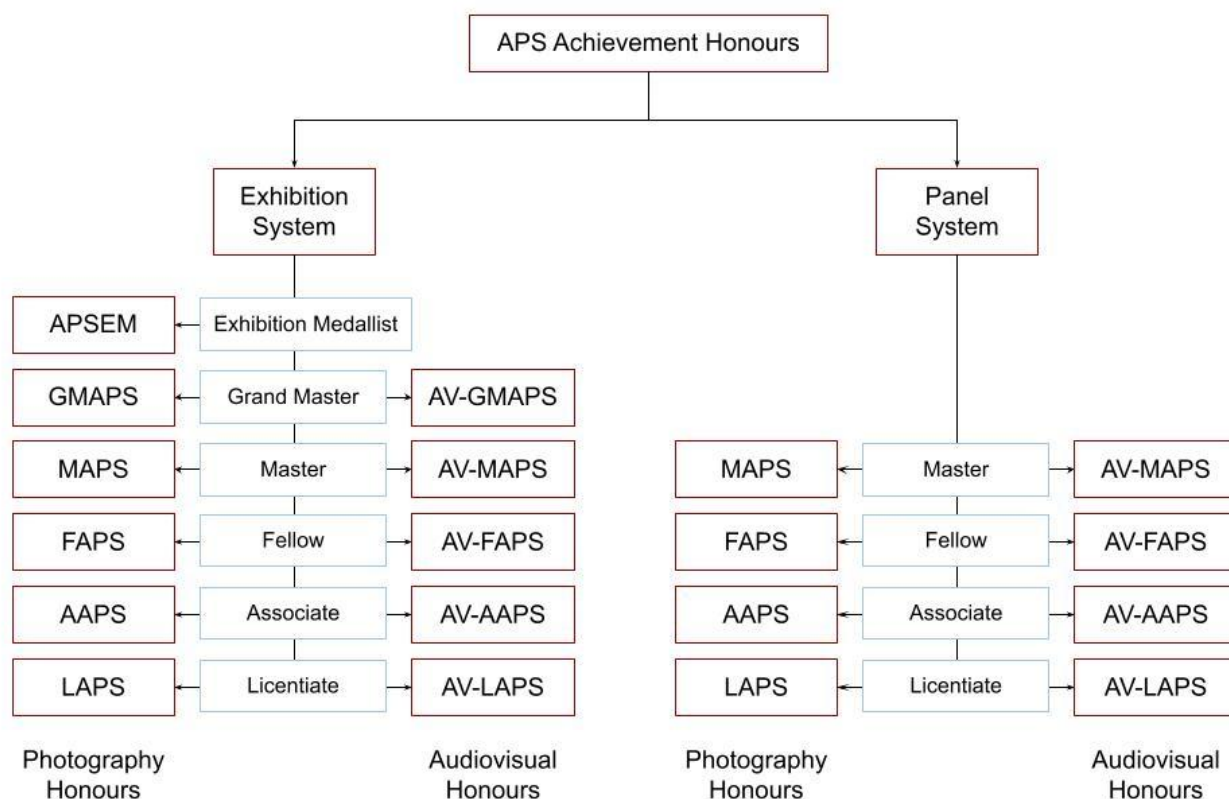
### A1. Overview

APS Honours are managed by the APS Honours Subcommittee (HSC) and awarded by the APS Management Committee on the recommendation of the HSC. The APS awards both Service and Skill Honours. Service Honours recognise the contributions of individuals to the photographic community while Skill Honours recognise the achievements of individual APS members. Skill Honours provide individuals the incentive to improve the quality of their work and recognition of that quality and their achievements from their peers. If they are a member of a local photography club, the club also benefits from this recognition and the role-model contributions of the individual.

Honours are available for both Photography and Audiovisual (AV) achievements. At its most basic, an AV is a video sequence of still images with a soundtrack. AVs provide another dimension to photography, requiring additional time and effort to produce, reflected in different target numbers between equivalent Photography and AV Skill Honours.

Skill Honours are assessed by either:

- a. Exhibition system: The individual's documented evidence of performance at National and International Photography and Audiovisual Exhibitions, covered in [Part B: Honours via the Exhibition System](#). This is the most common path to Honours.
- b. Panel system: The assessment by an *ad hoc* Panel of a portfolio of work submitted by the individual that is strongly indicative of their overall performance. Panel Honours are detailed in [Part C: Honours via the Panel System](#).



## A2. Summary Table of Requirements for APS Skill Honours

This table is to be used as a quick reference guide only.  
Read the details in the relevant sections of this document.

REQUIREMENTS FOR APS Skill HonourS BY EXHIBITION														
Honour sought→	Licentiate		Associate		Fellow		Master		Grand Master		Exhibitor Medal			
	LAPS	AV-LAPS	AAPS	AV-AAPS	FAPS	AV-FAPS	MAPS	AV-MAPS	GMAPS	AV-GMAPS	APSEM	/b	/s	/g
Use Titles from previous Honours?	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Use National Acceptances?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
# Acceptances	50	20 <sup>1</sup>	100	30 <sup>1</sup>	200	20	300	25	300	25	600	100	100	100
# Inclusive Australian Acceptances	5		10		20		30		30		60	60	60	60
# Titles of Acceptances						8		10		10				
# National Awards & Titles			5 <sup>2</sup>	3		6 <sup>3</sup>								
# International Awards & Titles					10	2	15	6	20	8	30	40	50	60
# Countries of Awards					5		7		9		10	10	10	10

1 For AVs only: 1 International Acceptance counts as 2 Acceptances and 1 National Acceptance counts as 1 Acceptance

2 No limits on Australian International Award substitutions but overseas International Award substitutions limited to 2 per country.

3 No minimum requirement on number of Titles

REQUIREMENTS FOR APS Skill HonourS BY PANEL									
Honour sought→	Licentiate		Associate		Fellow		Master		
	LAPS	AV-LAPS	AAPS	AV-AAPS	FAPS	AV-FAPS	MAPS	AV-MAPS	
# Titles submitted	10 - 12	3-4	20 - 25	4-5	40 - 45	8-10	30	6	
# National Acceptance standard	10	All	20	All					
# National Award standard			5	3					
# International Acceptance standard					40	All			
# International Award standard					10	3	30 <sup>1</sup>	6	
Aggregate AV running time (minutes)		12-30		16-40		32-80			

1 Submitted as a Main folio of 20 images and a Supporting Folio of 10 images

### A3. Approved Exhibitions & Terminology

For the purposes of this document:

- c. A **National** is an Australian-based National Exhibition that must have an APS Approval Number. Most countries run their own Nationals, but results from these are not permitted in APS Honours.
- d. An **International** is International Exhibition, or a section of an International Exhibition, that is specifically approved by any of the following organisations:

- APS** Australian Photographic Society
  - FIAP** The International Federation of Photographic Art
  - RPS** Royal Photographic Society
  - PSA** Photographic Society of America
  - PSNZ** Photographic Society of New Zealand
- Specific to AVs:
- FPF** Fédération Photographique de France
  - FIAF** Federazione Italiana Associazioni Fotografiche
  - PAGB** Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

Note: *Salon* is a commonly used European term for an Exhibition

- e. Throughout this document, the term **Australian** refers to a National or International that is run in Australia and has an APS Approval Number.
- f. The table below indicates the Australian Nationals and Internationals that regularly run with APS Approval Numbers<sup>1</sup>. Results from these Exhibitions would count as Australian Acceptances or Awards for Honours via the Exhibition System.

Australian Nationals & Internationals	Achievement Honour													
	LAPS	AV-LAPS	AAPS	AV-AAPS	FAPS	AV-FAPS	MAPS	AV-MAPS	GMAPS	AV-GMAPS	APSEM	APSEM/b	APSEM/s	APSEM/g
<b>Nationals</b>														
Newcastle National	✓		✓											
Warragul National Photographic Competition and Exhibition	✓		✓											
Sutherland Shire National Exhibition of Photography	✓		✓											
Australian Cup for Australian Photographic Clubs	✓		✓											
Silver Lining Awards	✓		✓											
Perth National Photographic Exhibition	✓		✓											
APS AV National		✓		✓		✓								
APS AV Autumn National		✓		✓		✓								
APS AV Spring National		✓		✓		✓								
<b>Internationals</b>														
Maitland International Salon of Print Photography	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
VIGEX International Digital Photographic Salon	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Maitland International Salon of Digital Photography	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Queensland International Digital Circuit - Gold Coast	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Queensland International Digital Circuit - Maryborough	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Queensland International Digital Circuit - Mt Gravatt	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Queensland International Digital Circuit - Townsville	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Tricontinental Circuit - Australia	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Lake Macquarie International Circuit - Newcastle	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Lake Macquarie International Circuit - Wangi	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Lake Macquarie International Circuit - Belmont	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
On The Way International Salon	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Adelaide International AV Fest		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓				

<sup>1</sup> Annually approved APS exhibitions are listed here: <https://www.a-p-s.org.au/index.php/aps-approval-numbers>

## PART B: HONOURS VIA THE EXHIBITION SYSTEM

### B1. Honours Targets

Honours are granted according to separate numerical **targets** for **Acceptances** and **Awards** from Nationals and Internationals, either gained at those Exhibitions or assessed by a Panel to be of equivalent standard, sometimes from a specified minimum number of different **Titles**. Photography Honours may also qualify these targets by specifying a minimum number of different **Countries** where these Exhibitions were organised. For Photography Honours, the applicant may also substitute **Judging Credits** for a small proportion of the Acceptances target.

#### a. # Titles

Every entry in a submission must have a title. In Exhibition Honours, it is quite common for one title to contribute multiple Acceptances gained from different Exhibitions. A target that specifies a number of different Titles means the required number of entries with unique titles.

- i. Different titles must be sufficiently different to avoid confusion, e.g. *Bird Flying*, *Birds Flying*, *Bird Flying 2* and *Bird Flying #1* are all unacceptably similar. If similar titles are inadvertently used they will be treated as the same title, reducing the Applicant's tally.
- ii. Most Exhibitions specify restrictions on the length of a title and will automatically truncate titles that exceed this length, potentially producing the problem outlined above. Restricting title length to 30 characters is advised.
- iii. *Untitled* and numerals-only titles are not allowed.
- iv. Any entry used in an application that has gained Acceptances or Awards at multiple different Exhibitions must have the same title across all those Exhibitions, regardless of how that entry has been edited. Flouting this requirement is considered a serious offence by all organisations listed in [A3\(b\)](#), and may result in disciplinary action.

#### b. # Acceptances

- i. There is no time limit on the accumulation of Acceptances.
- ii. From 2000 onwards, Acceptances and Awards in sections of Nationals which are not available to all entrants (e.g. novice or local) may not be counted.

#### c. # Awards

- i. There is no time limit on the accumulation of Awards
- ii. Awards are defined as 1st, 2nd, 3rd placings, Trophies, Medals, Diplomas, Judge's Choice, Certificates of Merit, Honorable Mentions or Highly Commended awards.
- iii. A title that wins an Award will have also gained an Acceptance at the same Exhibition. The Award can only count toward a relevant Award target and the Acceptance can only count toward a relevant Acceptance target.

#### d. # Countries of Awards

To ensure that the senior APS Honours genuinely represent an international achievement, they specify a minimum number of countries from which results must be obtained. Each country that an international circuit runs in can count toward this target. For Circuits or Exhibitions in the United Kingdom, specify the country as England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland according to where the Exhibition is being conducted - these locations will be accepted as separate countries for the

purposes of Awards.

**e. Jointly Authored AVs**

Jointly authored titles can only be used in AV Exhibition Honours applications and will contribute a pro rata share to any targets for Acceptances, Awards and Titles.

**f. Judging Credits (for Photographic Honours only)**

Judging at National and International Exhibitions may contribute to Photography APS Skill Honours as follows:

- i. 2 Judging Credits are earned per judged section of a National or International.
- ii. 1 National Judging Credit can count as 1 National Acceptance.
- iii. 1 International Judging Credit can count as 1 National or International Acceptance.
- iv. Judging Credits cannot count toward any Australian Acceptance targets, and are limited to 5% of all other Acceptance targets,
- v. Refer to [Part D Verification](#) for details on how to manage and claim Judging Credits.

**B2. Application Process:**

- a. Prior to submitting a formal application, Applicants must have their Acceptances and Awards confirmed by an APS Verifying Officer. Refer to the [Part D: Verification](#).
- b. For details on lodging an application, refer to [Part C 9. Preparing & Lodging an Application](#). There is no closing date for applications for Skill Honours by Exhibition; applications may be submitted at any time.

**B3. Licentiate (LAPS & AV-LAPS) (Blue badge)**

- a. This Honour recognises the skilled author.
- b. The Applicant must be an APS Member when applying for this honour.
- c. **Target for LAPS**  
50 National Acceptances, of which at least 5 must be from Australian Exhibitions. International Acceptances may be substituted, with 1 International Acceptance deemed equivalent to 1 National Acceptance.
- d. **Target for AV-LAPS**  
20 National Acceptances. International Acceptances may be substituted, with 1 International Acceptance deemed equivalent to 2 National Acceptances.

**B4. Associate (AAPS & AV-AAPS) (Green badge)**

- a. This Honour recognises the accomplished author.
- b. The Applicant must be an APS Member when applying for this honour.
- c. Acceptances and Awards used in prior successful Licentiate Panel or Exhibition Honours applications may be used in this application.
- d. **Targets for AAPS**
  - i. 100 National Acceptances of which at least 10 must be from Australian Exhibitions. International Acceptances may be substituted, with 1 International Acceptance deemed equivalent to 1 National Acceptance.
  - ii. 5 National or International Awards from 5 different Titles. No more than 2 Awards are claimable from any one country other than Australia, which is unlimited.
- e. **Targets for AV-AAPS**
  - i. 30 National Acceptances. International Acceptances may be substituted, with

- 1 International Acceptance deemed equivalent to 2 National Acceptances.
- ii. 3 National or International Awards from 3 different Titles.

#### **B5. Fellow (FAPS & AV-FAPS) (Red badge)**

- a. This Honour recognises the polished author who has achieved a noteworthy National and International record of success.
- b. The Applicant must have been an APS member for at least one year prior to applying for this honour.
- c. International Acceptances and Awards used by the Applicant in prior successful Licentiate and Associate applications may be used in a Fellow application, but National Acceptances and Awards used previously cannot.
- d. **Targets for FAPS**
  - i. 200 International Acceptances, of which at least 20 must be from Australian Internationals.
  - ii. 10 International Awards from 10 different Titles and at least 5 different countries.
- e. **Targets for AV-FAPS**
  - i. 20 International Acceptances from 8 different Titles.
  - ii. The Applicant can choose one of the following options:
    - 1. 3 International Awards from 3 different AVs, or
    - 2. 6 National Awards, plus 2 International Awards from 2 different Titles.

#### **B6. Master (MAPS & AV-MAPS) (Orange badge)**

- a. The Master Honour recognises the outstanding author who continues to achieve impressive International success.
- b. The Applicant must have been an APS member for at least one year prior to applying for APS Master.
- c. Already hold the relevant FAPS or AV-FAPS (there is no minimum period).
- d. No Titles used by the Applicant in prior successful Panel or Exhibition Honours may be included in this application<sup>2</sup>.
- e. **Targets for MAPS**
  - i. 300 International Acceptances, of which at least 30 must be from Australian Internationals.
  - ii. 15 International Awards from 15 different Titles and at least 7 different countries.
- f. **Targets for AV-MAPS**
  - i. 25 International Acceptances from at least 10 different Titles.
  - ii. 6 International Awards from 6 different Titles.

#### **B7. Grand Master (GMAPS & AV-GMAPS) (Platinum badge)**

- a. The Grand Master Honour recognises the exceptional author who has reached the highest standing among international exhibitors with an extensive record of success.
- b. The Applicant must have been an APS member for at least one year prior to applying for APS Grand Master.
- c. Already hold the relevant MAPS or AV-MAPS (there is no minimum period).
- d. No Titles used by the Applicant in prior successful Panel or Exhibition Honours may

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<sup>2</sup> For FAPS applications, Acceptances gained before 2017 do not require new titles.

be included in this application.

**e. Targets for GMAPS**

- i. 300 International Acceptances, of which at least 30 must be from Australian Internationals.
- ii. 20 International Awards from 20 different Titles and at least 9 different countries.

**f. Targets for AV-GMAPS**

- i. 25 International Acceptances from at least 10 different Titles.
- ii. 8 International Awards from 8 different Titles.

**B8. APS Exhibitor's Medal (APSEM): Photography Only**

- a. The APS Exhibitor's Medal (APSEM) is an Honour intended to provide a challenge for the very highest level of APS Exhibitor.
- b. The applicant must have been an APS Member, and held GMAPS, for at least one year immediately prior to applying for APSEM.
- c. Already hold GMAPS (there is no minimum period).
- d. No Titles used by the Applicant in prior successful Panel or Exhibition Honours may be included in this application.
- e. There is no Exhibitor's Medal currently for Audiovisuals

**f. Targets for APSEM**

- i. 600 International acceptances, of which at least 60 must be from Australian Internationals, from at least 100 different titles.
- ii. 30 International Awards from 30 different Titles and at least 10 different countries.

**B9. APS Exhibitor's Bronze Medal (APSEM/b): Photography Only**

- a. The applicant must have been an APS Member for at least one year immediately prior to applying for this honour.
- b. Already hold APSEM (there is no minimum period).
- c. No Titles used by the Applicant in prior successful Panel or Exhibition Honours may be included in this application.

**d. Targets for APSEM/b**

- i. 100 International acceptances, of which at least 60 must be from Australian Internationals, from at least 100 different titles.
- ii. 40 International Awards from 40 different Titles and at least 10 different countries.

**B10. APS Exhibitor's Silver Medal (APSEM/s): Photography Only**

- a. The applicant must have been an APS Member for at least one year immediately prior to applying for this honour.
- b. Already hold APSEM/b (there is no minimum period).
- c. No Titles used by the Applicant in prior successful Panel or Exhibition Honours may be included in this application.

**d. Targets for APSEM/s**

- i. 100 International acceptances, of which at least 60 must be from Australian Internationals, from at least 100 different titles.
- ii. 50 International Awards from 50 different Titles and at least 10 different



countries.

**B11. APS Exhibitor's Gold Medal (APSEM/g): Photography Only**

- a. The applicant must have been an APS Member for at least one year immediately prior to applying for this honour.
- b. Already hold APSEM/s (there is no minimum period).
- c. No Titles used by the Applicant in prior successful Panel or Exhibition Honours may be included in this application.
- d. **Targets for APSEM/g**
  - i. 100 International acceptances, of which at least 60 must be from Australian Internationals, from at least 100 different titles.
  - ii. 60 International Awards from 60 different Titles and at least 10 different countries.

## PART C: HONOURS VIA THE PANEL SYSTEM

### C1. General

- a. The HSC will convene one or more Panels of 5 nationally and internationally experienced photographers or AV authors, as required. The HSC will consult with the Chair of the APS AV Group Council regarding the composition of an AV Panel, which will include a member of that Council where practicable.
- b. The Panel System operates in parallel with the Exhibition System, providing an alternative pathway to APS Skill Honours. Panel Honours do not require that any submitted titles have previously gained Acceptances or Awards at any Exhibition. The standards of Panel and Exhibition Honours are designed to be equivalent.
- c. The Panel assesses a folio of Titles that is expected to be unambiguously representative of the individual's work. As such, jointly authored titles are not permitted in a Panel Application and are only permitted in an AV Exhibition Application.
- d. If any Titles submitted as part of a Panel application have already gained Acceptances or Awards at National or International Exhibitions, the Applicant may submit a record of these results with the application. This record must have been verified by an APS Verifying Officer as detailed in [Part D Verification](#), and will only be drawn to the attention of Panel members if the Panel is not satisfied that the application meets the requirements for that Honour.

### C2. Specifications for Panel Applications

#### a. Photograph Specifications

- i. Image size 1920 x 1080 pixels, JPEG format, sRGB colour space, 2MB file size limit
- ii. File names must be numbered sequentially together with the honour sought, e.g. 01\_LAPS.jpg, 02\_LAPS.jpg, etc. The original image title is not to be used.
- iii. All photographs, and all components of composite images, must have been taken by the Applicant.
- iv. All images must be from different captures and must be distinctly different from each other. If the Panel forms the view that 2 or more of the images in an application are essentially the same image, the application may be rejected.

#### b. AV Specifications

Applicants are advised to study the entry requirements for AVs in National and International AV Exhibitions and the training materials available via the APS website. The minimum mandatory requirements for all AVs submitted as part of any AV Honours Panel application are:

- i. The duration of each AV must be between 2 and 12 minutes.
- ii. AVs must be in the MP4 file format with a maximum resolution of 1920 x 1080 pixels, produced in sRGB.
- iii. Whilst there are no restrictions on subject matter, an AV must be suitable for public display and cannot be a slideshow sequence of unrelated images.

- iv. All credits must be at the end of the AV. The author's name is optional. All other third-party contributions must be credited appropriately.
- v. Third-party images should be used only where they are important to the story and where it was not possible for the author to have captured those images.
- vi. Video clip inserts are allowed in AVs if they add significantly to the story but must not exceed 20% of the total duration of the AV. This limit excludes simulated motion, timelapse photography, computer-generated transitions or other similar mechanisms designed to simulate movement, which are all acceptable AV components.
- vii. Authors should own the copyright of all material in their AV, or have permission to use such material from the copyright owners of that material

### **C3. Licentiate (LAPS & AV-LAPS) (Blue badge)**

- a. The Applicant must be an APS Member when applying for this Honour.
- b. For Panel support, the application must receive at least 3 of the possible 5 votes.
- c. **Requirements for LAPS**
  - i. The Applicant must submit between 10 and 12 digital images.
  - ii. From 2023, have obtained a minimum of two acceptances earned in National or International exhibitions. The image(s) used to gain these acceptances may be used in the panel submission.
  - iii. Each Panel member votes on whether they consider that any 10 of the images are of National Acceptance standard.
- d. **Requirements for AV-LAPS**
  - i. The Applicant must submit three or four AVs, whichever is the lowest number that results in an aggregate duration between 12 to 30 minutes.
  - ii. Each Panel member votes on whether they consider that all the AVs are of National Acceptance standard.

### **C4. Associate (AV-AAPS) (Green badge)**

- a. The Applicant must be an APS Member when applying for AV-AAPS.
- b. Titles used in a prior successful Panel or Exhibition Honours application may be included in this application.
- c. For Panel support, the application must receive at least 3 of the possible 5 votes.
- d. **Requirements for AAPS**
  - i. The Applicant must submit between 20 and 25 digital images.
  - ii. From 2023, have obtained a minimum of four acceptances earned in National or International exhibitions. The image(s) used to gain these acceptances may be used in the panel submission.
  - iii. Each Panel member votes on whether the submission satisfies both:
    - 1. Any 20 of the images are at least of National Acceptance standard.
    - 2. Any 5 of the images are at least of National Award standard.
  - iv. If the application is not approved and the Applicant does not hold LAPS, the Panel may offer the lower honour of LAPS. To judge the application for the lower honour, only the first twelve images listed in the application shall be assessed.
- e. **Requirements for AV-AAPS**
  - i. The Applicant must submit four or five AVs, whichever is the lowest number that results in an aggregate duration between 16 to 40 minutes.

- ii. Each Panel member votes on whether they consider that any 3 of the AVs are at least of National Award standard, with the remaining AVs at least of National Acceptance standard.

#### **C5. Fellow (AV-FAPS) (Red badge)**

- a. The Applicant must have been an APS member for at least one year prior to applying for this Honour.
- b. Titles used in prior successful applications for Panel or Exhibition honours may be included in this application.
- c. For Panel support, the application must receive at least 4 of the possible 5 votes.
- d. **Requirements for FAPS**
  - i. The Applicant must submit between 40 and 45 digital images.
  - ii. From 2023, have obtained a minimum of eight acceptances earned in International exhibitions. The image(s) used to gain these acceptances may be used in the panel submission.
  - iii. Each Panel member votes on whether the submission satisfies both:
    - 1. Any 40 of the images are at least of National Acceptance standard.
    - 2. Any 10 of the images are at least of National Award standard.
- e. **Requirements for AV-FAPS**
  - i. At least one of the five-member Panel will be an internationally distinguished AV creator.
  - ii. The Applicant must submit between eight to ten AVs, whichever is the lowest number that results in an aggregate duration between 32 to 80 minutes.
  - iii. Each Panel member votes on whether they consider that any 3 of the AVs are of International Award standard, with the remaining AVs at least of International Acceptance standard.

#### **C6. Master (MAPS & AV-MAPS) (Orange badge)**

- a. The Applicant must have been an APS member for at least one year prior to applying for AV-MAPS.
- b. Already hold AV-FAPS (no minimum period).
- c. No titles used by the Applicant in prior successful Panel or Exhibition Honours may be included in this application.
- d. For Panel support, the application must receive at least 4 of the possible 5 votes.
- e. **Requirements for MAPS**
  - i. The Applicant must submit a main folio of 20 colour or monochrome images on a theme of their choice that demonstrates their photographic skills, talent, creativity and personal interpretation. This is to be accompanied by an artist's statement that describes the subject and the creative conception of the photographer.
  - ii. A supporting folio of 10 monochrome or colour images must also be submitted. It is preferable that the supporting folio is of the same subject matter, otherwise a further artist's statement is required. APS recognises that few photographers achieve the same standard in both colour and monochrome media so the supporting folio will not be accorded the same critical evaluation as the main folio.
  - iii. Each Panel member votes on whether they consider that the main folio is of sufficient merit to warrant the MAPS honour and also that, as a guide, the

quality of the supporting folio is at least of an International Acceptance standard.

**f. Requirements for AV-MAPS**

- i. At least three of the five-member Panel will be internationally distinguished AV creators based overseas.
- ii. The Applicant must submit six AVs.
- iii. Each Panel member votes on whether they consider that all six of the AVs are of International Award standard.

## PART D: VERIFICATION

### D1. Overview

The various target requirements and considerations for all APS Exhibition Honours applications are as detailed in [B1. Honours Target](#), and are considered here in the categories of:

- a. Result Records (covering targets for Acceptances, Awards, Titles & Countries)
- b. Judging Credit Records.

### D2. Verifiable Result Records

All Result Records claimed in an Exhibition Honours application must be verified as genuine before the application can be submitted. Similarly, if a Panel Honours Applicant chooses to provide supporting evidence of prior Exhibition results, as described in [C 1\(d\)](#), the relevant Results Records must also be verified as genuine before the application can be submitted.

All Result Records are provided in spreadsheet form by the Applicant as follows:

For LAPS, AAPS, FAPS: complete form [AED1](#). See the [Sample AED1](#)

For MAPS, GMAPS by Exhibition: complete forms [AED3](#) & [AED5](#). See [Sample AED3](#)

For APSEM by Exhibition: complete forms [AED4](#) & [AED5](#)

For all AV Exhibition Honours: completed forms [AED2](#). See [Sample AED2](#). For AV\_MAPS and AV-GMAPS also complete form: [AED5](#)

Each Result Record corresponds to a single Acceptance and must contain:

- a. The Title  
Be careful to spell this correctly. A misspelling could result in the record not being verified.
- b. Award(s) if gained  
Although multiple Awards may be listed, only one Award per Title is claimable.
- c. The Country (see [D8\(d\) Approval Codes](#))
- d. The Exhibition Name  
Usually in abbreviated form, e.g. *Southampton* instead of the *105th Southampton International Exhibition of Photography*. The Approval code identifies the year and name. Do not use 1st, 5th 25th XXVI etc.
- e. The Approval Code:  
Must be in the correct format as this is used to interrogate the database, e.g. APS 2017/00, FIAP 2017/000 or PSA 2017-000 (PSA 2021-0000 for exhibitions after 1/1/2021)
- f. In the absence of an Approval Code, a link to the Exhibition catalogue/website list, as

detailed in below.

### **D3. Verifiable Judging Credit Records**

Where an Applicant optionally chooses to include Judging Credits in their application, these are provided by the Applicant in spreadsheet form (form [AED6](#)). Each Judging Credit record must include:

- a. The Exhibition name (usually in abbreviated form, e.g. *Southampton* instead of *105th Southampton International Exhibition of Photography.* )
- b. The Approval Code ( e.g. FIAP 2021-426)
- c. The sections judged
- d. A link to the Exhibition catalogue/website list with details of where the Applicant's name is listed as a Judge, or a hard-copy page from the Exhibition catalog.
- e. The claimed credit.

### **D4. Retired Records**

The different Honours levels applications may preclude the inclusion of titles or credits used in prior successful applications, in which case these Titles or credits are considered as retired and cannot be used again. APS maintains its own Retired Titles and Retired Credits database. but the onus is on the Applicant to maintain their own detailed records to ensure retired items are not included (see form [AED5](#)).

### **D5. Registration**

As detailed in [Part E: Preparing & Lodging an Application](#), via the APS website the Applicant must first register their intent to submit an application.

### **D6. Verification by a Verification Officer (VO)**

APS appoints certain members around Australia to provide a verification service to applicants. The Applicant directly approaches one of these APS-approved Verification Officers (VO) (listed in <https://www.a-p-s.org.au/index.php/verifying-officers>) to have their records verified. Any specific VO may not always be available but there are many VOs listed to try. Do not send your application to more than one VO at the same time.

The relevant spreadsheet form is to be sent to the VO via email. The Applicant must make it very clear to the VO the specifics of the Honours being sought.

To verify each Result Record claimed, the VO will use official results databases, such as those from FIAP and PSA, or official Exhibition results lists such as those shown in Exhibition catalogues or on the Exhibition websites the Applicant has listed. Judging Credit Records are checked by the VO against the Exhibition information supplied. All Records are checked against the APS Retired Records database of the Applicant to ensure compliance with the Honour sought and removed or verified as necessary.

As each record is verified, it is digitally initialled by the VO. When verification checks are complete, with the agreement of the Applicant, the VO will lodge the form with the relevant APS Official. The VO will advise you which results cannot be verified using the database and therefore which catalogues you must provide. The VO may request that you supply scanned copies of results that do not appear in the database.

VOs may correct or delete any records as necessary. The Applicant may be required to amend the form if, upon initial inspection, the form has not been completed or has been completed incorrectly. Only verified records are claimable.

As per other roles within the APS, VO's perform this task on a voluntary basis to assist other members of APS and Australian FIAP Distinction applicants. Applicants are asked to be considerate of the VO's time and availability. Not all VOs are available for verification of Web catalogues.

#### **D7. Special Appointment of a One-off Verification Officer (SVO)**

Where an application requires physical catalogues for verification, and the applicant is located a significant distance from their nearest APS Verifying Officer, the Honours Sub Committee Chairman may, at his/her discretion, appoint an appropriate APS member, who is located closer to the applicant, to undertake the verification for the applicant on a one-off basis. Contact should be made well in advance of the closing date for applications should a SVO be required, as it may take time to select and brief a suitable APS member to be an SVO. It is not always possible for an appropriate SVO to be found but if verification can be undertaken this way it will avoid the considerable expense of posting catalogues.

#### **D8. Some Practical Issues**

##### **a. Number of Acceptance Result Records**

In an Exhibition Honours application you may include up to 20 additional Result Records for Acceptances to that required for the Honour sought (except when applying for APSEM levels). Some Result Records may be culled in the verification process and excess verified records will also be culled, but may be used in future Honours applications (subject of course to the requirements of those Honours).

##### **b. Approved Sections of an Exhibition**

PSA may not always recognise all sections in an Exhibition. In such cases, only the results from "PSA recognised" sections can be used unless the whole Exhibition is approved by one of the other organisations listed here. In rare cases Exhibition catalogues, for Exhibitions with just PSA approval, may fail to indicate which sections had PSA recognition. In this instance it is necessary for the applicant to provide further proof of recognition for each Exhibition section. The Exhibition entry form or possibly the report card may provide this proof. National results can only be claimed where the Exhibition is APS approved.

##### **c. Have Patience**

FIAP Distinctions applications close on 28th February each year. Many applicants seek verification in February. Verification of each application usually takes a number of hours or even several days if errors are found. Applicants need to complete their applications and organise verification in good time to avoid disappointment in the final weeks. APS Honours applicants should be aware that Verifying Officers are particularly busy in January and February.

The work of compiling the FIAP and PSA databases is an enormous burden on the volunteers undertaking this work. Sometimes it is the work of just one person.

Considering the number of exhibitions world-wide, it is inevitable that there are, or will be, delays in this information being available for verification purposes. For this reason it is important for you to download the official web catalogue from the official website of the organizer, or use the link that some exhibitions provide by informing you by email that the official catalogue is available. If your results cannot be verified by a database, paper catalogue, CD, USB or the official web catalogue you may have to wait until results are available before submitting your application. Report cards cannot be used except in exceptional circumstances.

**d. Approval Code Issues**

APS numbers are used for Australian Nationals only. For Australian Internationals, and other Internationals FIAP numbers are used, except for PSA only exhibitions which use PSA numbers. If not approved by FIAP or PSA, then use the other organisation's approval number. Australian International exhibitions also require the APS No. in the appropriate column. If no APS No. is listed, the acceptances cannot be counted towards Australian International acceptances, but they can still be used as other acceptances.

FIAP circuits show each country recognised with its own FIAP Approval No. (See <http://patronages.fiap.net/salons.html>)

Because PSA only recognises the country organising a circuit, please record PSA circuits held in more than one country, like the example below. If a circuit is in one country the names of the salons within the circuit should still be shown. In each instance only one PSA number will be shown.

Stampeding Horses	Digitalna Arhiva - Kotor 2017	Montenegro PSA 2017-109
Men of the Outback	Digitalna Arhiva - Bundoran 2017	Ireland PSA 2017-109
Birds of Prey	Digitalna Arhiva - Kula 2017	Serbia PSA 2017-109
City Skyline	Digitalna Arhiva - Vukovar 2017	Croatia PSA 2017-109

**D9. Approved Official Exhibition Records**

**a. Overview**

Only approved official records of Exhibition results may be used to verify claimed results. Results that cannot be verified by any of the approaches detailed below cannot be included. Results from Exhibitions without Patronage/Approval of the relevant organisation(s) cannot be included.

**b. Database Verification**

Almost all the results from Internationals under FIAP Patronage are available from the FIAP Database. If an application only lists such results, a VO can use the database to completely verify the application. Such records can be fully verified by communication with a VO via email. The PSA database is also available to VO's. Catalogues should still be retained in case they are needed to resolve omissions or other discrepancies in the database.

**c. Online Catalogues and Results Lists Verification**

Many Exhibitions around the world do not produce a physical catalogue. Such



Exhibitions often provide the official results of their Exhibition on their website, either in the form of web pages that can be viewed, documents that can be downloaded or website catalogues.

If these results are still on the web when you seek verification of your application, Verification Officers may be able to access the Exhibition website records directly. If this is the case then please provide links to the Exhibition homepage so they can certify they are on the official website and specific directions to locate the results. If an application only lists such results, a VO can use the Exhibition websites to completely verify the application. Such records can be fully verified by communication with a VO over email.

Website results are often only available on the web for a limited period of time, which may be a few months or years so the catalogue must be downloaded by an applicant as soon as possible.

To enable verification via web catalogues applicants must be able to provide evidence to a VO of the Exhibition name, approval, country and the applicant's acceptances and awards. Verification of downloaded web catalogues will be carried out at the same time as verification of printed and CD/DVD catalogues.

- i. Where a single pdf catalogue is provided on the website download the entire catalogue.
- ii. Where catalogues are provided for individual sections of an Exhibition, download all sections in which the applicant has acceptances and awards.
- iii. Rename the downloaded catalogue file to correspond with the Exhibition name and year shown in the acceptance list e.g. Sydney International 2013.

HSC maintains records of a number of web catalogues which cannot be used for verification purposes but which may be called upon for review by a VO who has any concerns regarding the veracity of a web catalogue presented for verification by an applicant. Should it be discovered that a web catalogue presented by an applicant does not match the original web catalogue, HSC may refer the matter to APS Ethics.

#### **d. Exhibition Catalogues Verification**

Depending on the individual VO, they may require you to accompany your catalogues to assist with the verification task, and resolve any issues found on the documents. The completed application is provided to the VO via email or on USB. Where significant travel distances are involved, or at the VO's discretion, catalogues and documents may be posted or dropped off and collected once verification is complete.

If verification of results using databases or the web are not possible, and personal delivery of catalogues to a VO or SVO is also not possible, the catalogues the Applicant must be scanned into PDF documents and sent to the VO via WeTransfer, with instructions to the VO on which page the relevant information is located.

## PART E: PREPARING & LODGING AN APPLICATION

### E1. The First Step

Study the [A2. Summary Table](#) to get an indication of the requirements for a particular honour then read the relevant sections of this document. Gather all relevant achievements and information related to the requirements of the Honour sought to see if you are on track to meet those requirements.

### E2. APS Honours Registration

To assist with planning, an intending Applicant must first register for APS Honours on the website at <https://www.a-p-s.org.au/index.php/member-services/honours/aps-honours>. When submitting information to the Verifying Officer, the VO will confirm registration before accepting the submission.

Thoroughly read the sections of this document relevant to the Honour sought and download the relevant Result Records and Application form. If applying for Master or above, download AED5 Retired Titles List. Discard and replace APS documents that were downloaded prior to registering as they are periodically updated. Read [Part D Verification](#).

### E3. Lodging Exhibition Honours

Exhibition Honours applications can be lodged at any time by the VO on behalf of the Applicant, after the claimed results have been verified. Enquiries can be directed to:

#### Exhibition System Coordinator

Email: [aps.skill.honours@a-p-s.org.au](mailto:aps.skill.honours@a-p-s.org.au)

### E4. Lodging Panel Honours

APS Panel Honours Submissions (clearly labelled “APS Honours Submission”) are to be sent via WeTransfer (a free online service at <https://wetransfer.com/>) to the Panel System Coordinator, to arrive by the closing date 31st March each year:

#### Panel System Coordinator & Secretary of APS

Secretary PO Box 79, Ermington, NSW 1700

Email is: [secretary@a-p-s.org.au](mailto:secretary@a-p-s.org.au)

Office Phone 02 9890 9795 9:30am-3:30pm Tue-Thu

### E5. Acknowledgement & Payment

- a. The Coordinator will acknowledge receipt of each application. The Chairman HSC will notify each Applicant of the outcome of their application. The APS office will post the relevant Honour Certificate to successful Applicants, together with the badge if requested and paid for.
- b. Only make a payment when advised by the Coordinator. Payments are made via: <https://www.a-p-s.org.au/index.php/aps-honours-payment-form>

### E6. Responsibility

All possible care will be taken in handling any personal property of the Applicant sent in support of their application, but no responsibility for loss or damage will be assumed by

Australian Photographic Society Inc. or its representatives. Send electronic copies of all documents where possible.

#### **E7. Recording of Honours**

All APS Skill and Service Honours will be recorded by the Secretary in the APS Honours Roll that can be viewed on the APS website, and Membership Directory. Members who receive other International Honours from RPS, PSA and PSNZ and wish to have them recorded in the Directory, are to provide proof to the Secretary, such as a scan of any Certificate awarded. Space limitations may mean it is not possible to print all of the Honours each member holds in the Directory and on mailing labels. Those members who have more than four Honours are requested to notify the Secretary which Honours they wish to be displayed. For official APS purposes, any APS Honours held shall be amongst the four shown. Any member with more than one Honour may notify the Secretary of their preferred display order for their Honours. For both Skill and Service Honours, when a member receives a higher Honour it will replace the lower Honour of that type. The APS Membership Directory will show a complete list of Honours awarded each year. The individual member is to use the higher Honour only.

#### **E8. Official Announcement**

All Skill Honours may be used from the date the Awardee is notified. Each year's Awardees will be recognised at the APS Convention.

#### **E9. Preferred Use of Honours**

When competing in Internationals and Nationals, members with any Skill Honours may include them on the entry form. Members may also include other Honours from FIAP, RPS, PSA, APS and PSNZ. It is to be noted that overseas Exhibitors may not recognise APS Honours and the order of acknowledgment of Honours in the catalogue will depend on the Exhibitor.

#### **E10. Personal Use**

Members may choose to display whichever Skill and Service Honours they hold, in whichever order they choose, on their personal letterheads and business cards, and on exhibition entry forms. Just remember that lower-level Honours that have been superseded by a Higher award should no longer be used.

## PART F: FIAP & PSA DISTINCTIONS

APS Honours have two significant features and one drawback:

- Applicants can use results from exhibitions approved by multiple international photographic associations, including FIAP and PSA.
- Applicants can also use the Panel System if they do not enter exhibitions.
- Unfortunately, APS Honours are only clearly recognised within Australia.

FIAP and PSA also offer their own honours, which they call Distinctions, that have worldwide recognition, but limit the use of results to exhibitions that have their own Approval Codes. All the work you do for APS Honours can contribute to FIAP and PSA Distinctions.

### 1. FIAP Distinctions

The table below summarises the requirements for the various levels of distinctions from FIAP. A significant point of difference is the need to include Print results at the lower AFIAP and EFIAPS levels, although this has been waived during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here](#) for more detailed instructions. Applications for FIAP Honours are submitted via the APS.

FIAP Photography Distinctions						
Level	Distinction	All Acceptances / Min. New Acceptances	New Awards	Titles/ Countries/ Salons	Inclusive Prints: New Titles/ Acceptances each/ Min. Awards/	Submit: New Titles/ Acceptances/ Awards/ Countries/ Salons
Artist	AFIAP	40/40	-	15/8/15	4/1/-	5/3/-/-/-
Excellence	EFIAP	250/210	-	50/15/30	5/3/2	5/3/2/2/2
Excellence/Bronze	EFIAP/b	200/200	-	50/5/-		4/-/4/4/4
Excellence/Silver	EFIAP/s	300/100	-	100/10/-		5/-/5/5/5
Excellence/Gold	EFIAP/g	500/200	-	150/15/-		6/-/6/6/6
Excellence/Platinum	EFIAP/p	700/200	-	250/20/-		7/-/7/7/7
Excellence/Diamond 1	EFIAP/d1	-	50	15/5/-		5/-/5/5/5
Excellence/Diamond 2	EFIAP/d2	-	100/50	30/7/-		6/-/6/6/6
Excellence/Diamond 3	EFIAP/d3	-	200/100	50/10/-		7/-/7/7/7
Master	MFIAP	Portfolio				

<b>FIAP Audiovisual Distinctions</b>				
Level	Distinction	Min. New Acceptances	Titles /Countries /Salons	New Awards from all new Titles / Countries / Salons
Artist	AV-AFIAP	12/12	5/4/6	-
Excellence	AV-EFIAP	50/38	20/6/18	-
Excellence/Bronze	AV-EFIAP/b	20/20	4/3/-	4/3/4
Excellence/Silver	AV-EFIAP/s	30/10	5/4/-	5/4/5
Excellence/Gold	AV-EFIAP/g	50/20	10/5/-	6/5/6
Excellence/Platinum	AV-EFIAP/p	80/30	14/6/-	7/6/7
Master	AV-MFIAP	Portfolio		

## 2. PSA Photography Distinctions

PSA does not offer AV distinctions.

<b>DISTINCTION</b>	<b>MINIMUM NUMBER OF ACCEPTANCES REQUIRED</b>
QPSA	54
PPSA	288
EPSA	700
MPSA	1,500
MPSA2	2,250
GMSPA	3,000
GMPSA/B	5,000
GMPSA/S	7,000
GMPSA/G	9,000
GMPSA/P	11,000