

Statement on Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Image Creation and Ownership

In all sections of the exhibition, images must originate as photographs made by the entrant. They may not incorporate identifiable images produced by anyone else (for example: clip art, replacement skies, or stock images). Images created in whole or in part by image creation software (frequently called 'AI' images) are not allowed. Editing or alteration of images is permitted within the limits specified in the relevant section definitions that are available here <https://psa-photo.org/page/division-definitions>

Any person submitting or attempting to submit a totally AI generated image that does not begin with a light capture from the maker, from any Photographic Society of America exhibition, social media, event, or publication, other than for editorial purposes, shall be prohibited from PSA for a period of from 3 years to life.

Statement on Subject Matter - applicable to all sections

- The fundamental rule that must be observed at all times and applies to all sections offered in exhibitions with PSA recognition is that the welfare of living creatures is more important than any photograph. This means that practices such as baiting of subjects with a living creature and removal of birds from nests, for the purpose of obtaining a photograph, are highly unethical, and such photographs are not allowed in any exhibition with PSA recognition. Under no circumstances may a living creature be placed in a situation where it will be killed, injured or stressed for the purpose of obtaining a photograph. Images that show live creatures being fed to captive animals, birds or reptiles are not permitted under any circumstances.

There are also concerns about the use of aerial photography, drones, helicopters, low flying aircraft. These should not cause any interference with other individuals or animals which causes a disturbance in their normal activity or disrupt the way any individuals or animals interact with their environment. Entrants in PSA recognized exhibitions must comply with all relevant laws and regulations, associated with aerial photography, in the country in which the image was taken.

Images that - in the sole opinion of the judges or the Exhibition Organizers - do not comply, will be disqualified so the entrant may be aware of the problem.

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.
- When **Human Interest** is specified, those images depict a person or persons in an interactive, emotional or unusual situation, excluding sports action.

Editing Guidelines

Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible, except that conversion to grayscale monochrome is allowed.

Allowed editing techniques:

- Cropping, straightening and perspective correction.
- Removal or correction of elements added by the camera or lens, such as dust spots, noise, chromatic aberration and lens distortion.

- Global and selective adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation and contrast to restore the appearance of the original scene.
- Complete conversion of color images to grayscale monochrome.
- Blending of multiple images of the same subject and combining them in camera or with software (exposure blending or focus stacking)
- A number of images (typically 2-4), each with a small white border, may be combined into a single image that depicts a progression of events or related activity.
- Image stitching – combining multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively (panoramas);

Editing techniques that are not allowed:

- Removing, adding to, moving or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening.
- Adding a vignette during processing.
- Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.
- Darkening parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.
- All conversions other than to complete grayscale monochrome.
- Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome, or partial toning, desaturation or over-saturation of color

SCORING 1-5

The purpose of this section is to help achieve uniformity in scores between competitions Rounds and Clubs.

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.***
- **Use all five of the available scores to rate the images within a group; do not assign just two or three of those numbers to everything.**
- **DQ is reserved for serious and provable violations and needs to be explained to that entrant. An image with questionable editing or suspected non-compliance regarding arrangement of the content by the maker or anyone on his behalf should be given a low score, not a DQ, without proof.**
- **The term DQ for disqualified is not used in Interclub Competitions and an image falling in that category is scored either 0 for makeup .**

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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. **Makeup Images may receive awards as appropriate with regular images.**

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. (this is usually extremely small file size)
- Does not show any human influence
- 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: If the image does not show any human influence, it is not appropriate for the PJ category. Any 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.

In the **Human Interest** section, sports action is excluded, and should be scored 1 in that section. Or if no people are included, the image should also be scored 1 in that section.

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, without proof. Technical flaws, such as poor focus, over-saturation or extreme sharpening, are distracting enough to 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 should 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.