

Surgical Video Contest Guidelines

I. OBJECTIVES

The **PAO SURGICAL VIDEO CONTEST (SVC)** aims to feature surgical videos performed by ophthalmology residents, fellows and consultants. These surgical videos may highlight novel surgical techniques, rarely encountered intraoperative complication or events, and variations in surgical approach to a certain eye disorder, among others. This contest also intends to enhance surgical skills and facilitate skills transfer among ophthalmologists and ophthalmologists-in-training by means of surgical video analysis and surgical approach assessment to improve patient outcomes.

II. IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract Submission Deadline	August 16, 2026
Video Pre-Screening Upload Deadline	August 30, 2026
Notification of Acceptance	September 23, 2026
Live Final Judging by Expert Panel	September 29, 2026
Recognition of Winners	October 2, 2026

III. ELIGIBILITY

1. This event is open to **ALL** ophthalmologist consultants and residents/fellows-in-training.
2. Only unpublished videos can be submitted.
3. Primary author must be the **MAIN** surgeon of the video to be submitted
4. The primary author is the preferred presenting author and should be a registered delegate of the PAO Congress 2026. If the surgical video is chosen as one of the finalists for live presentation, the first author should be able to present onsite during the live judging on September 30, 2026. A presenting author should be designated in case the primary author will not be able to present. Failure to be physically present without prior notice to the SVS Committee may influence participation in future competitions.
5. All abstract related correspondence will be sent to the registered email address of the submitting author.
6. The principal author is responsible for ensuring case anonymity, securing consent from the patient/case to be presented, and upholding other ethical considerations as deemed necessary.
7. The primary author is also responsible securing consent for submission from the co- authors. There is no limit to the number of co-authors allowed for each abstract. Please provide the full names of each of the co-authors.
8. Upon successful online abstract submission, the presenting author cannot be changed. Request to change the presenting author must be done at one month before the contest and will be granted permission under the discretion of the SVC Committee.
9. Resubmission of previously submitted interesting surgical video is discouraged.
10. Industry-sponsored videos are **NOT** qualified.

IV. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES and SURGICAL VIDEO CATEGORIES

1. All abstracts must be submitted via the PAO 2026 Annual Congress website. Submissions by post, email, or other means will NOT be accepted.
2. There are four (4) surgical video categories for this contest:
 - a. Ophthalmology Consultant Cataract Videos
 - b. Ophthalmology Consultant Subspecialty Videos
 - c. Ophthalmologists-in-Training Cataract Videos
 - d. Ophthalmologists-in-Training Subspecialty Videos

Note:

- Cataract videos should showcase cataract surgery or cataract-related surgery videos.
 - Subspecialty videos will include surgical videos featuring various ophthalmology subspecialty surgeries, excluding those that are cataract-related.
3. Each author may submit a maximum of three (3) videos, with only a maximum of two (2) videos per category.

V. ABSTRACT FORMAT

Submitted abstracts should be in English and should follow the following format:

1. Title (maximum of 20 words)
2. Authors
3. Affiliation
4. Abstract/Case Description (maximum of 300 words)

VI. OTHER ABSTRACT MATTERS

1. If the primary author and presenting author are not the same, please enter the presenting author's name in the primary author field.
2. For standardization, abstracts should not exceed 300 words (excluding title, authors' information).
3. Spell out phrases to be abbreviated when used for the first time followed by the acronym in parentheses. The abbreviation should be used alone thereafter.
4. Carefully examine the abstract for spelling or grammatical errors. The Committee reserves the right to edit the abstract for significant spelling and grammatical mistakes.
5. If the abstract is accepted, financial disclosures and conflict of interest should be disclosed.
6. All submitted abstracts will be acknowledged with an email.
7. We strongly recommend submission of abstracts as early as possible to avoid system congestion during the deadline.
8. A submitted abstract cannot be revised. Please make sure the abstract is the final version.
9. Abstract submission deadline is on August 16, 2026, 5:00 PM Philippine Standard Time unless otherwise extended.
10. It is the responsibility of the submitting author to contact the PAO Secretariat if notification is not received by **September 3, 2026**.
11. Late submissions **WILL NOT** be considered.

VII. SELECTION

1. Submitted abstracts will be reviewed by a Screening Committee. The review process will be confidential and the decision will be final.
2. Platform for submission of accepted videos will be emailed to the submitting author.
3. Pre-screening committee reserves the right to re-classify submitted video sub-category.
4. Videos will be evaluated based on scientific content, surgical technique, video quality, and editing by a panel of expert judges.
5. Pre-selected finalists will be notified by the Surgical Video Committee and are expected to present their videos personally to a panel of judges on **September 30, 2026** at the convention venue.
6. The top three finalists for each category will be given **5 minutes to present** the video followed by a **3 minute question and answer** from our expert panel of judges.
7. Awarding of certificates will be done at the end of the surgical video contest session on September 29, 2026, 1230PM at SMX Meeting Rooms 4-6. Awarding of first prize winners for each category will be done during the 2026 PAO Congress Closing Ceremonies on October 2, 2026. The Committee will be notifying the Participants if there are changes in arrangements of the awarding ceremony.
8. The decision of the judging panel is final.

VIII. VIDEO SPECIFICATIONS

1. Video length: maximum of **5 minutes**
2. Video format: **.mp4**
3. Video resolution: minimum 720x480 pixels, Widescreen 16:9 or higher
4. Should not exceed 500MB
5. **Author identifiers such as author names, primary author email, author institution and financial disclosure MUST be included in the first 5 seconds of the video only.**
6. The title, captions and/or video narrations of the video must be in English. The video must be annotated by caption and/or narration.
7. Patient identifiers should be excluded throughout the video.
8. Videos may include
 - a. A brief case vignette at the beginning of the surgical video, for context
 - b. Diagrams to better illustrate the surgery

IX. BOARD OF JUDGES

The Chair of the Research Committee and the Chair of the SVC will appoint (2) sets of Judges, composed of three (3) members each. There will be one set of judges for cataract and cataract-related videos, and another expert panel for ophthalmology subspecialty videos. Each set of Judges will be composed of one head judge and two other members,

Accepted abstracts will undergo pre-judging by the preliminary screening committee appointed by the Chair of the Research Committee and the Chair of the SVC. The top 3 finalists per surgical video category will be requested to present his/her video followed by a Q&A during the SVC live judging on **September 29, 2026**, at SMX Meeting Rooms 4-6. Authors of these papers will be informed about two weeks before the day of presentation.

Other accepted submissions which did not qualify for oral presentation will be uploaded to the congress system for inclusion in the e-poster display terminals which can be accessed during the PAO congress.

X. CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

a. CRITERIA FOR JUDGING OF TOP 3 FINALIST PER CATEGORY

Novelty of Procedure	- How unique is the procedure? - Is the procedure rarely employed or is it typical?	20%
Surgical Technique	- How technically difficult is the attempted procedure? - How well did the surgeon execute the planned surgical technique? - Was the surgery successful?	20%
Educational Value	- How valuable is the video in contributing to knowledge regarding surgical management of the case? - How understandable is the educational content of the video?	25%
Video Editing	- How clear is the video quality? - How well are the video editing techniques including transitions, animations, graphics and sound effects?	20%
Annotation	- How well do the written or spoken annotations complement the video being shown? - Do the annotations distract from the video?	15%

b. CRITERIA FOR LIVE JUDGING

Novelty of Procedure	- How unique is the procedure? - Is the procedure rarely employed or is it typical?	20%
Surgical Technique	- How technically difficult is the attempted procedure? - How well did the surgeon execute the planned surgical technique? - Was the surgery successful?	20%
Educational Value	- How valuable is the video in contributing to knowledge regarding surgical management of the case? - How understandable is the educational content of the video?	25%
Video Editing	- How clear is the video quality? - How well are the video editing techniques including transitions, animations, graphics and sound effects?	15%
Annotation	- How well do the written or spoken annotations complement the video being shown? - Do the annotations distract from the video?	10%
Question and Answer	- How well does the presenter articulate answers to the questions of the judges? - Is the content of the answer correct and/or relevant to the questions given?	10%

XI. TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. Abstracts to be screened must fulfill all criteria and are in final submission status.
2. All abstracts will be reviewed by a Screening Committee and deemed as accepted or rejected.
3. All contest decisions will be final.
4. Presenting authors of accepted abstracts must register and attend the meeting.
5. It is the responsibility of the author to obtain necessary consent from patients for their video material.
6. It is the responsibility of the author to obtain permission from the owner for any music or material that is copyrighted or not 'Free to Use'. Said material must be credited at the end of the video
7. By submitting a video, the author:
 - Gives the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO) the right to post it on their official websites and reuse the video in any manner the PAO wishes which includes, but is not limited to, website, digital/ printed publications, promotional materials, with appropriate credits to the surgeon.
 - Gives the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO) creative permission to alter the videos, if necessary.
 - Agrees that all content in the video is his or her original work.
 - Agrees to accept responsibility for all music and material used in their video and is liable for any copyright infringement pertaining to their video.
 - Agrees that data confidentiality agreements have been secured between patient and surgeon, in compliance to his/her institution's data privacy guidelines.