

PSA INTERCLUB SCORING GUIDE ns.9/2025

These guidelines are for five (5) Divisions which include: Color, Monochrome, Nature, Photojournalism, and Photo Travel. Pictorial Print and 3D use the same interclub software for reporting and organization, however PPD and 3DD both have a unique judging process which can be found at **PSA website** <https://psa-photo.org/page/interclub-overview>

Image Creation and Authorship: In all sections of an exhibition, images must originate as photographs made by the entrant. Entrants may not incorporate images or image elements authored by anyone else (for example Photoshop replacement skies or textures, clipart or stock images), and there is zero tolerance for plagiarism. Editing or alteration of images is only permitted within the limits specified in the Division Definitions.

Statement on Artificial Intelligence (AI): Images created by image creation software (frequently called 'AI' images) are not allowed in any exhibition, social media, event, or publication governed by the PSA, other than for editorial purposes. Any person submitting an AI generated image (in whole or in part) that does not begin with a photograph from the maker shall be prohibited from PSA activities for a minimum of 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.

Similar Images: Identical or similar Images shall not be allowed in the same section or different sections of the same exhibition as determined by the judges or exhibition chair. Similar images are those which are practically equivalent, as defined on this page: <https://psa-services.org/pdf/Practical-Equivalence.pdf>. "Be advised, while similar images may be entered in different exhibitions, these images and acceptances may be disallowed by the separate review process associated with applications for stars, diamonds and galaxies. To avoid disappointment, do not enter images that are practically equivalent".

Two images are considered practical equivalents unless two of the following parameters vary between the images

- Noticeable change in camera position. Examples of a camera position change include high angle vs low angle, pan, or tracking shots, etc.
- Noticeable subject movement: a subject's movement may be slight (a head movement) but must be obvious. This parameter may also apply to inanimate subject matter (arrangement of subjects in a lightbox)
- Noticeable change of compositional or design elements: this includes a wide variety of possible changes, from lighting and lines to spaces and shapes
- Story-telling sequences: Can apply to any Division. For example, in PJD and ND story-telling sequences are captured by multiple images (change of facial expression or emotion, animal interactions, foraging, etc.)

Disqualification:

- If an interclub image is disqualified during the current competition season, that image will be scored 3 (1-1-1) and awards removed. If an image is found to be disqualified in a previous competition season there can be no changes since all files are archived. However, the award image will be removed from the season's Slideshow.
- If the Director believes that an entrant is guilty of cheating, plagiarism, or is on the PSA Penalty List, the PSA Director is directed by PSA Board to report this incident to the PSA Ethics board.

Makeup Images: (New Interclub Ruling) A Club can enter an entire round make-up for one totally missed round of up to 6 images by 6 different individuals. Individual Makeups are not allowed. If a club enters fewer than 6 images, they are unable to makeup missed images in future rounds.

Makeup Images shall receive scores and awards as appropriate with a regular submitted round of 6 images.

INTERCLUB SCORING GUIDELINES

This scoring guide is for interclub competitions and used along with the Division's Visual Guide. Color, Monochrome, Phototravel, Photojournalism, and Nature

SCORE 9 points: A photo of superior quality, craftsmanship, and artistic impact. Any perceived weakness would be offset by outstanding redeeming qualities that elevate it. A photo earning this score has an impact that makes the image significant and memorable. This score is considered a Merit Award.

SCORE 8 points: An outstanding image of the highest technical quality, well processed, with strong composition and impact. Generally, such a score is associated with an award-winning photo.

SCORE 7 points: A very good to excellent competition quality image with only minor, if any, technical weaknesses; well composed and with strong visual impact. An image with this score often may receive an award.

SCORE 6 points: A generally competent competition image where the technical and compositional aspects have been handled appropriately.

SCORE 4-5 points: A competition image with several problems or a single serious flaw involving technical, compositional, or other issues that result in it not being a strong competition image.

SCORE 2-3 points: A competition image that appears extremely weak, has several flaws involving technical, compositional or other issues and considered an inappropriate competition image.

SCORE 1* points: This score is reserved for serious and provable violations and needs a comment from list below.

1. Maker has more than one image in this competition's round.
2. The image won an award previously in the same competition.
3. The Image has already been submitted this season in this competition.
4. Maker's name or identifying information is on the image.
5. Image violates Division Definition. State Disqualification.

****An image with questionable editing or suspected non-compliance without proof should be given a different low score, not a score of 1.***

Procedure:

Director may request an original, unaltered image from the maker. If the maker does not comply within a week, the image will be removed and the image will receive a score of 3(1-1-1). Judges are asked to identify the specific breach of rules, and all judges must discuss this before awards are given. The majority must agree on the ruling. If judges determine a score 1 is appropriate, the total score shall be 3(1-1-1). If judges agree it is an inappropriate call, the image is rescored for a new total score. Directors will make the written corrections as appropriate on the scoresheet before the scoresheet is processed.