Image Creation and Authorship
In all sections of an exhibition, images must originate as photographs made by the entrant. Entrants may not incorporate images or image elements authored by anyone else (for example textures, **replacement skies**, clipart or stock images), and there is zero tolerance for plagiarism. Editing or alteration of images is only permitted within the limits specified in the division definitions.

Statement on Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Images created by image creation software (frequently called "AI" images) are not allowed in. Any person submitting an AI generated image (in whole or in part) that does not begin with a photograph from the maker shall be prohibited from Interclub.

Similar Images: A "Similar Image" is defined as an image that depicts the same subject(s) with variations in arrangement, composition, appearance, clothing, lighting, expression, color and/or processing or other adjustments between the images. Identical or Similar Images shall not be allowed in the same competitions during the year. If the Similar Image receives an award, it cannot be entered again in the same competition.

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 exhibitions with PSA recognition is that the welfare of living creatures is more important than any photograph. This means that practices such as baiting of subjects with a living creature and removal of birds from nests, for the purpose of obtaining a photograph, are highly unethical, and such photographs are not allowed in any exhibition with PSA recognition. 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, using drones, helicopters, or low flying aircraft. These should not cause any interference with other individuals or animals which causes a disturbance in their normal activity or disrupts the way any individual or animal interacts with their environment. Entrants in PSA recognized exhibitions should comply with all relevant laws and regulations associated with aerial photography in the country in which the image was taken. .

<p align="center" style="color:orange">PSA/FIAP Nature Definition</p>

<p align="center" style="color:blue">Interclub does not include wildlife as a separate category and all wildlife can be entered in General Nature and must meet these guidelines.</p>

- **Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both animate and inanimate, that have not been made or modified by humans.**
- **Nature images must convey the truth of the scene that was photographed. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity that threatens the life or welfare of a living organism are not allowed.**
- **The most important part of a Nature image is the nature story it tells. High technical standards are expected and the image must look natural.**
- **Objects created by humans, and evidence of human activity, are allowed in Nature images only when they are a necessary part of the Nature story.**
- **Photographs of human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domesticated animals, human-created hybrid animals and mounted or preserved zoological specimens are not allowed.**

- **Images taken with subjects under controlled conditions, such as zoos, are allowed.**
- **Controlling live subjects by chilling, anaesthetic or any other method of restricting natural movement for the purpose of a photograph is not allowed.**

Editing Guidelines:

Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible, except that conversion to grayscale monochrome is allowed.

Allowed Editing Techniques:

- Cropping, straightening and perspective correction
- Removal or correction of elements added by the camera or lens, such as dust spots, noise, chromatic aberration and lens distortion
- Global and selective adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation and contrast to restore the appearance of the original scene
- Complete conversion of color images to grayscale monochrome
- Blending of multiple images of the same subject and combining them in camera or with software (exposure blending or focus stacking)
- Image stitching - combining multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively (panoramas).
- Nature does not recommend borders but does not prohibit them. Borders used to separate the image from a screen's background should be neutral tones (grays) and small and single (usually around 3-5 pixels).

Editing Techniques That Are Not Allowed:

- Removing, adding to, moving or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening.
- Adding a vignette during processing
- Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene
- Darkening parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene
- All conversions other than to complete grayscale monochrome
- Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome, or partial toning, desaturation or over-saturation of color

NATURE SCORING GUIDE

Notes to judges:

- Interclub is consider an education learning experience and to help entrants, an image that receives a score of 0 , 1 or 2 require a Specific Comment in the comment section of the scoresheet.
- The term DQ for disqualified is not used in Interclub Competitions and an image falling in that category is scored 0 for makeup.
- Use the full scale of scores to rate the images within a group; do not assign just two or three of those numbers to everything.
- DQ/0 is reserved for serious and provable violations and needs to be explained to that entrant. An image with questionable editing or suspected non-compliance without proof regarding arrangement of the content by the maker or anyone on his behalf should be given a low score, not a DQ,
- Makers should feel that a score of five is possible.

MAKE UP IMAGES

Makeup Images with score of 0: Please note, the Interclub Director often does not have time to view all images for these four (4) oversights below and will score them zero when discovered. If this action reduces the number of allowed images in the Round, the club can submit a makeup image in the next Round as long as the maker of the makeup image does not have an image in the Round it is replacing. If discovered in Round 3 this makeup cannot be honored since there are no more Rounds in the competition. All makeup Images may receive awards as appropriate with regular submitted images.

SCORE 0 : *List the specific Reason in the Comment section on the scoresheet* *The following images are scored 0. Write MU for Makeup along with the specific reason (name on image etc.) in the comment section and write Zero (0) for the Score:*
- The maker has more than one image in the competition. If this is not caught by the Director, Judging Chair is to score the lowest scoring image 0.
- The image won an award previously in Nature Interclub.
- The image is too pixilated to be viewed.
- Maker's name is on the image.

SCORE 1: *List the specific Reason in the Comment section on the scoresheet*
- Human elements are present, (Only human elements that are integral parts of the nature story are allowed)
- Images of natural objects reshaped by humans are not allowed.
- Image is of hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens
- The image does not look natural.
- Evidence that the image is an Infrared image and thus not allowed.
- A closeup and the image is not identifiable.
- If aerial photography is used(drones, helicopters or 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. (Where Drone photography is used no laws or regulations of the country or jurisdiction where the images were taken should have been broken).
- Image postprocessing adjustments do not appear natural including over or under saturation. (*Burning dodging and color adjustment are acceptable but must look natural).*
- Evidence that the image was modified by pictorial elements added, relocated, replaced, or removed (such as the Sky). (*Cropping is permitted including removal of dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches).*
- Evidence of Cloning.
- Evidence of blurring the background to obscure elements in the original scene.
- Evidence of darkening the background to remove elements in the original scene.

- Evidence of adding a vignette not originally produced by the camera.
- Evidence that textures or artistic filters were added.
- Image has many flaws such as unintentional blur or has major parts out of focus. Image is cluttered to the point of distraction, or distracting elements are overwhelming. (*Please note if the image is just a weak image without extreme flaws it should receive a score of 2*)

SCORE 2 : *List the specific Reason in the Comment section on the scoresheet*
- Very limited nature story in the image.
- Image provides little more than descriptive information about the creature - shape, color, size or landscape.
- Weak technical quality.
- Weak Composition where point of view or cropping might improve the image.
- If image is a close up, there is limited identifiable information.
- Image is an aftermath of natural forces (such as a cyclone) and depicts just the aftermath of the scene and not the actual weather forces

SCORE 3:
- Typical life behavior Nature story (flying, gathering nesting material).
- This is an average but solid image where the elements work well together, and the image is technically correct.
- Average story regarding the effects of nature on the landscape or nature scene. These are images that illustrate typical behavior of the creature or tell a story about part of its life cycle

SCORE 4:
- The Judge feels this image should receive a HM award.
- A strong story regarding the effects of nature on the landscape or nature scene.
- Often with wildlife, stronger stories show some of the environment.
- This image illustrates how creatures of the same species (mates, parents/offspring, group members) interact.
- This image illustrates how creatures of different species interact in various ways.
- Good to excellent technical qualities

SCORE 5:
- The Judge feels this image should receive a Merit Award.
- Image displays an excellent story regarding the effects of nature on the landscape or nature scene.
- This image superiorly illustrates how creatures of the same species (mates, parents/offspring, group members) interact.
- This image superiorly illustrates how creatures of different species interact in various ways.
- Excellent to superior technical qualities.