

Competition Set Subject Definitions 2023-24



The Definitions below are what the Competition Secretaries use to assess if an image meets the Set Subject criteria. They will make every effort to contact the submitter if they feel there is a conflict. The judge will not be asked to make this assessment. This means that you may get another chance to submit images that do meet the criteria.

These Definitions consist of a “**Primary Focus**”, which is what the set subject concentrates on, and an “**Emphasis**”, which is where in the image the set subject definition is to be found.

COMPETITION SUBJECT CATEGORIES

- Natural World
- People
- Landscapes
- Architecture
- Action
- Night-Low Light
- Abstract-Experimental
- Closeup-Macro
- Monochrome

In addition are the Open competitions (PDI & Prints), with no set subject.

Please note: The subject names here are in the precise form that must be used in file names when uploading PDIs.

Subject	PDI Competition Filename Label	Print Competition Filename Label
Natural World	PDI - Natural World;	Print - Natural World;
People	PDI - People;	Print - People;
Landscapes	PDI - Landscapes;	Print - Landscapes;
Architecture	PDI - Architecture;	Print - Architecture;
Action	PDI - Action;	Print - Action;
Night-Low Light	PDI - Night-Low Light;	Print - Night-Low Light;
Abstract-Experimental	PDI - Abstract-Experimental;	Print - Abstract-Experimental;
Closeup-Macro	PDI - Closeup-Macro;	Print - Closeup-Macro;
Monochrome	PDI - Monochrome;	Print - Monochrome;
Open	PDI - Open;	Print - Open;

Natural World

Photographs whose **primary focus is on fauna or flora** (mammals, birds, fish, insects, plants, etc), and where the **emphasis is on the subject**, rather than its environment.

- Examples
 - Fauna or flora (mammals, birds, fish, insects, plants, trees, etc)
- Clarifications
 - Photographs of flowers removed from their growing environment should be entered into “Closeup-Macro”
 - Pictures of captive “wild” animals are admissible but those of pets or farm/domestic animals should be entered into “Open”
 - Submissions to this subject category should be of a documentary character and not semi-abstract or impressionistic images based on natural subjects
 - Close-up and Macro work of natural subjects should be entered into “Macro/Close-up”

People

Photographs whose primary focus is the **human situation**, and where the **emphasis is on the subject**, rather than their environment.

- Examples
 - Portraits
 - Figure studies and nudes
 - Street photography where people are the primary focus
- Clarifications
 - Photographs that include people as secondary elements of Landscape or Architecture scenes, but where those people are not the prime subject matter, should be submitted as “Landscape” or “Architecture”

Landscapes

Photographs whose primary focus is the **natural environment**, where the **emphasis is on the scene itself**, rather than what is going on in the scene.

- Examples
 - Seascapes
 - Rolling hills and forests
 - Trees in fields
- Clarifications
 - Pictures where the primary focus is not the scene itself, (man-made structures, people, animals) should be entered into “Architecture”, “People” or “Natural World” as appropriate
 - Night or Low Light landscape shots should be entered into “Night-Low Light”

Architecture

Photographs whose primary focus is on artificial structures where the emphasis is on the aesthetics of the representation.

- Examples
 - Buildings
 - Cityscapes
 - Roads, railways, bridges

- Industrial structures
 - Street Photography (graffiti)
- Clarifications
 - Street photography where people are the primary focus should be entered into “People”
 - Architecture shots taken at night or in low light should be entered into “Night-Low Light”

Action

Photographs whose primary focus is subjects in action, and the emphasis is on the action taking place.

- Examples
 - Involving people including sport, playtime, dance etc
 - Involving animals including agility events etc
 - Involving inanimate objects including balloons popping, water droplets etc
- Clarifications
 - A general view of players on a field would not meet the criteria. However, someone scoring a goal or making a tackle could well meet the criteria

Night-Low Light

Photographs where the image has been captured under low light conditions with the emphasis on revealing a different appearance or aspect of the subject.

- Examples
 - Night photography
 - Astrophotography
 - Indoor low light
 - Light painting
 - Moonlit images
- Clarifications
 - Photographs taken using flash or artificial light to fully illuminate the picture should not be submitted in this category
 - The use of artificial light (for example, “light painting”) to highlight elements of a picture against an otherwise dark background is permitted

Abstract-Experimental

Photographs whose primary focus is on an **original subject that is no longer clearly identifiable** or where it has been used in a new context to express an emotion or an idea which is other than a record of that original subject.

Experimental images are those using different techniques to modify an image, in order to give an alternative interpretation of the scene photographed.

- Examples
 - Techniques such as motion or focus blur
 - Multiple exposures or composites of multiple images
 - The use of software post-processing techniques to create new effects
 - Geometric shapes and patterns

- Clarifications
 - When submitting photographs for this subject category, please consider what they depict and not how they were made. A blurry portrait is still a portrait and a landscape with in-camera motion is still a landscape, if they are still readily recognisable as such
 - The images and all parts of the image must be your own work (no downloaded elements)

Closeup-Macro

Photographs taken at close distances to create emphasis on the subject and/or to show detail or features which would not normally be seen.

- Examples
 - Plants and flowers removed from their original growing environments
 - Close-up details of plants, insects or other species
 - Small human artefacts, inanimate objects or parts thereof
- Clarifications
 - Submissions can be made using non-specialist lenses, extension rings, reversed lenses or specialist macro lenses

Monochrome

Photographs taken at close distances to create emphasis on the subject and/or to show detail or features which would not normally be seen.

- Monochrome photographs include:
 - A photograph in tones of neutral grey ranging from transparent/white to opaque/black
 - A photograph in single colour:
 - A print using a chemical process such as sepia, cyanotype, etc
 - A digitally produced image 'colourised' in a single hue

This definition matches the PAgB monochrome definition (used by the SCPF)

- Clarifications
 - This definition of monochrome does not include conventional split-toned photographs (blue toned shadows with yellow toned highlights, for example)
 - This definition does not include "colour-pop" photographs (a red bus or yellow flower against a monochrome background, for example)

Approved by the Bognor Regis Camera Club committee and released on 12th September 2023