

SALONS

RULES, REGULATIONS

& SANCTIONS

in other words what you can and can't do and what will happen if you break those rules.

There are probably well over 1000 salons you could enter each year if you count all of them worldwide – so the 28 of ours doesn't sound so much. However for each you have to download the brochure (entry form) and read it.

But how much do you actually read – probably just the “important” parts i.e. what categories, how much does it cost, when does it close and maybe who the judges are?

The rest of it is just as important and it is obvious from what is happening on our salons that everyone is not reading the rules.

PSSA takes this seriously and has decided to impose sanctions on entrants who break the rules (this is already being done by FIAP and other international societies). We are still deciding on the sanctions but in the meanwhile just to get everyone on the same page here is some information to help you interpret the rules correctly.

NAMING OF IMAGES

Each image must have a unique name i.e. the name of the image may not be changed at any time as all acceptance records are based on the image name.

What this means is that even if you convert the image from colour to mono, or from digital to print, it must always have the same title. You can't add anything to that title to indicate that it is version 2, or bw or print etc.

It's OK when you upload your pics to Photovault, there you can have the additions to the title to tell yourself which ones they are but you must make sure that when you complete the entry form that you give it the correct title.



SAME OR SIMILAR

Similar implies that it is almost the same time, or almost the same place, or almost the same situation – just another frame in an action series or a different crop is not necessarily sufficiently different to make it a different image – by being almost the same it is a similar shot.

This is true in any genre be it portrait, landscape, creative, nature etc. The change could be in lighting, or action, or composition etc.

Any image, which is sufficiently similar to another, such as these may be ruled ineligible as being effectively the same Image.



Can DANCE be entered into the SPORTS category? NO not in PSSA Salons.

While our definition appears to allow Dance to be entered in the Sports section as Dance is “an active pastime and does involve physical exertion”, the Board has decided that it will not be allowed in the sport section in salons. There are obviously many arguments against this ruling but please be aware that you should enter your dance images in the Open category in any PSSA Salons.



The Dance of the Beauty - Nicol du Toit



Elk in Mist - the title must stay the same when converting from colour to mono

In order to make it a different image you would need the whole situation to change, not just a paw or a tail, a splash ...



The fundamental rule that must be observed at all times 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. 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. This rule applies regardless of whether or not the creature being killed, injured or stressed is visible in the captured image.

MANIPULATION

Manipulation is not allowed in Nature and Photo Journalism and shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Adding an element to the image that was not contained in the original scene - many images are being enhanced by the addition of dust into an image to create mood - what is that if not adding an element that was not contained in the original scene?
- Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original scene; Grass in front of a Lion's face is often considered a distraction and is easy to remove ... but it is manipulation and therefore not allowed.
- Darkening of the background to hide unwanted elements or to produce an unnatural looking image, is not allowed.

NO MAN-MADE OBJECTS

Nature images are not allowed to contain people or things created by people unless the objects are a necessary part of the nature story.

The basic requirement is that any evidence of human activity in an image MUST be “a necessary part of the Nature story”.

A simple way of looking at this is to ask the question: If the human element was not present, would there be an image that told a nature story? If the answer is “No” then the human element is a necessary part of the nature story – without the human element there would be no story to capture.

In other words a waterhole is manmade and if it was not there then there would be nowhere for the animals to drink – so it is a necessary part of the nature story.

Examples of things that have been created by people or modified by people and are not allowed in nature images include but are not limited to: roads, paths, vehicle tracks, signs, vehicles etc. that are not a necessary part of the nature story.

Be honest and comply with the spirit of these rules.



Caracal Portrait - the background has been modified and therefore this is not eligible in the nature section and must be entered in the Open or other non-nature section.

Transgressing and interpreting the nature rules is a worldwide problem and FIAP and PSA have been working together to update their nature rules.

PSA have published "A Guide for Nature Photographers and Judges" which has given much clarity to many of the "grey" areas and we quote from it with permission from the main author, Dr Roy Killen, APSA, GMPSA/B, EFIAP, APSEM and PSA.

The full document can be found on our website at <https://pssa.co.za/psa-guide-for-nature-photographers-judges/>

NATURE or WILDLIFE

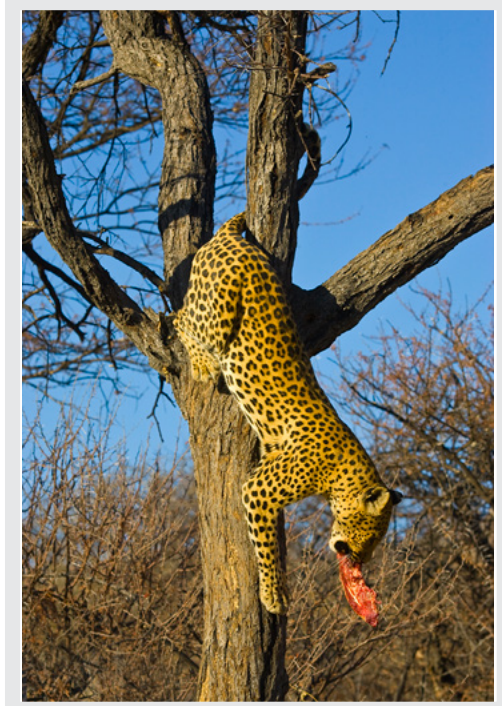
We often hear the words Nature and Wildlife used to describe natural history photography – they are not one and the same – **all wildlife images are nature but not all nature is wildlife.**

To be called wildlife, zoological specimens must be "living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat of their own choosing". The subject must not be under any form of restraint or restriction by humans.

Animals in large nature reserves (such as Kruger National Park in South Africa) are suitable wildlife subjects. However, animals in zoos, on game farms or in any situation where their movement or food supply is controlled by humans, are not suitable wildlife subjects.

For some wildlife, the adopted habitat may be an environment that has been modified by humans but the wildlife must be in that location of its own free will.

Zoological subjects (any form of fauna) must not be removed from their natural habitat for the purpose of wildlife photography, nor should they be under any form of control or restraint by humans. This includes reptiles, amphibians and insects.



This leopard was photographed in a large enclosure in a private reserve and is reliant on man for its food and is therefore not a wildlife subject.

It can however be entered in nature.

The piece of meat which has obviously been prepared by man does not enhance the photograph and therefore one wouldn't enter that image.

Article and images - Jill Sneesby