PHOTOJOURNALISM SCORING GUIDE

SCORING 1-5
The purpose of this section is to help achieve uniformity in scores between competitions Rounds and Clubs.
Please make sure the judges understand the Division definition, allowable editing, and scoring system.

Photojournalism Definition

Photojournalism entries are images with informative content and emotional impact, reflecting the human presence in our world.

- The journalistic (story-telling) value of the image should receive priority over pictorial quality.
- Images that misrepresent the truth, such as those from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography, are not eligible.
- A number (typically 2-6) of images may be combined into a single image that depicts a progression of events. The individual images should be surrounded by 5 pixel or smaller white borders. The arrangement of the images should assist the sense of progression.

Human Interest Section

Human Interest images depict a person or persons in an interactive, emotional or unusual situation, excluding competitive sports action.

Attention is drawn to the PSA Statement on Subject Matter which applies to all sections and to the Editing Guidelines for Nature, Photojournalism and Photo Travel.

Note to Judges:

Judges of PJ exhibitions should ask themselves if the image meets every aspect of the definition in their opinion. If not, it should be scored lower, regardless of the photographic merit.

The term DQ for disqualified is not used in Interclub Competitions and an image falling in that category is scored either 0 for makeup or Score of 1.

MAKEUP IMAGES

Makeup Images with score of 0: Please note, the Interclub Director often does not have time to view all images for these oversights below and will score them zero when discovered. If this action reduces the number of allowed images in the Round, the club can submit a makeup image in the next Round as long as the maker of the makeup image does not have an image in the Round it is replacing. If discovered in Round 3 this makeup cannot be honored since there are no more Rounds in the competition.

SCORE 0: The following images are scored 0. Write MU for Makeup along with the specific reason (name on image etc.) in the comment section and SCORE Zero (0):

- The maker has more than one image in the competition. If this is not caught by the Director, the Judging Chair is to score the lowest scoring image 0.
- The image won an award previously in Photojournalism Interclub.
- The image is too pixilated to be viewed.
- An image in the Human Interest image has no people or is a sports action image.
- Maker’s name is on the image.
Score 1:

- The image, in your opinion, does not provide any interesting information nor appropriate for the PJ category.
- An attempt to deceive the viewer that it depicts reality, such as a known set-up or obvious manipulation, is not eligible in PJ and should be scored 1.
- Infrared images are not eligible.
- The obvious, not opinion, of the judge, reveals the use of techniques that add, relocate, replace, remove or change any element in the original scene except by cropping.

Score 2:

- The image, in your opinion, provides weak or confusing information.
- Irrelevant details could compete for dominance and obscure the story.
- The situation could appear to have been set up, due to the subjects acting in unison or dressed inappropriately for that activity, or various other reasons for such suspicion.
- Technical flaws, such as poor focus, over-saturation or extreme sharpening, are distracting and interfere with the message.

Score 3:

- Image complies with the Photojournalism definition.
- Although it is not exceptional, it tells a story without significant flaws, and it appears to have occurred spontaneously.
- Importance of the subject matter can compensate for compositional or technical inadequacy.

Score 4:

- Image complies with the definition and has immediate impact.
- The story is strong and the technical aspects are good.
- It is a solid image where the elements work well together, and could be considered for an award.

Score 5:

- Image is among the best in the competition in your opinion, and definitely deserves an award.
- It shows an unusual aspect of a situation, perhaps a telling facial expression, an unexpected moment or a unique viewpoint, thus producing an image that differs from those that are seen repeatedly.
- An outstanding story-telling image.

Notes to judges: Use the full scale of scores to rate the images within a group; do not assign just two or three of those numbers to everything. Makers should feel that a score of five is possible.