

## **RULES & REGULATIONS**

### **Salon Informations**

PABEL 7<sup>th</sup> International Digital Salon

Organised by: **Photographic Association of Belghoria (PABEL) (CM-850, estd. 1979); REGISTERED UNDER WEST BENGAL SOCIETIES REGISTRATION ACT, 1961 NO S0004066 OF 2019-2020**

### **ACCREDITATION OF THE CONTEST**

<b>FIAP</b>	<b><u>2026/379</u></b>
<b>FIP</b>	<b><u>FIP/2026/045</u></b>
<b>PABEL</b>	<b><u>2026/02</u></b>

### **SALON CALENDER**

Closing Date:	12 July, 2026
Selection:	18 <sup>th</sup> July, 2026 (Off-line)
Notification:	25 <sup>th</sup> July, 2026
FIAP & FIP EDAS/SDAS will be sent by:	8 <sup>th</sup> August, 2026
Catalogue, Exhibition & Award despatch:	September, 2026

### **SECTIONS**

1. Open Monochrome (PIDM)
2. Open Colour (PIDC)
3. World in focus (WIF)
4. Nature (NTD)
5. Portrait- **Colour/Monochrome** (Theme)

**\* Please read the definitions carefully before uploading photos.**

### **ENTRY FEES**

#### **For Overseas Entrants (paid through paypal only)**

All sections: \$ 30 (Thirty USD only)

#### **Club/ Group Discount:**

All sections: \$25 (Twenty five USD only)\* **for 10 and above participants.**  
\$18 (Eighteen USD only)\* **for 20 and above participants.**

**Early Bird discount (upto 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2026): \$25 (Twenty USD only)\*\***

#### **For Indian Entrants (paid through bank transfer only)**

1. All sections: Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand only)

### **Club Discount only:**

1. All sections: Rs. 850/- (Rupees eight hundred & fifty only)\* **for 10 and above participants.**
2. All sections: Rs. 750/- (Rupees seven hundred & fifty only)\* **for 20 and above participants.**

**Early Bird discount (upto 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2026):** Rs. 850/- (Rupees eight hundred fifty only)\*\*

**\* In case of club participation all awards of the group/club will be sent to group/club address only. List of participants of group/club along with their entrant id and proof of payment to be mailed by group/club authority along with the group/club address to [salon@pabel.in](mailto:salon@pabel.in)**

**\*\* For early bird discount, register and pay within 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2026.**

**Please don't request for any further personal/group/club discount.**

### **DETAILS OF PAYMENT PROCEDURE:**

**FOR FOREIGN ENTRANTS:** Pay through Paypal id only [dipa0618@hotmail.com](mailto:dipa0618@hotmail.com)

### **FOR INDIAN ENTRANTS:**

- ❖ **Account Name: Photographic Association of Belghoria**
- ❖ **Account Number: 0104010407410**
- ❖ **Bank: Punjab National Bank**
- ❖ **Branch: Paikpara**
- ❖ **IFS Code: PUNB0010420 (0 = Zero)**

### **PARTICIPANTS FAILED TO PAY THEIR ENTRY FEE BY 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2026 WILL BE DISQUALIFIED AND THEIR PHOTOGRAPHS WILL NOT BE JUDGED.**

- ❖ Cheque and Demand Drafts are **NOT allowed** and if sent shall NOT be sent for clearing. CASH DEPOSIT in Account is also **NOT allowed** and if deposited shall be forfeited without any claim thereafter.
- ❖ Entrants are requested to inform the payment/transaction details with entrant ID to [salon@pabel.in](mailto:salon@pabel.in) otherwise the same will not be updated and will be treated as unpaid.
- ❖ Please provide the below payee account details to the mentioned email address:
  1. Account number:
  2. Reference number / transaction number
  3. Mobile number in case of IMPS Transfer
  4. Money transfer date:
  5. Entrant name and id:
- ❖ If you are sending your entry fee from someone else's account, Please MENTION THE NAME OF ACCOUNT HOLDER in your email.
- ❖ **Position will only be updated after receiving mail from the participants as well as verification from bank account.**

- ❖ Please do not pay before completion of uploading the photographic works.

## **JURY MEMBERS**

**Km. Nabanita Das, EFIAP/s & EFIP(G)** – Open Colour & Open Monochrome  
**Shri Koshal Basu**, EFIAP/s, FFIP, EFIP (Gold), APSA & EPSA – Nature & World in focus  
**Smt. Mukta Biswas**, EFIAP/b & FFIP – Open Colour & Open Monochrome  
**Shri S. P. Mukherjee**, EFIAP & FFIP – Open Colour & Open Monochrome  
**Shri Abhijit Dey**, EFIAP & FFIP – Nature & World in focus  
**Shri Sushanta Burman**, EFIP(Gold – Nature), EFIAP/g & PPSA – Nature & World in focus  
**Shri Rajat Ghosh**, EFIAP & EFIP – Portrait  
**Shri Rana Mukherjee**, EFIAP & EFIP – Portrait  
**Shri Aniruddha Das**, EFIAP/s & MFIP – Portrait

## **AWARDS (IN EACH SECTION)**

1. FIAP GOLD MEDAL
2. FIP MEDAL - 2
3. PABEL MEDAL - 2
4. FIAP HM – 2 Nos.
5. FIP RIBBONS – 8 Nos.
6. CHAIRMAN CHOICE MEDAL – 1 Nos.
7. JURY CHOICE (PDF) – 3 nos.
8. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT (PDF) – 6 Nos.

- ❖ **Best Entrant will receive FIAP special light blue pin (SLBP) and certificate.\***
- ❖ **Best Lady Entrant will receive Late Anup Paul Memorial Plaque.\***
- ❖ **Best club will receive Late Dr. G. Thomas Memorial Plaque.\*\***
- ❖ **Best Indian club will receive Late Benu Sen Memorial Plaque.\*\*\***
- ❖ **2<sup>nd</sup> Indian best club will receive Late Swapan Mukherjee Memorial Plaque.\*\*\***
- ❖ **Best Indian entrant will receive Late Dilip Bose Memorial Plaque.\*\*\***
- ❖ **Best Lady Indian entrant will receive Late Achinta Saha Memorial Plaque.\*\*\***
- ❖ **TOTAL 132 awards.**

\* **Consideration of Best Club, Best Entrant & Best Lady entrant will be considered as per number of acceptances.**

\*\* **For qualification of Best Club award, minimum 20 participants required and will be calculated as per number of acceptances.**

**(If acceptances are same, awards will be considered.)**

**\*\*\*Calculation for Best Indian clubs, best Indian entrant and best Indian Lady Entrant will be as under:**

ACCEPTANCE	01 Point	CM/ HM	01 Point
FIP/ FIAP GOLD MEDAL	06 Points	PABEL MEDAL	05 Points
CHAIRMAN CHOICE MEDAL	03 Points	FIP/FIAP RIBBON	02 Points

**Best Indian club and 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Indian club must be a valid Registered Corporate Member of FIP and minimum 15 members should be participated.**

**ALL AWARDS WILL BE DESPATCHED THROUGH INDIA POST (REGISTERED POST/PARCEL ONLY) WITH DUE CARE. ORGANISATION WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGE/LOSS OF AWARD DURING TRANSIT.**

## **ALL AWARDEES SHOULD MAIL THEIR ADDRESS PROPERLY WITHIN ONE MONTH AFTER NOTIFICATION OF RESULT.**

**The acceptance are limited to maximum of 30% in each section.**

### **RULES & REGULATIONS**

#### **Conditions of Entry**

- All Acceptances are eligible for statistics applicable to FIAP & FIP (all 6 sections) as well as PSA star rating.
- **Monochrome images should not be entered in Open Colour section and vice-versa except Nature, Photo Travel.**
- Entry is open to all photographers, amateur and professional, worldwide.
- The maximum entry in each section per author is 4 (four).
- An entrant's four images will be presented to the judges randomly.
- **Same/similar image must NOT be entered in more than one sections - this includes altered and unaltered images, if submitted both the images will be disqualified.**
- Entries must originate as photographs, (image captured of objects via light sensitivity), made by the entrant on photographic emulsion or acquired digitally.
- All final work must be digital file for Digital sections (.jpeg ONLY).
- By virtue of submitting and entry, the entrant certifies the work as his own and 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 exhibition assumes no liability of any misuse of copyright.
- At the time of judging, entrant's names/name of works WILL not be available to Jury Members.
- Please limit titles to 35 characters.
- All imagery **MUST** be the total and exclusive work of the submitting author and may not include any element that was originated by or is the copyright of other photographers.
- For awarded/ accepted images, RAW/unedited jpeg file may be requested. If requested, in case of non-compliance, award/ acceptance will be denied.
- The right of reproduction in relation to the exhibition, including digital representation, will be assumed upon entering.
- The exhibition is open to anyone; however, an entry may be rejected when the sponsoring organization or its agent, in its reasonable discretion, believes the entry does not conform to the exhibition rules and conditions.
- **Images AWARDED/ACCEPTED in PREVIOUS PABEL SALONS, either National or International, if entered again, SHALL BE SUMMARILY REJECTED.**
- ENTRIES RECEIVED WITHOUT ENTRY FEES WILL NOT BE JUDGED. NO CORRESPONDENCE SHALL BE ENTERTAINED IN THIS REGARD.
- THE SUBMISSION OF AN ENTRY SIGNIFIES ACCEPTANCE OF THESE RULES & CONDITIONS.
- All PAID entrants shall receive a DIGITAL PDF Catalogue via email. Catalogue shall also be available at our website for downloading.
- RESULTS shall be sent via email to all paid entrants. Results shall also be available at our site for downloading.
- All entries shall conform to the stricter of these definitions for acceptances to be validated by the Organization granting recognition or patronage.
- All accepted images will receive E-acceptance certificate (pdf).

- **Members of PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION OF BELGHORIA are NOT ALLOWED to participate in the Salon.**

#### **All about Your Entry:**

- ❖ All sections are recognized by **FIAP & FIP**
- ❖ All acceptances FIAP & FIP for FIAP/FIP Distinctions. Acceptance certificate will be sent to all successful entrants via email.
- ❖ Our Catalogue will include a listing of accepted images for the exhibition for all sections and will include all award-winning images with statistics.

#### **IMAGE SPECIFICATION**

- Entrants may enter up to 4 projected images in each section.
- Maximum size of any image 1920 pixels on the horizontal side 1080 pixels vertical resolution of 300dpi, (Maximum Size 2MB, compression 10-12), 8 bit, sRGB and saved as a large .jpeg file to be titled as per entry form for Digital sections.
- All entries to be made via our electronic entry system accessible from [pabel.fotosalons.in](http://pabel.fotosalons.in)
- For any questions, please email [salon@pabel.in](mailto:salon@pabel.in)
- Digital Images will be judged in Laptop.

#### **GENERAL CONDITIONS**

- The exhibition is open to anyone; however, an entry may be rejected when the sponsoring organization or its agent, in its reasonable discretion, believes the entry does not conform to the exhibition rules and conditions.
- 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 shall be in the same round order as submitted by the entrant.
- Entries must originate as photographs (image-captures of objects via light sensitivity) made by the entrant on photographic emulsion or acquired digitally. By virtue of submitting an entry, the entrant certifies the work as his own (aliases are not permitted).
- 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.
- **Each awarded work can only get one single prize. Each salon participant cannot receive more than one award per section in the same salon. Furthermore, it is forbidden to award identical or similar works entered by the same author or by a different author, in the same event.**
- Note: Entrants who indicate that their images may not be reproduced or used "**will not be eligible for awards**" or inclusion in the exhibition "and could be subject to disqualification" by the exhibition sponsors.
- The exhibition assumes no liability of any misuse of copyright. Images may be altered subject to Nature, Photo Travel and Street divisional restrictions. All final work must be on print/ electronic file.
- No title or identification of the maker shall be visible anywhere on the face of an image.
- Each image must have a unique title. Once an image has been accepted in a PSA Recognized exhibition, that same image, or a like "in camera" or a "reproduction" duplicate of that image.
- May not be entered or re-entered in any section of the same Division Star Ratings class in that exhibition regardless of media, format, or title.
- May not be re-titled for entry in any other FIAP/FIP Recognized exhibition, including translation into another language.

- An image may be entered in only one section where acceptances of that image in multiple sections would be eligible for the same star path. **Images entered in one section cannot be entered in any of the other sections either altered or unaltered.**
- The jury's decisions are final. No correspondence shall be entertained.
- Words such as "Untitled" and "No Title" are not acceptable as part or all of an image's title, nor are camera capture filenames.
- Concerning digital entries, we recommend that authors should preserve intact, with no alteration, the original metadata of images.
- By entering this exhibition, you are explicitly consenting to the personal details you have supplied, including 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 and accept that entering this exhibition means that the status and results of your entry may be made public.

### **Artificial intelligence (AI) in FIAP salons [Info 347/2025E]**

Following consultations with the relevant PSA services, the two organisations, FIAP and PSA, have agreed on the following common statement regarding the use of AI in salons held under their joint patronage. This statement must be included in the regulations of salons or events applying for FIAP patronage.

- **Permitted AI-enhanced editing:** includes editing tools that perform transformations, enhancements, or corrections based exclusively on the existing pixel data captured in the author's original photograph without introducing externally sourced content.
- **Prohibited AI editing:** includes any AI-assisted processes for synthetic image generation that incorporate external image data, visual elements, textures, objects, or scenes not originally present in the author's photograph are prohibited.

### **FIAP Notice**

In order to have legal authority on those who do not respect the rules of FIAP, this salon requires participants to confirm by ticking a box next to which the following text:

***“I hereby expressly agree to FIAP document 040/2023 « Conditions and regulations for FIAP Patronage » and FIAP document 038/2023 « Sanctions for breaching FIAP regulations and the red list ». I am particularly aware of chapter II « Regulations for International photographic events under FIAP patronage » of FIAP document 040/2023, dealing under Section II.2 and II.3 with the FIAP participation rules, the sanctions for breaching FIAP regulations and the red list.”***

### **Drone Policy**

One of the tenets of photography, is that the safety and well-being of the subject, photographer and surroundings is of paramount importance over the capturing of the

photograph. The purpose of this section is to prevent any interference with other individuals or animals which will or may cause a disturbance in their normal activity or disrupt the way an individual or animal interacts with its environment.

1. May not fly a drone above people for the purpose of photographing their activity, unless permission is granted in writing.
2. May not fly or photograph animals in their natural habitat, especially nesting areas and locations where the animal is already under stress (winter survival, migratory feeding and protecting young).

### **Photographing scenery/landscapes is permissible.**

May not fly or photograph in any designated wilderness area.

### **FIAP REVIEW OF SUSPECTED NON-COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS AND DEFINITIONS**

*Each author whose image shows any suspicions about the compliance with FIAP regulations or definitions can be requested by the organizer or by FIAP, to submit the original file (file containing the data recorded by the sensor, if so, the RAW file) plus the file of the image immediately before and immediately following the questionable image. If he/she failed to provide what is required, he/she can be sanctioned.*

*By the sole act of submitting his/her images or files to PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION OF BELGHORIA as a salon under FIAP Patronage, the entrant accepts without exception and with no objection the following terms:*

- \* **that the submitted images can be investigated by FIAP to establish if these obey to FIAP regulations and definitions even if the entrant is not a member of FIAP,**
- \* **that FIAP will use any means at its disposal for this undertaking,**
- \* **that any refusal to cooperate with FIAP or any refusal to submit the original files as captured by the camera, or failure to provide sufficient evidence, will be sanctioned by FIAP,**
- \* **that in case of sanctions following the non-compliance with FIAP regulations, the name of the entrant will be released in any form useful to inform the breaches of the rules,**
- \* **Concerning digital entries, FIAP recommends that authors should preserve intact, with no alteration, the original metadata of images. In case of contestation for incompliance with FIAP regulations the fact of not being able to access this important data could mean that the author could be sanctioned,**
- \* **Persons who are found guilty of plagiarism are excluded lifelong from FIAP activities.**

### **BREACH OF CONDITION OF ENTRY**

If the exhibition determines before, during, or after the judging that an entrant has submitted entries where one or more images fail to comply with these Conditions of Entry, including the stated definitions, the exhibition reserves the right and discretion to delete the entry from the exhibition and void any or all acceptances or awards. Fees may be forfeited in these circumstances. In order to ensure that images comply with the Conditions of Entry and definitions, the exhibition may carry out checks on the images to make sure that:

- the images are the original work of the entrant and
- the images comply with the rules and definitions as set out in these Conditions of Entry.

This may involve asking the entrant to provide originally captured image(s), with EXIF data intact, by a set deadline. The questioned image(s) of any entrant failing to comply with such a request for the original image(s) may be considered in breach of these Conditions of Entry, and declined. Such entries may be referred to FIAP & FIP or any other patronage body for further investigation of possible ethics violations. FIAP & FIP or any other patronage body retains the right to investigate in any way all complaints/suspicious of breaches of entry conditions, impose sanctions if deemed necessary, void the acceptances of any image found to violate the FIP rules, include the entrant's name on the list of sanctions provided to Exhibitions. Entrants automatically agree to these terms by the act of entering the Exhibition,

### **SALON COMMITTEE**

#### **CHAIRMAN:**

DIPANKAR DASGUPTA, **EFIAP/p; PFIAP, MFIP**

email: [dipa0618@gmail.com](mailto:dipa0618@gmail.com)

Contact: 9038678005

#### **SECRETARY**

SUMIT DAS

email: [nikonguyindia@gmail.com](mailto:nikonguyindia@gmail.com)

Contact: 9748662998

### **FIP DEFINITION OF DIVISIONS AND SECTIONS**

**PID Colour:** The subject matter is unrestricted for PID images in separate colour and monochrome section. There may be a theme specified for some PID Salons and the exhibition's definition of the theme should be consulted with the organizer. **Use of major computer generated graphics is totally restricted except in Creative thematic section. Para II.8 E of FIAP DOC 018/2017 E.** All elements of the image must have been shot by the author. All parts of the image including graphics have to be photograph by the author holding copyright of his submitted works. Use of some filters available on net is permissible. Same images either colour or mono in two different section of the same Salon will result in disqualification for both the images.

**Monochrome Definition:** An image is considered to be Monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no colour (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 colour across the entire image. (For example by Sepia, red, gold, etc.).

**Nature Photography definition:** 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. (Suggested\*: An example will be helpful to the New Jury). The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality.

1. Human elements must 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.
2. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible.
3. Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible.

4. Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. Conversion to infrared, either by digital technique or by original technique is not allowed. Stitching of two or more image is not permitted.

5. Complete conversion to grey scale Monochrome is allowed but without partial or complete toning.

6. It is perfectly legal to remove dust, flares or digital noise. Minor global colour / tone correction is OK as long as it is not selective and the final image looks natural but not FIP DEFINITION OF DIVISIONS AND SECTIONS VIEWFINDER MARCH, 2022 23 dramatic. Dodge and Burn tool is for you only but use it judiciously. Selective darkening of background is prohibited. Techniques like panning, slow shutter speed or in-exposure zooming are part of your creativity. Use of filters like Polarizers and NDs are ok.

7. Drone Photography in the National Parks of India is illegal except with prior written permission from the concerned authorities. Drone images of Wild animals will be disqualified.

8. Welfare of the subject is extremely important. Use of live bait is totally prohibited. Relocated nest is a big NO and jury members should not award Nest images.

Images entered in Nature section 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 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**

Where exhibitions or competitions have a Wildlife Section or are giving a Wildlife Medal the following applies: 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 mammals, 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.

### **FIAP DEFINITIONS**

**OPEN (General):** Entries must originate as photographs (image-capture of objects via light sensitivity) made by the entrant on photographic emulsion or acquired digitally. By virtue of submitting an entry, the entrant certifies the work as his/her own and 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 exhibition assumes no liability for any misuse of copyright. Images may be altered, either electronically or otherwise, by the maker except the restrictions stipulated in Nature and Photo Travel sections.

**MONOCHROME:** A black and white work fitting from the very dark grey (black) to the very clear grey (white) is a monochrome work with the various shades of grey. A black and white work toned entirely in a single colour will remain a monochrome work able to stand in the black and white category; such a work can be reproduced in black and white in the catalogue of a salon under FIAP Patronage. On the other hand a black and white work modified by a partial toning or by the addition of one colour becomes a colour work (polychrome) to stand in the colour category; such a work requires colour reproduction in the catalogue of a salon under FIAP Patronage.

**WORLD IN FOCUS:** Just as travel and tourism pictures, this section englobes the full range of photographic genres from architecture, culture, events, food, landscape, portraits, etc. A “WORLD IN FOCUS” image expresses the spirit of an era, the essence of a place or of a culture whether it is shown in an authentic scene or whether it is arranged. Digital manipulation to optimise an image in terms of finetuning of levels and colours is allowed as long as the image is looking natural. The same counts for removal of dust or digital noise. Techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted.

### **Editing Guidelines**

Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible.

#### **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 colour.

**The photographs should be reality based, like photo journalism and nature divisions. The objective of World on focus is to show the world as it is found naturally. The purpose is to guide the photographers towards making images that show how the world really is, rather than to arrange it and to manipulate images to obtain the best photographs.**

**Images from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography are not permitted.**

### **NATURE (FIAP): INFO 313 / 2025 E**

#### **Content Guidelines**

Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both over water and underwater.

Nature images must convey the truth of the scene. 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 threatening a living organism's life or welfare 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.
- Photographs made where the scene is natural and the animal is unharmed in a carefully managed environment, such as Zoo, rescue centers, and ethically managed natural environment farms are permitted.
- Attracting or controlling subjects through the use of food or sound for the purpose of photographing them is not allowed. Maintained situations such as provided supplemental food due to hardship caused by weather conditions or other conditions beyond the animals' control, where photography is incidental to the feeding of the animal does not fall under this provision.
- Controlling live subjects by chilling, anaesthetic, or any other method of restricting natural movement for a photograph is not allowed.
- Human-made elements shall be permitted under the following circumstances:
  - a) When they are an integral part of the nature story, such as a songbird singing atop a fence post a manmade object used as nest material, or a weather phenomenon destroying a man-made structure.
  - b) When they are a small but unavoidable part of the scene, such as an unobtrusive footprint or track in the background.
  - c) Scientific tags, collars, and bands are specifically allowed.

When photographing at a zoo, sanctuary, or rehabilitation centre, it would be construed that the photographer ensured that it's properly accredited and conforms to best practices.

### **Wildlife Photography**

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

- Zoological organisms must be living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat of their own choosing.
- 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.
- Botanical organisms may not be removed from their natural environment for the purpose of photography.
- Images that have been staged for the purpose of photography are 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

**Portrait (Colour/Monochrome):** Photographs in this section can be submitted either in colour or in monochrome like PIDC/PIDM and shall be guided as per PIDC/PIDM rules.

***With the sole act of submitting his/her images or files to a salon under FIAP Patronage, the entrant accepts without exception and with no objection that the submitted images can be investigated by FIAP to establish if these obey to FIAP regulations and definitions even if the entrant is not a member of FIAP; that FIAP will use any means at its disposal for this undertaking; that any refusal to cooperate with FIAP or any refusal to submit the original files as captured by the camera, or failure to provide sufficient evidence, will be sanctioned by FIAP and that in case of sanctions following the non-compliance with FIAP regulations, the name of the entrant will be released in any form useful to inform the breaches of the rules. It is recommended to leave the EXIF data in the submitted files intact in order to ease eventual investigations.***



**Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique**  
**International Federation of Photographic Art**

Fédérations et associations nationales, associations régionales  
et clubs affiliés sur les cinq continents.  
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