

GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY IN PSA INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS

OPEN

This category is open to all subject matter and includes alterations. Entries must meet PSA's general requirements for photographs entered into exhibitions. The photographic work must be the maker's. Commercial clip art is not allowed.

CREATIVE DIVISION

This category is exclusively for creative photography. The PSA definition of creative is "altered reality". The image must obviously display a change in natural color, form, shape, or any combination of the three. Creative images are often montages (a blending or composite of multiple images) High Dynamic Range (HDR) images without further changes are not considered altered reality.

The original images must be made by the entrant on photographic emulsion or captured digitally. All images must be original and may not incorporate elements made by anyone else. Original images must be altered by the maker. Artwork or computer graphics generated by the entrant may be incorporated if the original photographic content predominates. Images may not be constructed entirely within a computer. The images core content must be identifiable. Non creative images are not eligible for this competition. Any subject matter is acceptable as long as the altered reality guidelines are apparent.

PHOTOJOURNALISM DIVISION

Photojournalism images shall consist of pictures or sequences with informative content, including human interest, documentary or spot news. The journalistic value of the photograph shall be considered over pictorial quality. In the interest of credibility, photographs which misrepresent the truth, such as manipulation to alter the subject matter or situations which are set up for the purpose of photography are unacceptable in Photojournalism. Human interest images depict a person or persons in an interactive, emotional or unusual situation, excluding recreational sports or action.

NATURE DIVISION

All images used in PSA nature division competitions must meet the PSA definition of nature photography as follows:

Nature photography is restricted to the use of photographic process to depict all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology, in such as fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify it's honest

presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Human elements must not be present except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects like barn owls, or storks adapted to the environment modified by humans or where those human elements are in situations involving natural forces like hurricanes or tidal waves. Scientific bands or radio collars on wild animals are permissible. Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

No techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content or without altering the content of the original scene are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches are allowed. Stitched images are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grey scale-monochrome. Infrared images, either direct captures or derivations are not allowed.

Images entered in the nature photography competitions are divided into two classes: Nature and Wildlife.

NATURE: Images entered in nature sections meeting the nature photography definition above can have landscapes, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant organisms as the primary subject matter. This includes images taken with the subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure in which the subjects are dependent on man for food.

WILDLIFE: Images entered in wildlife sections meeting the nature photography definition above are further defined as one or more extant zoological or botanical organisms living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Landscapes, geological formations, photographs of zoo or game farm animals or any extant zoological or botanical species taken under controlled conditions are not eligible in the wildlife sections. Wildlife is not limited to animals, birds and insects. Marine subjects and botanical subjects (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild are suitable wildlife subjects, as are the carcasses of extant species. Wildlife images may be entered in nature sections.

ADJUSTMENTS ALLOWED IN PSA NATURE COMPETITIONS

- Exposure adjustment (selective and global)
- Adjust highlight and shadow detail
- Adjust contrast
- White balance/color correction. HDR is allowed for any and all of the above
- Black and White conversion (grayscale only)
- Adjust saturation
- Dust spot removal

- Noise removal
- Flare removal
- Straightening
- Cropping
- Reversing (aka flipping horizontal – use caution on scenic)
- Resizing
- Sharpening (including focus layering)

All allowed adjustments **MUST** look natural

ADJUSTMENTS NOT ALLOWED IN PSA NATURE COMPETITIONS

- Adding or removing image elements
- Blurring backgrounds