

Photojournalism: Images shall consist of pictures with informative content and emotional impact, including human interest, interactive, documentary, sports, and spot (immediate) news. The journalistic value of the photograph shall be considered over pictorial quality. The image should tell a story, show what is going on, something you might find accompanying a news article; e.g. front-page or local news, weather, or sports. In the interest of credibility, photographs that misrepresent the truth, such as manipulation to alter the subject matter, or situations that are set up for the purpose of photography, are unacceptable in the photojournalism category. Good titles are important and should add to the photo-story.

Nature (Flora): Nature images (Floral) consist of naturally occurring, undomesticated plant life including flowers, plants, herbs, grasses, and trees, but cannot have any human elements present (hand of man). A photographer may perform any enhancements and modifications that improve the presentation of the image so that it more accurately matches the original scene that was photographed, but does not change the truth of the original nature story. The standards for manipulations are the same as for the Pictorial Category. Photos of artificially produced hybrid plants, mounted specimens, or obviously set plant arrangements are ineligible. The intent of this category is to exclude landscapes other than natural gardens such as wildflower fields, beds of wild roses, or natural rock gardens, even though the landscape consists entirely of Flora and other natural elements.

Nature (Fauna): Nature images (Fauna) consist of authentic wild animal life, but cannot have any human elements present (hand of man) with the exception of scientific bands on wild animals or birds. A photographer may perform any enhancements and modifications that improve the presentation of the image so that it more accurately matches the original scene that was photographed, but does not change the truth of the original nature story. Photos of mounted specimens, dead species or obviously set arrangements are ineligible. The Nature (Fauna) category may include images taken in zoos, reserves, game farms, rehab centers, butterfly houses, and other areas not considered natural wildlife areas, provided there is no evidence of the hand of man and further provided the animals appear to be living free, uncontrolled and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat, and are not a domesticated animal. Fauna includes birds, insects and insect-like animals, and any other animal kingdom life other than micro-organisms and domesticated cats, dogs, cattle and farm species.