



SABA Bonsai Competition Rules

The rules for the SABA Bonsai Competitions:

1. This competition is open to any person who is a member of a club or individual member registered with the South African Bonsai Association (SABA).
2. The winning entry will be based on the quality of the tree and not the photograph. This is a Bonsai tree competition. The photo is only a way to allow everybody to enter the competition.
3. For the TOMMY FLAXMAN MEMORIAL BONSAI COMPETITION, material used must be an INDIGENOUS SOUTH AFRICAN species
4. For the SABA CUP BONSAI COMPETITION, material used must be any EXOTIC species.
5. The planting/bonsai can be in any bonsai form, size or style of single tree, groups or saikei.
6. The planting/bonsai must currently be alive at the time of the monthly award giving. SABA reserves the right to have this verified by a club president or representative. Where trees are not available for inspection, the entry will be disqualified.
7. The image must not be older than three (3) months at the time of submission.
8. The image may not be artificially enhanced by having features, such as leaves, branches, flowers, fruits, etc. removed, added or changed in any way.
9. The image may be cropped and resized.
10. Editing must be restricted to the items that are not related to the structure and characteristics of the tree and its container, such as lightning and the removal of non-essential background items.
11. Stock can be obtained from any source, ie nurseries, collected Yamadori, etc.
12. The planting/bonsai may be presented on a suitable stand or table.
13. Entry must be in a .jpeg format of no less than 500kb and no more than 5Mb. Entries can be emailed to: info@saba.org.za
14. The original image must be retained and be submitted on request for a period of at least 12 months after the award.
15. All entries must be submitted on the correct entry form, which must be signed by the owner, with complete information on the tree, species, height, years of training, a brief history of the tree and/or owner and/or artist (contact details and possibly a short C.V.) or any information on the tree, ie, origin of pot, original designer, etc, for the write up of the winner on the SABA Blog.
16. No more than two entries per competition per month are permitted from each artist (not photographer) but each entry needs to be submitted on a separate entry form.
17. Previous first placed trees are not eligible to enter competitions for five (5) years after which time a NEW photo of the same tree may be entered, unless the tree has been completely altered.
18. Entries open on the 26th of the month and the closing date for entries is at 23h59 on the last day of each month. No late entries will be considered nor carried over, but entries may be resubmitted the next month.
19. SABA retains right to publish entries in newsletters, magazines and/or the web and use the best photographs for the annual SABA calendar without compensation. Entries will not be returned or removed when published on any media.

20. Entries will be placed on the SABA Photographic Competition Facebook page where the public may participate in the vote for the best tree. The public vote will constitute one judge's vote.
21. A panel of SABA judges will be appointed by the SABA executive to judge the trees using the agreed score sheet or ranking method.
22. The public score will be determined by the ranking score by Facebook on the SABA Photographic Competition Facebook page. "Likes" on the SABA Facebook page will not count.
23. The final score will be determined based on the average of the judges' scores. No correspondence will be entered into.
24. The owner of the planting/bonsai will be awarded the prize, not the photographer. The photographer will however be given credit for their work in the form of their name being associated with the image.
25. If one of the SABA judges wishes to enter the competition, they must recuse themselves from the vote.
26. The total average score may be returned to the entrant, so they can identify elements to learn and improve on (no debate will be entertained on score)
27. A winner in each category will be chosen each month and the final winner will be selected from the finalists in each category and announced at the annual SABA Convention.
28. The competition will run annually.
29. If noted that the photo submitted was tampered with, the photo will be held back, the member informed and the SABA disciplinary code will be followed.