

Guideline for Scoring Photo Travel Images in PSA recognized Exhibitions.

Please direct any queries to the PT Exhibition Standards Director
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DISQUALIFICATION

The PT division emphasizes that Disqualification of images should only be considered for the very serious and provable offences. A full explanation must be forwarded onto the Chairman and then all judges on the PT jury panel will need to discuss the possible Disqualification of the image. Where applicable, the judge should ask for the Raw File to establish proof of the violation. The Chairman, in the case where the Disqualification is upheld by the judges, must inform the entrant of the reasons for the judges' decision and where necessary forward the information onto the secretary of the Ethics Investigation Team.

Lack of content, failure to comply with the close-up requirement and set-ups should be scored low as per the guidelines below. **The PT division does not recommend that these are grounds for Disqualification.**

With regards to editing techniques: vignettes, darkening areas, over-saturation and over-sharpening should be scored low as per the guidelines below. Images that show extreme lens distortion or have decorative or elaborate borders should be scored low. **The PT division does not recommend that these are grounds for Disqualification.**

THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED AS A GENERAL GUIDELINE:

A score of one in this guideline does not indicate disqualification.

Note that not all Exhibitions use the 1-5 scoring system.

Score 1: The image does not comply with the Photo Travel Definition, and it should **NOT be Accepted.**

Reasons for this score could include:

- If the image is predominately or exclusively a land-, sea- or cityscape, this 'scape' does not provide characteristic, distinctive, and recognisable physical features.
- If the image predominately or exclusively depicts people and their activities, the image does not illustrate a distinctive culture of a country region or continent.
- If the image predominantly or exclusively depicts animal populations, these animals are not in their native environment and are not characteristic of that country, region, or continent.
- The image is a portrait or other close-up of people or objects and does not include elements depicting some of the surrounding environment to make it obvious that the image was not taken in a studio setting.
- You may know that the image is a result of a set-up i.e., you attended the set-up, or the scene is represented in the PSA Staged Images gallery.
- There are editing techniques/derivations that are not allowed in Photo Travel.
- The image was taken using Time Exposure and the result dominates the image as a special effect.
- The image shows extreme distortion.
- The image does not look natural.

Score 2:

The image does not comply with the Photo Travel Definition, and it should **NOT be Accepted**.

OR

In the case of the image complying with the PT definition the image quality **is not of a sufficiently high standard to be accepted**.

Reasons for this score could include:

- Any of the points discussed in Score 1 (note that there is not much variance between a score of 1 and 2, either would suffice to ensure the image does not receive an Acceptance)
- The image has major technical flaws.

Score 3: The image complies with the Photo Travel definition. **You consider the image not worthy of an Acceptance, however you would not object if your fellow jury members deem the image worthy of an Acceptance.**

Reasons for this score could include:

- If the image is predominately or exclusively a land-, sea- or cityscape, this ‘scape’ does provide characteristic, distinctive, and recognisable physical features.
- If the image predominately or exclusively depicts people and their activities, the image does illustrate a distinctive culture of a country region or continent.
- If the image predominantly or exclusively depicts animal populations, these animals are in their native environment and are characteristic of that country, region or continent.
- The image is a portrait or other close-up of people or objects and does include elements depicting some of the surrounding environment to make it obvious that the image was not taken in a studio setting.
- The image is unlikely to be a set-up (check the “Staged Images” gallery)
- There does not appear to be any non-allowed editing techniques.
- If the image was taken using Time Exposure, the result does not dominate the image as a special effect.
- The image does not show extreme distortion.
- The image looks natural.
- The image has no serious technical problems. If there are flaws, they are minor and compensated for by other elements in the image.

Score 4: The image complies with the Photo Travel Definition and should be **Accepted**.

Reasons for this score could include:

Content meeting or exceeding that listed under Score 3.

- This is a very strong image. The image is technically correct, and the elements all work well together.
- Effective control of exposures, appropriate selective focusing and depth of field, as well as other advanced photographic techniques would be expected of this score.
- If there are flaws, they are minor and hard to find.

Score 5: The image complies with the Photo Travel Definition, and it should be **Awarded**.

Reasons for this score could include:

Content that meeting or exceeding that listed under Score 3 and 4.

- This is an exceptionally strong image that shows true photographic excellence.