

I. PSA Subject Guide Lines

(PSA) Basic Digital Guidelines are applicable to Nature, Photo Travel, People/Portrait and Photojournalism images.

Image adjustments that are not allowed are as follows:

- 1) Elements may not be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged, combined or changed in any way that affects the integrity of the image content.
- 2) Special effect filters cannot be added or applied, and any sharpening must appear natural.

Image adjustments that are allowed are as follows:

- 1) Exposure adjustment
- 2) White balance/color correction
- 3) Adjust highlight and shadow detail
- 4) Adjust contrast
- 5) Adjust saturation
- 6) Dust spot removal
- 7) Noise removal
- 8) Flare removal
- 9) Cropping
- 10) Resizing
- 11) Straightening
- 12) Restoration of original color of the scene
- 13) Selective lightening or darkening
- 14) Reversing (flipping horizontal) **Exception: This is not allowed in Photojournalism and Photo Travel images.**

Nature:

(PSA Rules) Nature Photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify as to its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality. Human elements shall not be present, except on the rare occasion where those elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

This definition does not limit nature photography to Wildlife subjects. Landscapes, zoo shots and game farm shots are fair game for the Nature Photographer, as long as they meet the guidelines set above.

Authentic wildlife is defined as one or more organism, living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Therefore, photographs of zoo or game farm animals are not eligible for Wildlife competitions.

People/Portrait:

(MCC Rules) People and portraiture photography is use of the photographic medium to capture the image of a specific person or a small group of people. Some typical images are from model shoots (often a single person in a posed position) as well as capturing a person or people engaged in either indoor or outdoor activities.

Photojournalism:

(PSA Rules) Photojournalism entries shall consist of pictures with informative content and emotional impact, including human interest, documentary and 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 competition.

Travel:

(PSA Rules) Subject matter must portray photo travel. A photo travel photograph must express the feeling of a time and place, portray a land, its people, or a culture in its natural state, and has no geographical limitations. Ultra close-ups which lose their identity, studio type model shots or photographic manipulations which misrepresent the true situation or alter the content of the image are unacceptable in Photo Travel competition.

Creative:

(MCC Rules) Creative photography is the REQUIRED use of computer enhancement, darkroom enhancements, and/or in-camera manipulation to produce an image that displays imaginative skill and originality of thought, including the altering of reality. No image shall be eliminated simply because it looks realistic, provided it shows originality of concept. However, the degree of manipulation must be clearly and distinctly obvious. The final result MUST begin with an original image that was captured by the maker either on film or digitally. Any changes made to the original image(s) MUST be done by the maker.

A Creative image involves the use of line, form and color that expresses the maker's ideas or feelings in a non-traditional style. Any reality may be distorted or otherwise modified by non-standard techniques and controls. This includes unusual points of view and imaginative use of subject matter or lighting as well as any other conceptual idea such as abstraction, impressionism and symbolism. It is not necessary to render the original subject(s) unrecognizable.

Techniques may include distortions, bas relief, images montage, wild color, solarization, posterization, motion blur, patterns designed to yield non-objective or abstract images.

Please Note: Creative is part of the “PSA” topics.

The schedule is correct!

II. Non-PSA Subject Guidelines

Competition Subject:

(MCC) The competition subjects are assigned monthly (see competition schedule) and uses the Open, Creative or a combination of both definitions to create a final photograph.

Open:

(MCC) General, or open subject, photography is the use of the photographic medium as an art form. The emphasis is on interest, visual impact, composition, and technical excellence. Images are not confined to any particular subject, type, or style of photography. Subjects are broad, and include scenics/landscapes, close-ups, buildings, portraits, and still-life. Any special techniques are allowed, and include digital and darkroom manipulation.