

The Greater Detroit Camera Club Council

Rules of Interclub Competition

Approved February 4, 2026

COMPETITION RULES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Statement On Subject Matter - Applicable to All Sections

The fundamental rule that must be observed at all times and applies to all sections offered in GDCCC competitions is that the welfare of living creatures is more important than any photograph. This means that practices such as baiting 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. Images that show live creatures being fed to captive animals, birds or reptiles are not permitted under any circumstances.

There are also concerns about the use of aerial photography, drones, helicopters, low flying aircraft. These should not cause any interference with other individuals or animals which causes a disturbance in their normal activity or disrupt the way any individuals or animals interact with their environment. Entrants in GDCCC recognized competitions must comply with all relevant laws and regulations associated with aerial photography, in the country in which the image was taken.

Image Eligibility – Applicable to All Sections

- Entries must originate as photographs (image-captures of objects via light sensitivity) made by the entrant on photographic emulsion or acquired digitally, through the use of a digital sensor or a negative or slide scanner.
- Images generated in whole or in part through computer programs (generative AI or similar) or apps that use key words to derive content are not eligible.
- Images that contain elements not originated by the maker under the capture definition above, such as clip art, skies or other elements from another program or source, and images that are rephotographed from another source rather than a direct capture, are not eligible.
- All editing and alteration of the source capture or captures in the case of composites, must be done by the maker and not a third party. This does not preclude the use of plug-ins or filters within a core editing program, such as Photoshop, so long as the maker is controlling the plug-in or filter and it is not generating content that does not exist in the source image.
- Use of AI features such as Denoise, Sharpening, Masking, Subject Selection, and Resolution Enhancement, and similar post processing application are permitted provided they comply with a competition's editing criteria. These tools do not add content to an image.
- GDCCC reserves the right to view a RAW or original file of the source image if requested
- Added Text is allowable but shall not be used to identify brand names or identify the maker in any way.

Furthermore, by virtue of submitting an entry, the entrant certifies that the work is his/her own and permits GDCCC to reproduce all or part of the entered images free of charge for publication and or display in media related to Competitions. This will include for example: presentation in the end of year Banquet Program should any of the images be selected for this Program; submission to the PSA Council Challenge should an image be selected for this purpose; and low resolution posting on an GDCCC website. The entrant further understands that GDCCC assumes no liability for any misuse

of copyright. The entrant further represents that to the best of his/her understanding the entry complies with all GDCCC requirements for entry.

Titles for all categories

- Each image must have a unique and descriptive title. Words such as “Untitled” and “No Title” are not acceptable as part or all of an image’s title, nor are camera capture filenames or titles consisting of only numbers and letters. (i.e., does not contain pronounceable words).
- Titles must not include file extensions such as .jpg or .jpeg (or any other camera capture filenames)
- Makers who use image codes such as dates and etc. must insert code following the image title.
- If you use a program like LightRoom or PhotoShop, you might embed an image title in your images. If such a title is present it will be used instead of your file name as long as your file name does not appear to contain any of the special parsing characters: "~", "[", or "--".
- You will not be able to upload files from a Mac if they were named with a file name that is not valid for Windows. File names cannot start or end with blanks. They may not contain any of these characters: \ : / * ? " < > | (SoftwarePursuits requirement)
- Only jpeg images are supported. Your file name must end with ".jpg" or ".jpeg". Underscores in file names are replaced with blanks.
- No title or identification of the maker shall be visible anywhere on the face of the image.
- Do not put your name in the image title.
- Titles longer than 25 characters (including spaces) may be truncated if EOY award medals are produced for the maker.
- Not following these rules may cause an image to be disqualified.

GDCCC ETHICS POLICY

Purpose of the Ethics Policy

This policy describes the ethical standards that are expected of all individuals participating in activities of the Greater Detroit Camera Club Council (GDCCC).

General Principle

When participating in GDCCC activities, it is expected that participants will:

- Be honest.
- Follow the rules and restrictions set out in all relevant GDCCC documents.
- Abide by GDCCC definitions and rules when entering GDCCC competitions.
- Not do anything to cause harm to a person, animal, or the environment.
- Not engage in any actions or activities that might reflect poorly on GDCCC.
- Not following these guidelines would be subject to review by the executive board.

SCHEDULED INTERCLUB PRINT COMPETITION RULES

The Print "Divisions" Are:

In addition to the *Statement of Subject Matter, Image Eligibility, Titles* and *GDCCC Ethics Policy* the following rules apply.

Color Print

A "Color Print" shall be any color image printed using any available process.

1. Hand coloring of the print is acceptable.
2. Digital manipulation is acceptable.

Monochrome Print

A "Monochrome Print" shall be any image printed using any available process.

1. An image is considered to be Monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no color (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 color across the entire image. (For example, by sepia, red, gold, etc.) A greyscale or multi-colored image modified or giving the impression of having been modified by partial toning, multi-toning or by the inclusion of spot coloring does not meet the definition of monochrome and shall be classified as a Color Print.
 2. Digital manipulation is acceptable.
-

THE PRINT "CLASSES" ARE:

There shall be five classes for competition in each print division:

- "BEGINNER" is defined as a member who has not attained five (5) points in GDCCC competition.
 - "ADVANCED" is defined as one who has attained five (5) points in the GDCCC beginner class.
 - "SALON" is defined as one who has attained seven (7) points in the GDCCC advanced class.
 - "STAR" is defined as one who has attained seven (7) points in the GDCCC salon class.
 - "GALAXY" is defined as one who has attained fourteen (14) points in the GDCCC star class.
-
- Exhibitors new to council competitions will, as a general rule, start in the Beginner Class, but, if they enter a home club as an accomplished photographer, the club may ask the division's director for permission to start them in another class. Once they have competed in council competition, they must then abide by the rules for moving up in class.
 - An exhibitor cannot compete in classes lower than the highest class in which he or she has previously submitted.
 - For newly created divisions, at least six (6) makers must be eligible for a new class. A new class will be created at the end of the fiscal year, if applicable.
 - The Exhibition Directors may create a new class by declaring at least six (6) makers "eligible", even though those makers have not attained the minimum points defined for that class.

GENERAL RULES:

In addition to the *Statement of Subject Matter, Image Eligibility, Titles* and *GDCCC Ethics Policy* the following rules apply.

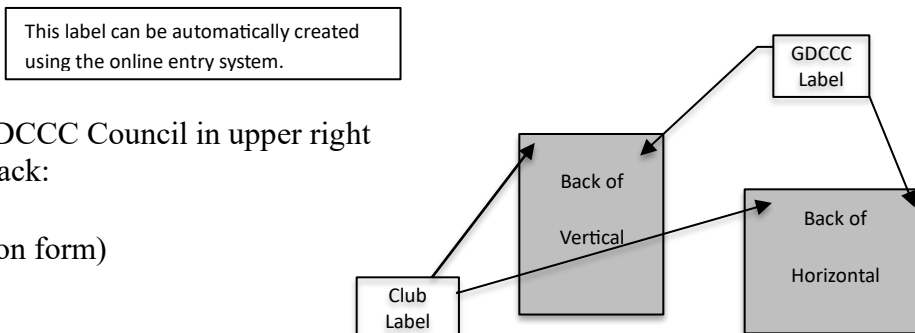
- There must not be any identification on the front of the print.
- Adding a mat or frame using the image editor drawing capabilities will normally be considered digital art by the maker and, thus, is allowed.
- There must not be anything on the print and its mounting that will damage other prints when stacked during a competition or packed for storage and travel between competitions, such as, but not limited to, sticky spots, ribbons, staples and medals.
- All prints shall be mounted on a single 16" x 20" backboard
- Double Matte boards are not allowed. Also, no wood, rough material or frames are allowed.
- For all Print Divisions, any size prints up to 16"x 20" are eligible for entering.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Six (6) scheduled interclub print competitions will be held yearly for each division.
- Each affiliated club may submit up to ten (10) prints per division per competition for five (5) out of the six (6) scheduled interclub print competitions. The prints may come from any one of the division's classes or be divided among the division's classes as desired by the home club.
- No individual may have more than one (1) print per division per competition.
- An image that is or has been successful as a Monochrome or Color Print, including Honorable Mention (HM), becomes ineligible for future Council competition in the Monochrome Print Division or Color Print Division. Monochrome Prints or Color Prints that are so similar to a

successful Monochrome or Color Print by the same maker that a casual observer would think they are the same print are not allowed and will be disqualified.

- The title of an image that is or has been successful as a Monochrome or Color Print, including Honorable Mention (HM), becomes ineligible for future Council competition in the Monochrome and Color Print Division. Any Monochrome or Color Print entered using the same title, as a previously successful Monochrome or Color Print by that maker will be disqualified.
- Any unsuccessful print may be entered again at any time.
- All entries must contain the following completed information on the back:
 - Local club's label in upper left corner when facing the back:
 - Camera Club
 - Entire Title of print
 - Maker's name
 - Label provided by the GDCCC Council in upper right corner when facing the back:
 - Print Number
 - Division (pre-printed on form)
 - Class
 - Date
 - Host club
- All entries must be submitted for judging at the place of competition no later than 30 minutes prior to judging.
- Each Club's Print Director, or designated person, must submit their club's print images using their club's online submission process hosted by Visual Pursuits. Entries must be submitted to each competition 4 days prior to the judging.
- The GDCCC print director, or designated person, will email print numbers to each print director at least 24 hours prior to the judging.



Digital Copy of Honor Prints-(only applies if image was not submitted at time of entry)

Makers of honor Color Prints and Monochrome prints are required to provide a digital jpg copy of their honor print within 30 days after the competition for GDCCC record keeping. Honor Prints without a submitted digital file for record keeping are not eligible for End-of-Year judging. A digital jpg copy can be made from the original file or a camera digital capture of the print. Maximum size of digital file is 1200 pixels in the longest dimension. The minimum size is 1050 pixels in the longest dimension. The only purpose of the digital file is for GDCCC record keeping.

Advancement To Next Higher Class:

When a maker has been awarded the appropriate number of points, i.e., one (1) each for first, second, third, or HM in the six (6) scheduled interclub council competitions, they **will** advance to the next class the following January.

Judging For Interclub Competition:

- There shall be three (3) qualified judges, all members in good standing selected from the hosting club.
- All prints shall be previewed before judging.
- Each judge will vote on a basis of up to nine (9) points, and shall use a range of 5-9 points
- The points of the three (3) judges will be totaled.

- They will take into consideration:
 - Subject material
 - Composition
 - Technical quality
- The division's Print Director shall decide whether or not a print is eligible for judging.

Viewing distance:

- All prints will be judged at a distance of approximately eight (8) feet (eye to print).
- A judge may, if he/she desires, move closer to a print to evaluate a specific detail.

Awards:

- In each of the classes, at least twenty-five (25) percent of the entries shall receive awards.
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons will always be awarded.
- HM ribbons will be awarded until twenty-five (25) percent of the entries have received awards.
- All prints with the same score as the one at the twenty-fifth (25) percentage point will receive the same award.
- If 25% of the prints exhibited should be equal or greater than 0.5 of the next number, this number will be considered as part of the 25%.

Example: 42 Prints submitted: 25% of 42 = 10.5; therefore top 11 images receive awards.

INTERCLUB ANNUAL AWARD COMPETITION:**Eligibility:**

- Prints that placed first, second, third or HM in the six (6) scheduled interclub print competitions within a given year may be entered in the *Print-of-the-Year* competition for that year.
- It shall be the responsibility of the clubs to submit eligible prints to the Print Director at a designated time and place. This will usually be the last scheduled meeting and competition of that year.
- Only the original print shall be acceptable.
- A maker competing for one club may compete for a different club in the same year, retaining the same Council class rating, but cannot return to compete for the first club for the remainder of that year.

Judging:

- The Print Director will select a panel of judges.
- None of these judges will be current members of the affiliated clubs in the GDCCC Council.

Awards:

- In each class, at least twenty-five (25) percent of the entries shall receive awards. These shall consist of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies and the remainder shall be awarded HM ribbons. All prints with the same score as the one at the twenty-fifth (25) percentage point will receive the same award.
- The judges will be instructed to select first, second, third and fourth place in each class. The Print of the Year for each division will be selected from the first-place prints from each of the classes for that division. From whichever class the Print of the Year is chosen, the second place

becomes first, the third place becomes second and the fourth place becomes third, and in the remaining classes, the fourth place becomes an HM.

- In each of the classes, a minimum of twenty-five (25) percent of the entries shall receive awards and this must include 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. If 25% of the prints exhibited should be equal to or greater than 0.5 of the next number, this number will be considered as part of the 25%.

Example: 42 Prints submitted: $25\% \text{ of } 42 = 10.5$; therefore top 11 images receive awards.

A maker is eligible to receive only one (1) trophy per division, either the Print of the Year Trophy, or a first, second or third place trophy. A maker is eligible to receive more than one Honorable Mention (HM) ribbon in a division.

A division's Print Director shall have the authority to disqualify any print that does not conform to these rules. Each division's Print Director shall maintain a complete record of that division's competitions.

DIGITAL PROJECTED IMAGE INTERCLUB COMPETITION RULES

Competition Divisions:

In addition to the *Statement of Subject Matter, Image Eligibility* and *GDCCC Ethics Policy* the following rules apply.

Monochrome General (MG)

An image is considered to be Monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no color (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 color across the entire image. (For example, by sepia, red, gold, etc.) A greyscale or multi-colored image modified or giving the impression of having been modified by partial toning, multi-toning or by the inclusion of **spot** coloring does not meet the definition of monochrome and shall be classified as a Color Work and is eligible for Color General. Adding a mat or frame using the image editor drawing capabilities will normally be considered digital art by the maker and, thus, is allowed.

Color General (CG)

Generally, images in this group should appear to be unmanipulated to the casual observer.

Color General type is open. That means that all subject types as well as a variety of different techniques (both in camera and computer manipulation) may be entered. Images considered as Nature subjects (Birds, Wild Animals, and Insects) are **not** permitted and will be disqualified. **Note:** Landscapes and flower images, for example, might contain birds, wild animals or insects that are considered minor elements of the photo, are eligible for Color General.

Adding a mat or frame using the image editor drawing capabilities will normally be considered digital art by the maker and, thus, is allowed.

Creative (CR)

The subject nature of this Category is “altered reality”, and entries must display unusual characteristics suggested by, but not limited to abstraction, alternative media and techniques, camera movement, chemical or physical manipulation, digital manipulation and creation, experimental techniques, impressionism, multiple exposure, collages, etc. Simply using unusual angles, extreme close-ups, direct capture of abstract subjects, or depicting unusual situations as the basis for the creative element does not qualify an image for this category. All images and image components must have been taken, created, or generated by the member. Inclusion of images from outside sources or created by other parties is prohibited. The intent of a creative image is to transform an original subject for artistic effect, where the effect dominates the image to the extent a viewer will easily recognize the image does not attempt to depict reality. Adding a mat or frame using the image editor drawing capabilities will normally be considered digital art by the maker and, thus, is allowed. A copy of the original image for comparison may be useful to document the artistic significance of the transformation if requested.

The judge(s) will be asked to judge the photographs for overall photographic quality and interest, not the amount of manipulation required to achieve the effect.

Nature (NA)

Any color digital image that contains "Nature", where "Nature" is defined as Nature in all its forms, including the many facets of Botany, Geology, and Zoology. Human elements, if present, should be unobtrusive and enhance the nature story. Those depicting cultivated plants, domestic animals or pets, still-life studies, mounted specimens, museum pieces or groupings, or similar subjects are NOT eligible. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable. Zoo shots and Game Farm shots are eligible provided the artificial habitat is not apparent in the image. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as are some forms of manipulation manual or digital (see below) that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

The photographer may perform enhancements and modifications that improve the presentation of the image that could have been done at the time the image was taken but that does not change the truth of the original nature story. Adding an obvious vignette not originally produced by the camera is not allowed. Subtle vignettes are permissible.

Cropping and horizontal flipping (equivalent to reversing a slide), straightening, keystone, noise removal, dust spot removal, dodging and burning, exposure adjustment, color balance, color correction, white balance, saturation, and sharpening, "HDR" (High Dynamic Range), are examples of acceptable modifications. Stitched panoramic and focus stacking (either in camera or with exposure blending or focus stacking software) for the purposes of increasing depth of field is also allowed.

Adding elements to your images, combining separate images, (other than stitched panoramic images) or rearranging and/or cloning elements in your image, removing major elements from your image other than by cropping, are **not** acceptable and will lead to disqualification of your image.

Simple thin borders or strokes of 1 to 5-pixels are permitted in the GDCCC Nature competition in a white or grey color only. Evaluation should focus on the photographic content and overall impact of the image. *See the Nature Appendix for additional guidelines.*

The Digital Projection Classes Are:

- **BEGINNER (BE)** is defined as a member who has not attained five (5) points in GDCCC competition.
- **ADVANCED (AD)** is defined as one who has attained five (5) points in the GDCCC beginner class.
- **SALON (SA)** is defined as one who has attained seven (7) points in the GDCCC advanced class.
- **STAR (ST)** is defined as one who has attained seven (7) points in the GDCCC salon class.
- **GALAXY (GA)** is defined as one who has attained fourteen (14) points in the GDCCC star class.
- Exhibitors new to council competitions will, as a general rule, start in the Beginner Class, but, if they enter a home club as an accomplished photographer, the club may ask the division's director for permission to start them in another class. Once they have competed in a council competition, they must then abide by the rules for moving up in class.
- An exhibitor cannot compete in classes lower than the highest class in which he or she has previously submitted.

- For newly created divisions, at least six (6) makers must be eligible for a new class beyond Beginners before that class shall be created.
- The Exhibition Directors may create a new class by declaring at least six (6) makers “eligible”, even though those makers have not attained the minimum points defined for that class.

Advancement To Next Higher Class:

When a maker has been awarded the appropriate number of points, i.e., one (1) each for first, second, third, or HM in the six (6) scheduled interclub council competitions, they **will** advance to the next class the following January.

General Rules:

In addition to the *Statement of Subject Matter*, *Image Eligibility* and *GDCCC Ethics Policy* the following rules apply.

- Images will be projected or displayed on a judge’s calibrated monitor or Monitor. The DPD director cannot guarantee that the received image will display the same as another digital projector, or computer screen. Equipment shall be capable of displaying images at 100%
- The maximum image size will be 1200 x 1200 pixels. Smaller images are acceptable. The Visual Pursuits system will downsize images larger than this limit.
- Square images using the maximum for both horizontal and vertical are acceptable.
- sRGB is recommended. (Submitted images that have a different color space will be changed to sRGB)
- Save as JPEG File Format. (Use compression of 10 to 12)

General Information:

- Six (6) scheduled interclub Digital Projection competitions will be held yearly for each division.
- Each member club is required to maintain an online membership using Visual Pursuits online image competition system.
- All images must be submitted through their club’s Visual Pursuits online system.
- Each affiliated club may submit up to twelve (12) images per division per competition for five (5) out of the six (6) scheduled interclub Digital Projection competitions. The images may come from any one of the divisions classes or be divided among the division's classes as desired by the home club.
- No individual may have more than one (1) image per division per competition.
- An image that is or has received an honor as a (MG, CG, NA, and CR), including Honorable Mention (HM), becomes ineligible for future Council digital competition. Images that are so similar to a successful image by the same maker that a casual observer would think they are the same image are not allowed and will be disqualified.
- The title of an image that has received an honor as a (MG, CG, NA, and CR), including Honorable Mention (HM), becomes ineligible for future Council competition. Using the same title as a previous honor by that maker will be disqualified. The Visual Pursuit system will flag a title that has been previously used by the maker.
- Any unsuccessful image may be entered again at any time.

Projected Image Requirements

Each member club submits entries via the Photo Club Services online submission system. It is strongly suggested that all photographs be converted to the sRGB color space. That color space most closely approximates the capability of monitors and projectors to display color and usually results in the best presentation of an image.

Judging For Interclub Competition:

- There shall be three (3) qualified judges, all members in good standing selected from the hosting club.
- All images shall be previewed before judging. However, when judging is completed using Visual Pursuit Remote Judging feature, then a preview is not required.
- Each judge will vote on a range of 5-9 points.
- The points of the three (3) judges will be totaled.
- They will take into consideration:
 - Subject material
 - Composition
 - Technical quality
- The Digital Projection Division Director shall decide whether or not an image is eligible for judging.

Awards:

- In each of the classes, at least twenty-five (25) percent of the entries shall receive awards.
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons will always be awarded.
- HM ribbons will be awarded until twenty-five (25) percent of the entries have received awards.
- All images with the same score as the one at the twenty-fifth (25) percentage point will receive the same award.
- If 25% of the images shown should be equal to or greater than 0.5 of the next number, this number will be considered as part of the 25%. Example: For 42 images submitted, $42 \times 0.25 = 10.5$ ~ Top eleven images would receive awards.

Interclub Annual Award Competition:

Eligibility:

- Images that placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or HM in the six (6) scheduled interclub Digital Projection competitions within a given year will be entered in the "Digital Projection Image of the Year" competition for that year.
- The GDCCC DPD digital Director will migrate all the year's honors into the End-of-Year competition in the online Visual Pursuits system.
- A maker competing for one club may compete for a different club in the same year, retaining the same Council class rating, but cannot return to compete for the first club for the remainder of that year.

Judging:

- The Digital Projection Division Director will select a panel of three judges.
- None of these judges will be current members of the affiliated clubs in the GDCCC Council.
- GDCCC Judging Procedures, as previously noted, will be followed.
- Judges must also rank all images with a score of 8 or 9.

Awards:

- In each class, 25% of the entries shall receive awards. These shall consist of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies and the remainder shall be awarded HM ribbons.
- The online system of Ranking will determine the 1st-4th place positions. The Digital Projection Image of the Year for each division will be selected from the 1st place images from each of the classes for that division. From whichever class the Digital Projection Image of the Year is chosen, the 2nd place becomes 1st, the 3rd, place becomes 2nd, and the 4th place becomes 3rd, and in the remaining classes, the 4th place becomes an HM.
- In the event of any ties the judges will be contacted to resolve ties.
- A maker is eligible to receive only one (1) trophy per division, either the Digital Projection Image of the Year Trophy, or a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place trophy. A maker is eligible to receive more than one Honorable Mention ribbon in a division.

NATURE APPENDIX

With regard to the definition of Nature Photography:

The definition prohibits human elements that are not an integral part of the nature story. Human elements are not limited to people or parts of people in the image. Human elements that can cause images to be disqualified, or at best scored low, include but are not limited to:

Not Allowed Human Elements

- Roads, paths, vehicle tracks, or trails
- Fences and fence posts
- Signs
- Power Poles
- Wires
- Buildings (or parts of buildings)
- Walls or parts of walls
- Mowing and plowing patterns in fields
- Cut tree stumps, cut off limbs, branches or stems.
- Jesses and thongs on legs of raptors and other birds (these are not scientific banding)

Allowed Human Elements

The definition does include some examples of human elements that **are** integral parts of the nature story. Other examples of **allowable** human elements include:

- Birds nesting or feeding young on or in man-made objects.
- Barn owl in barn
- Insects depositing eggs or egg sacs in man-made objects.
- Animals eating fresh kills on fence posts, pilings, in roadways, etc.
- A flood with raging water with a house or other human element floating in the flood.
- A tornado ripping apart buildings or throwing around human elements. Such “natural force” examples show nature stories where the natural forces are out of control.

Additional Guidelines

- The keys are whether the judge considers the human element integral to the story, the habitat to be adopted, and the nature story to be strong.
- The definition specifically lists domestic animals, including those that have gone feral, as **not** being allowed. Domestic animals are animals, such as horses, cats, dogs, poultry, cattle, and sheep, that have been tamed and kept by humans as work animals, food sources, or pets, especially members of those species that have become notably different from their wild ancestors through selective breeding.
- This particular restriction does eliminate just about all the “wild” horses in the world since those in the Americas, Europe and Western Asia are feral domestic horses, **not** true wild horses. The only true eligible horse is the rare Przewalski’s Horse also known as the Mongolian Wild Horse. Zebras, kiangs, and onagers (wild asses) are also valid eligible members of the horse family.
- It also reinforces the exclusion of any Llamas and Alpacas because those have always been domestic animals and have no ancestors that were never domesticated.
- All Koi and goldfish are hybrids and are **not** allowed.
- Cultivated plants are those that are grown specifically in decorative gardens and for food. Wildflowers (that are **not** hybrids) planted in botanical gardens are allowed subjects in Nature Open in the same manner that wild animals in zoos are allowed subjects.
- Hybrid flora – including wildflowers - in general are hard to distinguish from native varieties and vice versa, so it is often very difficult for most entrants and judges alike to determine

whether flora are indeed hybrids. Entrants are advised that one or more judges may DQ an image containing flora believing in good faith that it is hybrid when in fact it is not. Entrants are therefore cautioned of the risk taken when entering any image containing flora into a Nature competition and are advised to check carefully before entering such an image.

- Most roses, for example, are hybrids. Native roses do **not** have multiple swirls of petals and come in simple shades of light red through white.
- "Slow" water (longer exposures) is allowed.
- Star trail images created through the superimposition of multiple images (such as circumpolars) are **not** allowed, regardless of whether any human-created lighting is present. This is eligible in Color General.

With regard to digital processing in Nature Photography:

- The definition does not allow replacing the background of the image, adding additional content from another image, or cloning out content. This restriction of cloning out content includes what may appear inconsequential, such as a blade of grass in front of an animal's face. Also cloning elements already in the image and making additional copies of those elements is the same as adding elements and is not allowed.
- Removing minor distracting elements from the background or non-subject area is allowed.
- Adding pictorial elements to the image or removing pictorial elements from the image is not permitted.
- **Adjustments are allowed that enhance the image without changing the content, including:** exposure (globally and selectively), color balance, contrast, sharpening (globally and selectively), noise reduction, straightening, resizing, and cropping.
- Deliberately blurring the background is **not** allowed.
- **Adding an obvious vignette not originally produced by the camera is not allowed.**
- **The overriding requirement for any of the allowed adjustments is that the results must appear natural to the viewer** (the maker is not the viewer – the viewer is the judge!)