

Definition of Nature and Wildlife in Competitions (Used by FIAP, PSA and RPS)

The definitions that follow were drafted jointly by the Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP), which represents more than 85 national associations including the photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB), the Photographic Society of America (PSA), and The Royal Photographic Society (RPS).

The full text of the new definitions is given below, but it is worth highlighting several aspects:

- 1) In a Nature competition/exhibition images of captive creatures and are now accepted, but not domesticated or feral animals, or cultivated or hybrid plants. This is a change from the rules that applied previously to "nature" competitions under the auspices of FIAP and, thus, any organized by PAGB or SPA, as captive creatures were excluded. This means one can now enter pictures taken at zoos, falconry centres, etc. provided the subject is a creature that naturally occurs in the wild.
- 2) In a Wildlife competition/exhibition the rules for Nature apply, but in addition captive creatures are excluded. However, since most organizers specify Nature as the category (to which Wildlife images may be entered) this difference is unlikely to affect LPC's members.
- 3) A significant change that applies to both Nature and Wildlife classes is the requirement that "No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted". The meaning of this rule and, specifically, the reference to "adding or replacing pictorial elements", is now understood to prohibit any cloning, except where used to remove dusts spots, digital noise, or film scratches. So, one cannot add canvas, nor improve an image by removing so much as a small leaf or a blade of grass.
- 4) The rules also exclude images that include human elements "...except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans".
- 5) The FIAP, PSA & RPS rules will no longer apply to competitions/exhibitions sponsored by PAGB and UK federations following the publication by PAGB of new rules in February 2018.

The Definitions

Nature

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict 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 certify its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Human elements shall 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 an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. Scientific bands, scientific tags 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. Colour images can be converted to greyscale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed.

Images used in Nature Photography competitions may be divided in two classes: Nature and Wildlife

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 where the subjects are totally 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 free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Landscapes, geologic formations, photographs of zoo or game farm animals, or of any extant zoological or botanical species taken under controlled conditions are not eligible in 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 carcasses of extant species.

Wildlife images may be entered in Nature sections of Exhibitions.

Images meeting the above FIAP Definition of Nature will, in almost every case satisfy the less restrictive definition used in PAGB competitions. If, NDPS members are working towards PAGB qualifications or are entering images into PAGB competitions they can, if they choose, take advantage of the PAGB's own definition but that version of any digital image(s) or print(s) will not be permitted to be submitted into NSPS competitions and exhibitions.