

# Using the Nine-point Judging System:

Both CICCA and PSA uses the 9-Point Judging scale. The points and characteristics that are associated with each rating are the following:

- 4 Glaring technical faults:
  - Does not meet the requirements of the category.
  - Poor taste.
  - Very over or under exposed.
  - Very poor focus or depth of field.
  - Color is not correct.
  
- 5 Some technical flaws:
  - Over or under exposed.
  - Out of focus in part of the image.
  - Unintentionally shallow depth of field.
  - Too much in the image.
  
- 6 Technically correct (an average photo):
  - Correct exposure AND sharp focus.
  
- 7 ONLY ONE point above a "6"
  - Technically correct image.
  - Effective and pleasing lighting.
  - Good composition
  - Good color saturation.
  
- 8 All the aspects for a "6" and "7"
  - Very good composition.
  - Very good color composition.
  - Very good lighting.
  - IMPACT
  
- 9 "TOP" Score
  - doesn't have to be a "perfect" photo.
  - Excellent composition.
  - Excellent color saturation.
  - Excellent lighting.
  - IMPACT.

The judge should be open as to subject, style, and approach used to make an image and should not be afraid to use 8's and 9's.