



Introduction

1. This document provides guidance to exhibition organizers for any Photographic Society of America (PSA) recognized exhibition with a closing date starting January 1, 2026 or later. In addition to reviewing this document before submitting an application for recognition, Chairs must also review the latest Exhibition Standards available here: <https://psa-services.org/ES/#chairs>
2. Abbreviations used in this document:
 - **COE** - Conditions of Entry
 - **ERD** - Exhibition Recognition Director
 - **ERS**- Exhibition Recognition Software
 - **ESD**- Exhibition Standards Director
 - **ES** - Exhibition Standards
 - **EWSC** – Exhibition Website Standards Coordinator
 - **FIAP** - Federation Internationale De L'Art Photographique
 - **ND** - Nature Division
 - **PIDC** - Pictorial Image Division Color
 - **PIDM** - Pictorial Image Division Monochrome
 - **PJD** - Photojournalism Division
 - **PPD** - Pictorial Print Division
 - **PTD** - Photo Travel Division
 - **PTDD** – PTD Documentary (new Star Path)
 - **PTDW** – PTD Word in Focus (new Star Path)
 - **3DD** - 3D Division
3. All exhibitions are required to submit a COE together with their application for PSA recognition, and only the version of the COE that is approved by the ERD can be published on the exhibition website. The ERD or EWSC will review the website for compliance and may require changes as needed.
4. The COE must contain the following elements:
 - a) Part A contains all required details specific to an exhibition (fees, judges, themes, etc.);
 - b) Part-B contains requirements that apply to ALL exhibitions. It summarizes subject matter restrictions and Division definitions, and contains the standard PSA disclaimer and Recognition Statement that must appear in ALL exhibitions.
 - c) Organizers may insert Part B into their COE entirely as-is. Optionally, instead of the summary definitions contained in Subject Matter & Definitions, they may use the full definitions from the PSA website (**HQ).
 - d) Exhibitions must ensure that the **Affirmation by Entrant** checkbox (or equivalent function) is part of the entry form and that the entry cannot proceed unless the entrant has agreed.
 - e) The official **PSA Recognition Statement** must be included on the last page of your COE.
5. Any text colored BLUE is an instruction to the exhibition organizer and does not belong in the COE.
6. Any text colored **BLACK**, including Headings, must be included in the COE. When in doubt, use the ERS messaging system to consult with the ERD assigned to assist you.

PART A

This information must be publicly available on the exhibition website without requiring login credentials.

COE-A1 EXHIBITION NAME AND PSA LOGO.

- a) Use the full name of the exhibition, do not use the shortened name used to apply for recognition.
- b) Place the PSA Logo at the top left of the front page.
- c) After the exhibition has been recognized, a PSA exhibition recognition number will be allocated and this must be visible below the PSA logo in the COE published on the exhibition's website.
- d) Optional headings may be added for ORGANISED BY or SPONSORED BY before the CONTACTS heading.

COE-A2 CONTACTS

- a) Name of the exhibition Chair;
- b) Address;
- c) Email address of the exhibition or the chair contact info;
- d) Direct link to the exhibition website.
- e) Specific location of entry form on the exhibition website;

COE-A3 SECTIONS AND THEMES

Only 6 sections are permitted per salon, and each section must conform to PSA Star Paths. Themes must be clearly identifiable to all entrants, with no geographical restrictions, and must be approved before recognition can be granted. The following lists some Division specific requirements:

Divisions	Sections (Themes) Restrictions
Projected Image Pictorial Print 3DD (PID, PPD, 3D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there are no thematic restrictions in "Open" sections; • the terms "Nature," "Photojournalism," or "Photo Travel" may not be used for section or theme names;
Photojournalism (PJD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The term "Open" may not be used as a section or theme name; • the term "General" is used when no Photojournalism theme is specified; • Photojournalism Theme Exhibition requires pre-approval of the ESD;
Nature (ND)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The term "Open" may not be used as a section name; • the term "General" is be used when no Nature theme is specified; • Nature Theme Exhibitions require theme approval of the ESD; • When a wildlife award is offered, regardless of whether a wildlife section is included, the form for submitting Nature entries must include provisions for the entrant to certify that each submitted photograph complies with both the general nature definition and the wildlife definition.
Photo Travel (PTDD, PTDW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The term "Open" may not be used as a section or theme name; • As of 2026, the Photo Travel is divided into 2 star paths: -Photo Travel Documentary (PTDD) and Photo Travel World in Focus (PTDW); • Exhibitions may offer either PTDD or PTDW sections <u>or both</u>, but they must make clear which of these star paths apply; • Only PTD themes listed on the PSA Photo Travel Division site are permitted in either star path; • PT Theme Exhibition requires pre-approval of the ESD;

COE-A4 FEES AND DISCOUNTS

- a) Fees must be clearly stated and be transparent. Any discounted fees that are not clearly described in the exhibition's published COE, including partial payments or subsidies, are prohibited.
- b) 'Early Entry' (Early Bird) and other discounts are allowed. However, regional pricing, if offered, is available only to individual entrants residing in the country hosting the exhibition. For greater clarity, circuits hosting salons in different countries can only offer regional pricing in the single country hosting the exhibition itself, not in countries hosting each salon in the circuit.
- c) Where printed catalogs are produced or prints are to be returned, exhibitions may charge different fees for postage, provided this extra cost is transparently explained in the Conditions of Entry.

COE-A5 CALENDAR

- a) The following dates must be included and must be identical with the dates in the exhibition's application form unless explicitly approved by the ERD.
- b) The Closing Date must clearly state the date and specific time (expressed in UTC) after which entries are no longer accepted by the exhibition. **With the exception of Closing Date and Website Availability, any completion step can occur earlier than stated, but not later.** Refer to Section M of the Exhibitions Standards document.
- c) Please use the ISO 8601 internationally recognized standard date format (YYYY-MM-DD);
- d) The ERS system automatically sets the maximum allowable dates on the application and COE:

Closing date	YYYY-MM-DD	last date for registrations
All judging completed	YYYY-MM-DD	Between 10 and 28 days after closing date (4 weeks)
Score reports sent	YYYY-MM-DD	35 days after closing-(5 weeks)
Online gallery posted	YYYY-MM-DD	49 days after closing (7 weeks)
Acceptance reports (EDAS) uploaded	YYYY-MM-DD	60 days after closing (2 months)
Online catalogs posted	YYYY-MM-DD	90 days after closing (3 months)
Printed catalogs posted	YYYY-MM-DD	120 days after closing (4 months)
Awards mailed	YYYY-MM-DD	90 days after closing (3 months)
Status page and website	YYYY-MM-DD	publicly accessible for 1 year after closing

COE-A6 JUDGES (the term SELECTORS may also be used)

- List details of each judge (or selector): name, country, PSA (or other) distinctions, and sections they are judging.

COE-A7 AWARDS

- a) Give full details of the awards in each section.
- b) If certificates are given, the COE must give details on how these will be sent (postal or electronic). Refer to the Exhibition Standards document and follow award rules described in **section L** of the ES.
- c) If awards are physical (Medal, Ribbon, Trophy, etc) specify delivery details (posted, registered, DHL, etc).
- d) If awards are digital (Certificate, Honorable Mention, etc.) specify nature of the Digital awards (pdf, etc), and state whether digital awards will be emailed or downloaded from the exhibition website.
- e) Where Club or Group awards are provided, state the minimum number of entrants who must participate.
- f) The organizer is required to adjust the number of awards based on the total number of acceptances.

COE-A8 CATALOGS

- a) Specify details of the type of catalog to be produced. For example:
 - Printed catalog mailed to exhibitors; or
 - Electronic catalog emailed to exhibitors.

COE-A9 DIGITAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (applies only to exhibitions accepting DIGITAL entries)

- a) Specify the method of submitting entries and any specific format.

- b) Specify the required image size of digital images. Do not use the term "longest side" but define the required "horizontal width" and "vertical height" dimensions in pixels.
- c) Chairs are reminded that resizing entrant's oversized images is prohibited. Refer to ES-F6.

COE-A10 PRINT ENTRIES (*applies only to exhibitions accepting PRINT entries*)

Clearly specify any relevant print options, requirements or restrictions that apply to PPD sections as well as prints submitted to ND, PJD and PTD sections:

- a) The maximum (and optionally the minimum) dimensions accepted. When using standard paper sizes (ISO 216) the approximate dimensions should be provided in both millimeters and inches.
- b) State that combining color and monochrome prints in any single pictorial print section is not allowed.
- c) Specify mounting options (unmounted or mounted, border or float mounting), etc.
- d) State that over-mats are prohibited.
- e) Specify size restrictions, if any (i.e. specify if only SMALL prints are allowed in a section).
- f) Specify whether paper size should be trimmed to match image size (if image does not fill paper size).
- g) Specify whether the exhibition provides preprinted labels (and where these are to be affixed) or alternate details for identifying author. Any label used should be pressure sensitive.
- h) Specify dimensions (pixel) of digital version of each print provided by the entrant for catalog or galleries.
- i) State whether prints will be destroyed after judging, and costs associated with returning prints or forwarding them to another salon.

COE-A11 JUDGING METHOD

- a) State whether judging will be in person at a venue together, or online remotely.
- b) Specify that equipment to be used is color-calibrated and images will be displayed at exactly 100% of their resolution.
- c) Specify if the award session will be held with all of the judges together online or together at a set venue.
- d) Chairs should refer to **Sections K and L** in the Exhibition Standards document for relevant rules.
- e) State that an entrant's images will not be presented to the judges consecutively. Instead, the first image submitted by each entrant will be presented to judges, followed by the 2nd image submitted by each entrant, and so on. For greater clarity, and that distribution of images within each round will be in the same order as submitted by the entrant.
- f) State that at no stage will exhibition software allow a judge to view all the entrant's images together.

COE-A12 AFFIRMATION BY ENTRANT

An Affirmation statement similar to the one below must be part of the entry form and must be actively acknowledged (clicked) by entrants before they participate in the exhibition.

AFFIRMATION BY ENTRANT: (*entrant must check this box to proceed*)

- I hereby confirm that I understand and agree to the Conditions of Entry of this exhibition;
- I am aware that PSA may apply penalties for non-compliance to these Conditions of Entry;
- I have also read and understood the PSA entrants' agreement found here:

<https://psa-services.org/ES/#entrants>

COE-A13 PSA RECOGNITION STATEMENT

- The official PSA Recognition Statement must be displayed on the last page of your COE, no smaller than the patronage statement of any other recognizing body.
- Either a horizontal version or vertical version may be used.
- Ensure you use the updated Recognition Statement, as displayed below, and available here: <https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/exhibitions-hosting>

RECOGNITION STATEMENT

The sponsors of this International Exhibition of Photography have been awarded Recognition by the Photographic Society of America (PSA). 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.

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:




Photographic Society of America
706 N. Broadway Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
405-843-1437
Toll Free (US) 855-772-4636
E-mail: headquarters@psaphotoworldwide.org
Website: psaphotoworldwide.org

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Website: psaphotoworldwide.org

PART B of the COE continues on next page.

- Organizers may either insert Part B into their COE entirely presented below (copy and paste for this document);
- Or they can use the full definitions (for Divisions, Subject Matter, etc) which they can find on the PSA website:

<https://psaphotoworldwide.org/general/custom.asp?page=divisions>

PART B

EXHIBITION REQUIREMENTS

Applicable Rules: This exhibition will be conducted in accordance with the rules of the PSA.

Entry Requirements: This exhibition is open to everyone; however, an entry may be rejected when the exhibition chair believes the entry does not conform to PSA exhibition rules and these Conditions of Entry. Membership in any photographic organization is not required. Neither awards nor acceptances will be granted to any entrant who is on the PSA Penalties List for Ethics Violation, and entry fees are not refundable in these circumstances. Throughout this document, *entrant*, *author* and *photographer* are used interchangeably, and each term refers to the person who is the original creator of a submitted image. Entrants are required to submit their own entries with properly sized images.

PSA Star Ratings: To receive 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 a name change or relocation to another country. Using one's name differently in different exhibitions exposes the entrant to the risk that many of their acceptances may not be recognized in PSA Star records.

Reproduction: Entrants grant sponsors free reproduction rights for exhibition-related media, including low-resolution web posting. Entries will not be accepted from entrants who restrict reproduction rights. PSA may request specific permission for educational use under mutually agreed terms. If an image violates PSA's exhibition rules or its Ethics Policy, PSA may reproduce the image without permission for educational purposes or to illustrate rule violations, with the entrant's name withheld. Neither PSA nor the exhibition assumes liability for copyright misuse.

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 be entered in any other PSA recognized exhibitions but **must always have the same title**. Re-titling in another language is not allowed.

Entry: An entry consists of up to 4 images per section, with each image limited to 20 total acceptances per star path. Identical or similar images are prohibited within the same exhibition, and if similar images are uploaded, all will be disqualified across all sections. While similar images may be entered in different exhibitions, they may later be disallowed during star/diamond/galaxy application reviews. Similar images are those which are practically equivalent, as defined on the page available at <https://psa-services.org/ES/#entrants>. To avoid disappointment, do not enter images that are practically equivalent. Watermarks, copyright text or any other visible markings are prohibited.

Titles:

- Each image requires a unique name that contains a maximum of 35 characters.
- Each title is to be used consistently across all PSA exhibitions, without variations introduced by typographic errors or punctuation.
- Nothing in the image title can identify the photographer.
- A title should be an interpretive or meaningful title that transforms a visual document into a deliberate artistic statement. Titles entered as file numbers such as IMG_6608, DSC-76499 or in any other camera file format are prohibited.
- Meaningful Titles may be followed by numbers, for example, Ballet Dancer 34.
- Titles may use Latin1 or Latin2 character sets which allow diacritical marks (é, ñ, ü, à, ç, ś, etc), however non-Latin writing systems (العربية, русский, ελληνικά, 中文, カタカナ, देवनागरी) may cause problems in Catalogs, Galleries and Star applications.

- 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.

Protection of Entrants' Personal information: By entering this exhibition, you agree to comply with PSA rules and policies, and consent to the exhibition chair and recognized organizations holding and processing your personal details for exhibition purposes, and accept that your participation status (name, country, sections/photos entered) and results will be made public in status lists, galleries, and catalogs.

Target Acceptance Range:

- The acceptance target range will be no more than 30% in each section except 3D, which cannot be more than 45%.
- No image may receive more than one individual award in a section of any salon. In circuits an image may receive an award in different salon sections.
- The organizer is required to adjust the number of awards based on the total number of acceptances.
- For sections with more than 250 images, no more than 20% of the acceptances can receive awards, and for sections with 250 images or less the chair will allow a maximum of 11 awards.

SUBJECT MATTER AND DEFINITIONS

While the following section provides summaries of PSA definitions, entrants must refer to the PSA website for the authoritative definitions for each Division: <https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/exhibitions>

Image Creation and Authorship

Summary: All submitted images must be entirely the photographer's original work, including post-processing, with every pictorial element captured by the submitting photographer. Images must not incorporate or present other artists' work as the photographer's own, in whole or in part (clip art, stock images, replacement skies, photos of others' artwork, AI-generated content, etc). The term *author* refers to the person who is the original creator of a submitted image; photographers may own the rights to use purchased content, however authorship requires that all visual elements in the submitted photograph be personally created by the photographer. Photographers must retain copyright ownership of all visual elements contained within any submitted image, including composites. A violation of this rule constitutes plagiarism, a serious PSA ethics offense.

Artificial Intelligence

Summary: Recognizing the rapid evolution of AI software, this rule is subject to change. For the latest rules, consult the AI Statement on PSA's website. AI photo editing tools which enhance, adjust, or intelligently modify what was already captured in your photograph are permitted, provided they use only visual information already present in your photograph. *Outpainting tools* (generative fill) which allow you to expand a cropped image using a context-aware extension of the original photo are permitted, unless restricted by the Division's definition. Other *generative AI* tools that generate new synthetic visual content based on external image data not originally present in the author's photograph are prohibited, regardless of how small the edited area. Any person who violates this AI rule shall be banned from PSA exhibitions for a period ranging from 3 years to permanent exclusion. See additional AI notes in the editing matrix below.

Subject Matter

Summary: PSA's fundamental rule prioritizes animal welfare over photography, prohibiting baiting with live creatures, nest disturbance, endangering subjects, or depicting feeding of live prey to captive animals. Aerial photography must not disturb individuals or animals and must comply with local regulations. The images must

comply with the division and section definitions listed on the PSA website; images that do not comply will be disqualified by the judges. Participation in PSA exhibitions is conditional on entrants accepting these policies.

Color versus Monochrome (Black and White)

Within photography an image is either monochrome or color; there is no third option.

- A **Color** image is defined by the presence of more than a single color or hue. If an image is treated with two or more colors in any manner or any amount (spot coloring, duotone, etc), it is a color image.
- A **monochrome** image is defined by the presence of exactly one color or hue; it can display unlimited variations in that single color's intensity, tints, and shades but may not include additional colors (partial toning, split-toning, spot coloring, etc). **Black and white** images (also referred to as **grayscale**) are considered monochrome, though technically they are achromatic images which may span the full tonal range from black to white. **Monochrome images may not be entered in color sections of PPD or PID.**

Pictorial Image Division (PID) Definition <https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/division-definitions#pid>

Summary: PID allows open photography with no subject or editing technique restrictions, other than those listed in the PSA guidelines that apply to all Divisions (i.e. authorship, AI, etc). The division includes both unrestricted open sections and themed sections with specific definitions to guide judges and participants. PID includes 2 Star paths: color and mono.

PSA/FIAP Nature Division (ND) Guidelines <https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/division-definitions#nd>

Summary: Nature photography truthfully documents nature stories, both over water and underwater, while maintaining high ethical and technical standards. The 2024 rule allowing **human-made** elements when "necessary to the nature story" has been replaced with three specific categories: integral story elements, small unavoidable background features, and scientific equipment on animals. Attracting subjects with food or sound is prohibited (unaddressed prior to 2025), though incidental photography during hardship feeding remains acceptable. Zoo photography must now be at accredited facilities following best practices, and includes rescue centers and ethical farms. Images eligible for a **Wildlife Award** or entered in a ND Wildlife theme must follow all Nature rules with additional restrictions: all animals must be living freely in their natural habitat without human control or captivity, botanical subjects cannot be removed from their environment, and no staging is permitted for photography purposes. Readers are reminded that Wildlife photography is **restricted to natural habitats only**, removing the 2024 allowance for *adopted habitats*. Nature photography does not include anthropology and archaeology.

Photojournalism Division (PJD) Definition <https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/division-definitions#pjd>

Summary: Photojournalism prioritizes storytelling value over pictorial quality, featuring images with informative content and emotional impact that reflect authentic human presence in the world. Images that misrepresent truth through staged events or directed subjects are prohibited. When a **Human Interest** theme is specified or if this award is offered, typical sports photographs are excluded and instead the focus is on people in interactive, emotional, or unusual situations.

Photo Travel Division (PTD) Definition <https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/division-definitions#ptd>

Summary: A Photo Travel image is a portrayal of the world we live in, without geographic limitations. New for 2026, PTD is divided into 2 Star Paths: PTD Documentary (PTDD) and PTD World in Focus (PTDW). PTD Documentary remains as a reality-based PTD definition, portraying the world as it is found naturally, through images of distinctive places or through images of people who show distinct cultural characteristics or activities. In PTD Documentary images must avoid studio-like settings and setup or arranged photography. In contrast, PTD World in Focus is aligned with the FIAP World in Focus definition. PTD World in Focus allows for images of places or people found naturally, as well as a more diverse range of content such as food and studio portraits. In PTD World in Focus, images that are setup or arranged are allowed.

MATRIX OF EDITING TECHNIQUES (2026) permitted [✓] prohibited [X] no restrictions [NR]	reality divisions			3DD	PID/PPD
	ND	PTD	PJD		
a) Cropping, straightening and perspective correction.	✓	✓	✓	NR	NR
b) Removing or correcting elements added by the camera or lens (dust spots, noise, chromatic aberration, lens distortion).	✓	✓	✓	NR	NR
c) Global and selective adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation and contrast to restore the appearance of the original scene.	✓	✓	✓	NR	NR
d) Complete conversion of color images to monochrome grayscale.	✓	✓	✓	NR	NR
e) Using permitted AI-enhanced editing (see Note 1 below).	✓	✓	✓	NR	NR
f) Image stitching – combining multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively (panoramas).	✓	✓	✓	NR	NR
g) Blending of multiple images of the same subject and combining them in camera or with software (exposure blending or focus stacking).	✓	✓	X	NR	NR
h) Combining images (2-4), each with a small white border on a single image that depicts a progression of events or related activity.	X	X	✓	NR	NR
i) Adding, deleting or moving pictorial elements of which you ARE the author.	X	X	X	NR	NR
j) Removing, adding, or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening.	X	X	X	NR	NR
k) Blurring or darkening parts of the image to hide pictorial elements, or adding a noticeable (dark or light) vignette during editing.	X	X	X	NR	NR
l) All color conversions other than to monochrome grayscale.	X	X	X	NR	NR
m) Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome, or partial toning, desaturation or over-saturation of color.	X	X	X	NR	NR
n) Using prohibited AI-enhanced editing (see note 2 below).	X	X	X	X	X
o) Adding pictorial elements of which you ARE NOT the author, such as sky, background, people, animals, etc. Refer to the PSA statement on Image Creation and Authorship.	X	X	X	X	X
p) Adding a watermark, copyright or any similar visible markings.	X	X	X	X	X

Notes: Understanding which techniques are prohibited is crucial to avoiding low scores, disqualification and potential penalties. Always refer to the PSA website for the complete and current rules and definitions governing exhibitions: <https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/exhibitions>

1. **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.
2. **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.

Non-compliance: PSA reserves the right to investigate complaints, void acceptances, impose penalties, and add violators to the shared Penalty List.

- Chairs or judges may request raw/unedited files to verify compliance and authorship; for composite images, all component files are required;
- Non-cooperation with investigations results in penalties.

Participating in this exhibition constitutes automatic agreement to these terms. Entrants are requested to read the PSA's Ethics Policy and statements on Subject Matter and AI for compliance guidelines.