



Rules & Regulations (Champion Photo Pathway)

1. Name and Purpose

1.1 The competition is known as the **AgShows NSW Photography Competition** (“the Competition”).

1.2 The purpose of the Competition is to:

- recognise and showcase outstanding photography from agricultural shows across NSW and the ACT;
- provide a progression pathway from **Show Level** → **Group Level** → **State Level**;
- celebrate regional communities, agriculture, and show life through photography.

2. Competition Structure

2.1 The Competition is conducted at three levels:

- **Show Level (Local Show)**
- **Group Final**
- **State Final**

2.2 The State Final will be coordinated by AgShows NSW and presented at **Celebrating AgShows NSW** (or equivalent event).

3. Show Level (Local Shows)

3.1 Participating Shows are encouraged to include the following photography themes within their local photography schedules:

- People of the Show
- Agriculture in Action
- Show Spirit

Shows may incorporate these themes as separate classes, sections, or awards within their existing photography competition, however this is not mandatory.

A Show may nominate any eligible photograph from its photography competition as its Champion Photo, provided the image aligns with one or more of the above themes.

3.2 AgShows NSW recommends that participating Shows conduct photography classes aligned with:

- People of the Show
- Agriculture in Action
- Show Spirit

and select an overall Champion Photo from those classes.

This recommendation is provided as a guide only and is not a requirement for participation in the AgShows NSW Photography Competition.

3.3 The nominated exhibit will represent that Show at the Group Final.

4. Eligibility

4.1 The Competition is open to **Open exhibitors (18 years and over)**.

4.2 Entry is open to amateur exhibitors only.

4.3 A professional is defined as a person who:

- works professionally in photography; or
- derives the majority of their income from photography.

4.4 The exhibit (entry) must be the **bona fide work of the exhibitor**.

4.5 The photograph must have been taken within **twelve (12) months** prior to entry at the local Show.

4.6 Each exhibit (entry) may only represent **one (1) Show** at Group and State level.

5. Progression of Exhibits

5.1 Show Level winners progress to the **Group Final**.

5.2 Group Final winners progress to the **State Final**.

5.3 If a winning exhibitor is unable to progress to either the Group Final or State Final:

the second placegetter (or equivalent) may be nominated at the discretion of the relevant committee.

5.4 A photograph that has previously represented a Show at Group Final level, or competed at State Final level, is not eligible to re-enter the AgShows NSW Photography Competition pathway in subsequent years.

6. Categories (Group and State Level)

6.1 Participating Shows are encouraged to include the following photography categories within their local Show schedule:

- People of the Show
- Agriculture in Action
- Show Spirit

6.2 Each category shall be judged individually at local Show level.

6.3 From the exhibits entered within these categories, the Show shall determine one (1) overall:

- Champion Photo; or
- equivalent award.

6.4 The Champion Photo will represent the Show in the AgShows NSW Champion Photo Competition at Group level.

6.5 Entries may be submitted in either:

- **Colour**, or
- **Black & White**

7. Group and State Level Competition

7.1 Group and State Finals will be conducted as a single Champion Photo competition.

7.2 One (1) Champion Photo representing each participating Show shall be eligible to compete at Group level.

7.3 Group winners progress to the State Final.

7.4 The State Final Champion Photo will be recognised as the AgShows NSW Champion Photo for that competition year.

8. Image Integrity and Editing

8.1 All images must originate from a photograph taken by the exhibitor.

8.2 Basic editing is permitted, including:

- cropping, straightening, and rotation

- exposure, contrast, and colour correction
- sharpening and noise reduction

8.3 Editing must not alter the image in a way that misrepresents the original scene.

9. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

9.1 The use of **generative artificial intelligence (AI)** is not permitted.

9.2 This includes, but is not limited to:

- AI-generated images
- AI-generated backgrounds
- generative fill or tools that insert new elements
- adding AI-generated people, animals, or objects

9.3 Entries must be based on a **real photographic capture**.

9.4 Any entry found to breach this clause may be disqualified at any stage of the Competition.

10. Submission Format (Group and State Level)

10.1 Exhibits progressing to Group Finals may be submitted in either physical or digital format, as determined by the relevant Group.

10.2 Exhibits progressing to the State Final must be submitted in digital format only

10.3 Recommended specifications:

- JPEG (.jpg) format
- suitable image quality for judging and display (a minimum file size of 1MB)

10.4 No watermarks, signatures, or identifying marks are permitted on submitted images.

10.5 AgShows NSW, Groups, and participating Shows may request the original image file, including metadata (EXIF data), at any stage of the Competition to verify authenticity and compliance with these Rules.

11. Judging

11.1 Judging may be conducted:

- in person; or
- digitally

11.2 Judging criteria may include:

- impact and storytelling
- composition
- technical quality
- creativity and originality

11.3 Judges' decisions are final.

12. People's Choice Award

12.1 A **People's Choice Award** may be conducted at Group and/or State level.

12.2 Voting may be undertaken:

- in person; or
- via an online platform

12.3 The method of voting and eligibility will be determined by the organising body.

13. Verification and Compliance

13.1 Exhibitors will be required to provide the original image file for verification.

13.2 Failure to provide verification upon request may result in disqualification.

13.3 AgShows NSW, the relevant Group, or participating Show reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not comply with these Rules & Regulations, including breaches of eligibility requirements, image authenticity requirements, or the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy.

14. Privacy and Permissions

14.1 Exhibitors are responsible for:

- obtaining permission where required (e.g. identifiable individuals);
- ensuring images are respectful and appropriate.

14.2 Images must not depict unsafe, illegal, or inappropriate activity.

15. Copyright and Usage

15.1 Copyright remains with the exhibitor.

15.2 By entering, the exhibitor grants AgShows NSW and participating Shows a:

- non-exclusive, royalty-free licence

to use the image for:

- competition promotion
- display at events
- marketing and communications (with credit)

16. Awards and Prize Money

16.1 AgShows NSW may award prize money, trophies, ribbons, certificates, sponsored prizes or other awards at the State Final.

16.2 The value and structure of any prize money or awards will be determined annually by AgShows NSW and published in the relevant State Final Schedule or Competition Information.

16.3 AgShows NSW reserves the right to vary prize money, awards, sponsorship arrangements and prize structures from year to year.

16.4 Additional sponsored awards, encouragement awards, special prizes or People's Choice Awards may be offered at the discretion of AgShows NSW.

16.5 Prize money and awards will only be presented where sufficient eligible entries are received and judged.

16.6 Prize money will be awarded to the exhibitor named on the entry form unless otherwise determined by AgShows NSW.

17. Administration

17.1 Each Group is responsible for coordinating its Group Final.

17.2 AgShows NSW will coordinate the State Final.

17.3 Participating Shows, Groups, and AgShows NSW may publish additional administrative guidelines to support delivery of the Competition.

18. General

18.1 AgShows NSW reserves the right to:

- interpret these rules;
- determine eligibility;
- resolve disputes.

18.2 These Rules & Regulations may be reviewed and updated as required.

Suggested Schedule Wording:

AgShows NSW Photography Competition

The following classes form part of the AgShows NSW Photography Competition pathway.

Class 1 – People of the Show

Images capturing the people, personalities and community spirit of agricultural shows.

Class 2 – Agriculture in Action

Images showcasing agriculture, livestock, rural life, farming activities or agricultural practices.

Class 3 – Show Spirit

Images reflecting the atmosphere, excitement and traditions of agricultural shows.

Champion Photo

An overall Champion Photo will be selected from the above classes.

The Champion Photo will represent the Show at the relevant AgShows NSW Photography Group Final.



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