



EXHIBITION STANDARDS

Conditions of Entry Instructions for all 2024 Exhibitions

Revised October, 2023 (v1.99)

All exhibitions are required to submit Exhibition Standards Conditions of Entry (Rules) with their application for PSA recognition. **Do not assume that the current rules are the same as in previous years.** Items marked in red are either new, or particularly important! Items in blue are instructions on how to produce a Conditions of Entry. Items in black are to be copied into the Conditions of Entry (ES-COE).

NOTE: All exhibitions should become familiar with PSA's latest Exhibition Standards (ES) before commencing an application. In the event of any accidental wording conflict between this document and the current ES, the wording in latest dated Exhibition Standards should be taken as correct!

The ES-COE should follow the order below. Always use clearly marked subheadings so that information can be easily found. It may be sensible for Exhibitions to have this information on different pages, but it is important that the following order is used. Exhibition Standards Directors will check the online website and require alterations if needed.

- **CA –Information the entrants need to see before making up their mind to enter**
- **CB - Details of Exhibition requirements**
- **CC - Subject matter and definitions**
- **CD - General Rules**

The COE on the exhibition web site must be the same as what was approved by the Exhibition Standards Director.

CA The following information must be accessible on the website BEFORE any entrant is required to log-in with their personal details.

CA-1 EXHIBITION NAME AND PSA LOGO.

Give the full name of your Exhibition. Do not use the shortened name used to apply for recognition.

When the exhibition has been recognized a PSA exhibition recognition number will be allocated, specific to the year of exhibition. This number must be visible below the PSA logo in the Conditions of Entry published on the exhibition's website after recognition.

CA-2 CONTACTS

- a) Email address of the Exhibition or of the Chair.
- b) Location of Entry Form
- c) Name of Exhibition Software Provider.
- d) Details on how to enter the exhibition



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CA-3 SECTIONS

Themes must be approved before recognition can be granted. Any theme offered must be clearly identifiable and available to all entrants - i.e. no geographical restrictions are permitted. The Conditions of Entry must make clear which PSA Star path (PIDC, PIDM, ND, PJD, PTD, PPDC, PPDM or 3DD) is applicable to each Theme.

There are no restrictions of content in "Open" sections in PID and PPD. The terms "Nature", "Photojournalism", or "Photo Travel" may not be used for section names in PID or PPD. Furthermore, "Open" may not be used as a section name in Nature, Photojournalism, or Photo Travel. The terms General Nature, General PJ, General PT should be used.

CA-4 FEES

Fees must be clearly set out. Fees must be the same for all entrants; no geographic or national variation may apply.

Exhibitions must give a clear description of their discount policy. No discount may be given for individuals or groups of less than five. Discount for groups must be clearly explained and available to all regardless of geographic location. Any discounts that are not published in the agreed Exhibition Conditions of Entry are NOT allowed. If an exhibition is not giving any discounts then this must be clearly specified in the COE.

Where printed catalogs are produced, or prints are to be returned, exhibitions may charge different fees for postage. This extra cost must be clearly explained in the Conditions of Entry.

CA-5 CALENDAR

The following dates must be included. They must be identical with the dates in the Exhibition's application form. Any subsequent changes must be approved by the Exhibition Standards Director using the request form available on the Exhibition's System Home Page.

- a) **Closing date** (last date for receipt of entries).
- b) **All judging completed by** [28 days after closing date]
- c) **Score Reports sent by** [7 days after end judging date]
- d) **Awards mailed by**... [60 days after end judging date]
- e) **On-Line Gallery posted by**.... [60 days after end judging date]
- f) **Catalogs posted by**....(60 days after end judging date)

CA-6 JUDGES

Names, locations, and Honors (if any) of judges, and the sections they are judging. Please check the rules for judging in Exhibition Standards. We would expect judges to have experience in the sections they are judging. At least one judge in each judging panel must have at least a PPSA distinction or higher. Judges are limited to 15 separate exhibitions per year. ES-COE should give as much detail as possible of these qualifications and experience of each judge.



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CA-7 AWARDS

Give full details of the Awards in each section. If electronic awards are given exhibitions must give details on how these will be sent.

CA-8 CATALOG

Give full details of the sort of catalog to be produced. For instance:-

- a) Printed Catalog mailed to exhibitors.
- b) Electronic Catalog on CD/DVD or USB thumb drive mailed to exhibitors.
- c) PDF downloadable from web site by exhibitors. Exhibition website needs to be available for at least a year after notification date.

CB - EXHIBITION REQUIREMENTS

CB-1

The whole block below should be copied and pasted into the Conditions of Entry

IMAGE AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: This exhibition is open to anyone; however, an entry may be rejected when the Sponsor or the Exhibition Organizers, in their reasonable discretion, believes the entry does not conform to exhibition rules and these ES-COE. Membership in any photographic organization is not required. Entries will not be accepted from any entrant who is on the **PSA Penalties List for Ethics Violation**. Entry fees are not refundable in these circumstances.

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.

PSA Star Ratings: To receive proper Star ratings credit from PSA, entrants must provide their names and country exactly the same way in each exhibition. Aliases are not permitted. Please contact PSA in the event of name changes or relocating to another country. Using one's name differently in different exhibition exposes the entrant to the risk that many of their acceptances may not be recognized by PSA Star Ratings.



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Reproduction: The entrant permits the sponsors to reproduce all or part of the entered material free of charge for publication and/or display in media related to the exhibition. This may include low resolution posting on a website. The Photographic Society of America (PSA) may request specific permission from entrants to reproduce entered images in its educational materials. The terms of that permission will be mutually agreed between the entrant and PSA except in the circumstances where the entered image is found to breach the PSA Ethics Policy. In those circumstances the image may be reproduced by PSA, without the entrant's further permission, for educational purposes to illustrate serious exhibition rule violations. For those reproductions, the entrant's name will be withheld.

Entries will not be accepted from entrants who indicate that their images may not be reproduced in materials related to the exhibition. The exhibition assumes no liability of any misuse of copyright

Re-use of accepted images: Any image that has been accepted in this exhibition, past or present, may not be entered again in the same Division Star Ratings Class in any future instances of this exhibition. It may, of course, be entered in any other PSA recognised exhibitions but **must always have the same title. Re-titling in another language is not allowed.**

Entry: An Entry consists of, up to and including, four (4) images entered by a single entrant into the same Section. An entrant may only enter a specific Section once. Entrants may not enter identical or similar images into the same section or different sections of the same exhibition. Similar is defined as almost identical in subject, composition, props, lighting, or technique so that a reasonable person viewing the entries together would decide the entrant has duplicated the previous image except for minor changes.

Titles: Each image must have a unique title that relates to the content of the image. That unique title must be used for entry of that image or of an identical Image into any and all PSA-Recognized exhibitions. Titles must be 35 characters or fewer. No titles may be visible to the judges, and nothing in the image may identify the entrant. Titles may not include file extensions such as .jpg or .jpeg (or any other camera capture filenames such as IMG 471). Titles may not consist of personal identifiers possibly augmented by a number; or include words such as "untitled" or "no title". Titles may not consist solely of numbers unless those numbers are prominently contained within the image, such as a contestant number in a race.

Color and Monochrome:

Color and Monochrome images from the same capture that share substantial pictorial content in common will be considered the same image and must be given the same title.

CB-2 ALL EXHIBITIONS ACCEPTING DIGITAL ENTRIES

- a) Specify the method of submitting entries and any specific format or title requirements
- b) Specify the required image size of digital images. Do **NOT** use the term "longest side" but define the required "horizontal" and "vertical" dimensions in pixels.



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c) Exhibitions are not allowed to resize oversized images. In such cases the entrant is required to resubmit their entry with properly sized images.

CB-3 ALL EXHIBITIONS ACCEPTING PRINTS

a) Specify the size limits for print entries.

8½" x 12" limit for Photojournalism and Pictorial Prints Small Prints.

16" x 20" limit for Photo Travel, Nature and Pictorial Prints Large Prints.

Print sections recognized by Photo Travel and Nature may limit prints to 8½" x 12" instead of allowing the full 16" x 20".

b) **Combining Large Prints and Small Prints into any single Pictorial Print section is not allowed.** Large and Small Pictorial Prints must be separate sections.

c) **Combining Color Prints and Monochrome Prints in any single Pictorial Print section is not allowed.** Color and Monochrome Prints must be separate sections.

d) Method of mounting, if any, for print entries. Mounts must not be larger than the print.

e) State whether the Exhibition will provide preprinted labels and specify how these are to be affixed to the print. If no labels are provided then specify what details need to be on the back of the prints Any label used should be pressure-sensitive.

f) If a digital file is to be provided by the entrant, then stated pixel dimensions must not be more than 1920 by 1080px.

g) Specify whether prints are to be destroyed after judging. If there is an option to return prints or pass them on to another exhibition, give specific details.

CB-4 Copy and paste the contents of the following box:

The Exhibition will be conducted in accordance with the rules of the PSA

An entrant's images will not be presented to the judges consecutively. An entrant's four images will be distributed throughout four rounds of judging in that section. Distribution of images will be in the same round order as submitted by the entrant. At no stage will a judge be able to view all the entrant's images together.

CB-5 Judging method:

1. Identify exactly how the judging is to take place, whether it is by a jury viewing the images together, or by remote on-line judging.



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2. The following must be specified:
 - (a) For onsite judging: specify the equipment to be used in the judging - projections, TV monitors etc and that it has been color-calibrated using a combination of software and hardware.
For remote judging: specify that judges will be required to use color-calibrated monitors using a combination of software and hardware.
In either case that projection equipment or computer monitors are required to be capable of displaying images at 100% of the image resolution and that images will be displayed at exactly 100% of their resolution (that is, that the images will not be enlarged -at no point zoomed in- beyond their native resolution). It is strongly suggested that judges use higher resolution monitors, since most judging software cannot display the image to fill the screen. For higher resolution monitors, downsizing the system resolution may be necessary to accommodate a proper viewing distance.
3. Print viewing during judging would be as per the conditions specified in the Exhibition Standards.
4. **Target range:** This should not be no more than 30%, with the exception of 3DD which must not be more than 45%.

CB-6 Protection of Entrants' Personal information Copy and paste this whole block into the Conditions of entry:

DATA PROTECTION

By entering this exhibition, you are explicitly consenting to the personal details you have supplied, including physical addresses, email addresses, being held, processed and used by the exhibition organizers for purposes associated with this exhibition. You also explicitly consent to such information being sent to organizations that have accorded official recognition, patronage or accreditation to this exhibition. You acknowledge, agree and accept that by entering this exhibition, your participation status which includes your first and last name, name of the country used during registration at the exhibition, number of sections entered and number of photos entered in those sections will be made public in a published status list and that the results of your entry shall be made public in exhibition gallery, exhibition catalog. You also agree and accept the policy regarding non-compliance to the rules of PSA.

CC- SUBJECT MATTER & DEFINITIONS

CC-1 The following definitions are minimum definitions. Exhibitions may add additional restrictions or clarifications to these definitions but it must be made clear that this is an exhibition restriction, not a PSA restriction. **Exhibitions must not reduce the requirements of any definitions.**

CC-2 The following block must be copied and pasted into the Conditions of Entry and exhibitions must make it clear that it applies to **all** sections, not just the Nature sections.

SUBJECT MATTER AND SECTION DEFINITIONS



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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 should comply with all relevant laws and regulations, associated with aerial photography, in the country in which the image was taken.

Entry into PSA recognized exhibitions is conditional on accepting these policies. The content of images must comply with the General Conditions and with the Division and Section definitions listed in these conditions. Images that - in the sole opinion of the judges- do not comply, will be disqualified so the entrant may be aware of the problem when considering entry into other exhibitions with PSA recognition.

CC-3. PSA Monochrome Definition -

[This block is to be pasted into the Conditions of Entry](#)

PSA Monochrome Definition

An image is considered to be Monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no color (i.e. contains only shades of grey which can include pure black and pure white) OR it gives the impression of being a greyscale image that has been toned in one color across the entire image. (For example by Sepia, red, gold, etc.) A greyscale or multi-colored image modified or giving the impression of having been modified by partial toning, multi-toning or by the inclusion of spot coloring does not meet the definition of monochrome and shall be classified as a Color Work.

CC3-1 Greyscale Monochrome images may be entered for Nature, Photojournalism and Photo Travel but toned images are not permitted for these sections

CC3-2 [If offering PID or PPD Prints then add the following text](#)



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Monochrome images may not be entered in color sections of PPD or PID.



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CC-4 Editing Guidelines for Nature, Photojournalism and Photo Travel

Editing Guidelines for Nature, Photojournalism and Photo Travel

These sections require images to be truthful records, so there are limits on the amount of manipulation allowed.

PSA statement of subject matter applies to all sections.

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);
- 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

CC-5 NATURE DIVISION



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CC-5-1

PSA/FIAP Nature Definition

Content Guidelines

- Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both animate and inanimate, that have not been made or modified by humans.
- Nature images must convey the truth of the scene that was photographed. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity that threatens the life or welfare of a living organism are not allowed.
- The most important part of a Nature image is the nature story it tells. High technical standards are expected and the image must look natural.
- Objects created by humans, and evidence of human activity, are allowed in Nature images only when they are a necessary part of the Nature story.
- Photographs of human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domesticated animals, human-created hybrid animals and mounted or preserved zoological specimens are not allowed.
- Images taken with subjects under controlled conditions, such as zoos, are allowed.
- Controlling live subjects by chilling, anesthetic or any other method of restricting natural movement for the purpose of a photograph is not allowed.

CC-5-2 Nature Sections with either awards for Wildlife or Wildlife Sections must include the following to the Nature definition.

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

In addition to the restrictions on Nature photography, to be eligible for any Wildlife award images must meet the following conditions:

- (a) Zoological organisms must be living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat of their own choosing.
 - (b) Images of zoological organisms that have been removed from their natural habitat, are in any form of captivity or are being controlled by humans for the purpose of photography are not allowed.
 - (c) Botanical organisms may not be removed from their natural environment for the purpose of photography.
 - (d) Images that have been staged for the purpose of photography are not allowed.
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CC-5-3 When a separate wildlife section is not offered but a wildlife award is offered, the form for submitting Nature entries must include provisions for the entrant to certify that each photograph so designated complies with both the general nature definition and the wildlife definition.

CC-5-4 If a Nature Theme Exhibition is being offered, it must be clear that the nature definition applies as well as any definition of the theme. See ES-D4.

CC-6. Photojournalism Definition

CC-6-1

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.

CC-6-2 PJ Sections with either awards for Human Interest or Human Interest Sections must include the following to the PJ Definition.

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

CC-6-4 If a PJ Theme Exhibition is being offered, it must be clear that the PJ definition applies as well as any definition of the theme. See ES-D4.

CC-7. Photo Travel Definition

Copy and paste the PSA Definition of Travel Photography if offering any recognized Photo Travel sections

Photo Travel

A Photo Travel image is a portrayal of the real world we live in, as it is found naturally. There are no geographic limitations.



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Content guidance:

1. If the image is predominantly or exclusively a land-, sea- or cityscape, these “scapes” must include characteristic, distinctive and recognizable physical features, although it is not necessary that the image identify the exact location;
2. Images that predominantly or exclusively depict people and their activities must illustrate a distinctive culture of a country, region, or continent;
3. Images that predominately or exclusively depict animal populations are allowed, if the animals are in their native environment and are characteristic of that country, region, or continent;
4. Portraits or other close-ups of people or objects, in addition to meeting the above paragraphs as applicable, must include elements depicting some of the surrounding environment to make it obvious that the image was not taken in a studio setting;
5. Images from events or activities arranged for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography, are **NOT allowed**.
6. Time exposures are allowed, if they do not dominate the image as a special effect (star trails, for example, are a dominating effect).
7. Highly distorted images such as those produced by fish eye lenses are **NOT allowed**.

CC-7-1 If any theme sections in Photo Travel are being offered, it must be clear that the Photo Travel definition applies to them. Approved PT themes are listed on the Travel Division site. No other PT themes are available.

CD - PSA RULES

CD-1 Non-compliance

Copy and paste this whole block into the Conditions of Entry

Non-compliance

See the PSA Ethics Policy at <https://psa-photo.org/page/ethical-practices>.

See the PSA statement on Subject Matter at <https://psa-photo.org/page/division-definitions>

If, in the-discretion of the exhibition organizer or the judges, an entrant has submitted that may fail to comply with these Conditions of Entry, they are allowed to request unedited or raw files of the submitted image. For composite images all files are required.

Exhibition organizers may verify that:

- a) the images are the original work of the entrant
- b) the images comply with the rules and definitions as set out in these ES-COE

Such entries may be referred to PSA for further investigation of possible ethics violations.



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PSA retains the right to investigate all complaints, impose penalties if deemed necessary, void the acceptances of any image found to violate the PSA rules, include the entrant's name on the list of sanctions provided to Exhibitions, and share such investigations with FIAP. Entrants automatically agree to these terms by the act of entering the Exhibition and agree to cooperate with any investigation.

If another party is processing and/or submitting images on the entrant's behalf, the entrant will still be held responsible for adhering to the entry rules **and will be subject to penalties for any violations** to these Conditions of Entry or to PSA's Statement of Ethics.

CD-2 Statutory Disclaimer:

The entire block below should be copied and pasted into your Conditions of Entry as one block and formatted as required. Exhibitions must ensure that the affirmation statement is **part of their entry form** and that the entry cannot proceed unless the entrant has agreed

NOTICE: When entrants fill in the Entry Form to submit an entry they will see the following feature to affirm they have read these Conditions of Entry

"I hereby confirm that I have *read and understood and agree to* the Conditions of Entry of this exhibition. I have read and understood the PSA document to be found at <https://psa-photo.org/resource/resmgr/pdf/exhibitions/exhibition-entrants-agreemen.pdf> . I am aware that PSA may apply penalties for non-compliance to these Conditions of Entry"

Failure to agree will mean that the application will not proceed.

CD-3 The current official **PSA Recognition Statement** must be on the Conditions of entry. This advertisement must be at least the same size as that of any other international recognizing body. Either a horizontal version or vertical version may be used. Make sure that you use the most up to date Recognition



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[Statement which can be found on the PSA website.](#)

The sponsors of this International Exhibition of Photography have been awarded Recognition by PSA, the world's largest patron of international photographic exhibitions. PSA, although it has provided recognition, is neither a sponsor nor directly involved in the operation of this exhibition.



Valid acceptances received by PSA Members in recognized sections of this exhibition are eligible for PSA Star Ratings, listing in the world-wide PSA Who's Who of Photography and credited towards the PSA Distinctions of QPSA, PPSA, EPSA, MPSA, MPSA2, GMPSA, GMPSA/B, GMPSA/S, GMPSA/G, and GMPSA/P.

PSA is a non-profit organization promoting the advancement of photography in all its forms to novice, amateur and professional photographers worldwide. For information on membership and the many services and activities of PSA, contact:

psa

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