Federation of Camera Clubs - NSW

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION DEFINITIONS

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL ENTRIES

The following requirements apply to all entries:

- Images which have been awarded or accepted in any previous FCC TopShot or InterClub competitions are not eligible for entry.
- The same or similar image (e.g. images taken in sequence, or coloured images converted into monochrome or vice versa) cannot be entered into more than 1 section.
- Images which have pixels generated by software or in camera are not permitted. Pixels can be sourced from the original image taken by the photographer, or from another image taken by the photographer.
- When necessary, the FCC shall ask to see the original RAW image or images to verify images entered into the competition comply with competition requirement.
- Colour and monochrome images are allowed in all categories.
- Except for Nature and Astro, all creative approaches, photography techniques and postprocessing are welcome and encouraged (consistent with the Digital Art Editing and Post-Processing Policy, see below).
- Using another artist's image as a dominant element in a photograph, and presenting it as your own, is not permitted.

PRINT	
Fine Art Print	A printed photograph of any subject; which communicates a story, idea, mood or other creative intention; and where the printmaking significantly contributes to the impact of the photo. Printmaking includes, but not limited to, digital processes (inkjet, laser printing) and analogue processes (gelatin silver prints, cyanotypes). All entries **MUST** be mounted as described in the Print Handling Policy (see below)
DIGITAL	
Action	A digital image where action is the basis for the image's story, idea, mood or other creative intention. Includes, but not limited to, sports, wildlife, event and travel photography
Astro	A digital image that fully or prominently features the night sky. A foreground which does not dominate the image is allowed. All parts of the image must be taken when the sun is below the horizon in its entirety. Basic post-processing is allowed, including multiple exposures and stitching of panoramas.
Digital Art	A digital image that originated as one or more photographs taken by the photographer; which has undergone significant post processing; and which communicates a story, idea, mood or other creative intention. Editing and post-processing **MUST** be consistent with the FCC requirements (see below)
Flora	A digital image of any plant, part of a plant, or groups of plants which communicates a story, idea, mood or other creative intention. Includes, but not limited to, fungi, still life, landscape, some drone photography and macro-photography
Nature	A digital image consistent with the PSA/FIAP definition for Nature (see below).

Portrait	A digital image of a person or persons who are participating in the creation of the photo. At least one person in the image must have all or part of their face visible. Includes, but not limited to, self-portraits taken by the photographer, studio photography and portraits showing people in their work or other environment.
Staged	A digital image which is intentionally set up by the photographer; and which communicates a story, idea, mood or other creative intention. Includes, but not limited to, still life, pet, food and toy photography. Images which qualify for the Portrait category (see above) are **NOT** permitted
Urban	A digital image taken within a built-up environment (e.g. city, town, street or park); and which communicates a story, idea, mood or other creative intention. Includes, but not limited to, street, architecture, photojournalism, aerial, drone, urban landscape and travel photography

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Policy on Print Handling

1.0   Introduction

All prints being entered into FCC Competitions must be handled with a high standard of professional care. Careful handling is respectful of the photographer's work put into the print, and will also minimise the risk of prints or mounts being bent, creased, scratched or in other ways damaged.

The FCC takes all reasonable care to protect prints entered into FCC competitions but can take no responsibility for any damage to prints.

This Print Handling Policy identifies the minimum practical actions recommended by the FCC to be taken when selecting, mounting, packaging, transporting, handling, displaying and collecting prints.

2.0   Handling Practices

2.1   Selecting prints

Prints entered into FCC competitions should be replaceable given there is always a small risk they could be damaged. Photographers wishing to enter prints made from specialised materials (such metallic paper) or specialist printing processes (such as Platinum-Palladium printing) should contact the FCC (nswfccsecretary@gmail.com) to discuss how this can be done safely.

2.2   Mounting prints

It is a requirement of entry into all FCC competitions that:

- All prints are to be mounted to a finished size of 40cm x 50cm and not exceed 5mm in thickness. The actual print can be any size within this finished mount. Polystyrene mounts are not eligible.
- The back of each print must bear the label produced by your entry in this competition. Please affix the label to the rear of each print (preferably in the top left-hand corner).
- Prints and mounts must not have Velcro, unstuck labels, tape flaps or sticky residue on the back of mounts. These sticky materials can damage other prints or mounts if they come into contact with them.

If prints do not adhere to these requirements they will not be accepted and will be returned unjudged. The entry fee will not be refunded.

3.0   Reporting damage

If a print or mount is damaged, photographers or Clubs are asked to report what happened to the FCC (nswfccsecretary@gmail.com) so that the FCC take necessary action to prevent the damage from occurring again.

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Digital Art Editing and Post-Processing Policy

The final image must have originated as a photograph, and the original exposure and all post processing must be the work of the Image Creator.

The image should communicate a story, idea, mood or have some other creative intention.

Ways of creating a digital art image include but are not limited to:

- **Filters** - Filters are permitted provided they do not introduce a new element to the image that the Image Creator has not created themselves. For example, the sky replacement filter should use your own image. Stock images are not permitted. Filters which add a texture or pattern are permitted provided the texture or pattern has been created by the Image Creator. Third party textures & patterns are not permitted.
- **Composite Images** - whether they are of a realistic scene or an unrealistic scene, using editing techniques to build a scene from different elements (all of which have been photographed by the Image Creator). Stock images are not permitted. Clip art is not permitted.
- **Vector/Raster Layers** – The use of basic tools/brushes in photoshop are permitted to create Vector/Raster Layers provided the contents have been created by the Image Creator. Custom tools/brushes/textures must have been created by the Image Creator. Vector/Raster Layers can only amount to 50% of the image.

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Nature Definition

- 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, anaesthetic, or any other method of restricting natural movement for the purpose of a photograph is not allowed.

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 colour 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 colour.

There is no separate wildlife section.