

The FCJ Excellence Awards – 2020

Presented by the Forum of Community Journalists NPC

The FCJ Excellence Awards is aimed at encouraging excellence and rewarding meritorious work in local and community print media. Only permanent and regular freelance editorial staff members working for such media in South Africa may enter. Regular freelance means such a person must contribute to your publication at least once a month on average.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Please read though the instructions for entering very carefully. Entrants not adhering to the instructions/rules will be disqualified.

1. The competition covers the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020.
2. The **closing date** for entries (in all the categories) is **Friday 20 August 2021 at 17:00**.
3. For enquiries about entries, contact the FCJ Executive Director Marietta Lombard on 082 853 7817 or Hugo Redelinghuys on 082 440 6331.
4. The decision of the judges will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into. The judges reserve the right to make no award if insufficient entries are received or they feel that none of the entries in a particular category are sufficiently meritorious.
5. Please see the **How to enter** document for instructions on how to enter.
6. The call for entries and entry forms are also available at www.fcjonline.co.za

The awards ceremony will this year be held virtually in November.

How to enter

Once again, this year you can enter electronically, which means you do not have to copy and paste your articles onto sheets of blank paper and then send a big old pile of entries with snail mail.

All you need to do is create a Google Drive folder with your entries and share your folder with fcjawards@gmail.com. Please see the **How to Enter** document.

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WRITING CATEGORIES

Complete a separate entry form for each category and include it as a Word document in your folder.

Journalists (who are permanently employed) with less than three years' experience who enter in the Journalist of the Year section will automatically be considered for the Alet Roux Award, for best newcomer.

The categories are:

1. Journalist of the Year:

A maximum of 20 stories, including follow-ups.

You will be judged on a variety of stories in your portfolio.

(A motivation of not more than 250 words and an index indicating the categories may be included.)

2. Investigative reporting:

A maximum of 20 articles, including follow-ups.

(A short background of not more than 300 words explaining investigations, interesting obstacles and the outcomes of the story may be included).

3. Headlines:

Five (5), with the accompanying articles.

The impact and creativeness of the headlines and their relevance to the articles will be judged – not the content of the articles.

4. Hard news:

Ten (10) articles in total, including follow-up articles.

5. Human interest:

Enter a maximum of 5 articles only.

6. Editorial comment,

Enter a maximum of 5 articles only.

7. Columns

Enter a maximum of 5 columns.

8. Sport:

Enter a maximum of 5 articles only.

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9. Covid-19

Enter a maximum of 5 articles only. These articles must have Covid-19 (and everything associated with it) as the central theme.

10. Digital reporting:

Enter a maximum of 5 articles only.

CATEGORY: PHOTOGRAPHY

Complete a separate entry form for each category and include it as a Word document in your folder.

You need to enter a jpeg of the photo AND a PDF of the page in the newspaper where it was published so that judges can see how the photo was used in the newspaper.

In the Photographer of the Year section your portfolio as a whole (and not individual photographs) will be judged. In the other sections individual photographs will be judged, meaning that an entrant may receive more than one prize in one category.

Number of photographs per category

Photographer of the Year: You **MUST** enter **6** photographs. Versatility is crucial.

News, Sport and General: A maximum of 5 photographs in each.

CATEGORY: FRONT PAGE:

(Sections: Corporate-owned paid newspapers, Corporate-owned free newspapers and any other community/local newspapers (not owned by any of the major media groups).

The portfolio of three front pages as a whole (and not individual front pages) will be judged.

Number of front pages: Three (3) original front pages.

This time, since 2020 was such an extraordinary year, you may enter any three front pages of 2020. There are no prescriptions on the publication date.

Format of entries:

Enter a PDF of the page, clearly naming it as an entry for this category; i.e. BloemnewsFrontpageMay2019.pdf

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CATEGORY: NEWSPAPERS

Corporate-owned paid newspapers, circulation above 5000.

Corporate-owned paid newspapers, circulation below 5000.

Corporate-owned free newspapers (pagination of more than 24 pages).

Corporate-owned free newspapers (pagination of 24 pages or less).

Independent commercial newspapers and any other community/local newspapers (not owned by any of the major media groups).

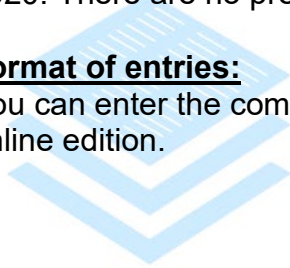
The portfolio of three newspapers (and not individual editions) will be judged.

Number of newspapers: Three (3)

This time, since 2020 was such an extraordinary year, you may enter any three editions of 2020. There are no prescriptions on the publication date.

Format of entries:

You can enter the complete edition as a PDF file, or you can send a link to the specific online edition.



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