

WACCO COMPETITION DIVISION DESCRIPTIONS

Nature Division – rev. 8/2015

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation. Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible. Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals or domestic animals are also allowed. The Nature Divisions include all those subjects be they captive or free. The subject should not be moved to a studio setting, but should be depicted in its natural surroundings. Mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. Stitched images are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grey-scale monochrome.

Insects, Reptiles & Amphibians

The insect, reptile, and amphibian theme is restricted to those living creatures that are defined by science as an insect, reptile or amphibian. Common examples include; frogs, lizards, bees, butterfly's, spiders. The list is not complete however no mammals, birds, fish, or mounted subjects are allowed in this theme. The subject should be presented in its natural environment and should not be moved to a studio location.

Natural Landscapes

Subject matter is a landscape image that does not rely on closeup detail to impart the nature story. Images that include roads, fences, mown or cultivated fields, or any other human element are not allowed.

Birds

Birds are defined as animals with feathers and wings. Wild birds, waterfowl and domesticated birds are allowed in this theme. However no mammals, fish or mounted subjects are allowed. The subject should be presented in its natural environment and should not be moved to a studio location.

Animals

This category can include live wild, captive and/or domesticated animals. Images captured at zoos, game farms and the like are permitted. Birds, insects, reptiles and amphibians are excluded from this theme. The subject should be presented in its natural environment and should not be moved to a studio location.

Flowers

The flowers theme includes both wildflower and domesticated, cultivated flowers such as roses, tulips etc. The subject should be presented in its natural environment and should not be moved to a studio location. Images captured in green houses, botanical gardens and the like are allowed but no hand of man should be visibly present.

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Open Divisions – rev. 8/2015

Any and all post-processing techniques are allowed in the Open divisions.

Photojournalism/Sports

Photojournalism images should reflect a newsworthy event and be depicted in an honest and objective manner. The sports image can be of any sporting event, professional, collegiate or amateur including children's events. Manipulation of these images is allowed only if it does not compromise the original intent of the image. However no elements not originally in the image can be introduced by artificial means.

Portraits

The portrait category is restricted to human subjects only. Portraits of animals, birds etc will not be allowed and will be disqualified.

Urbanscapes

The urbanscape image typically depicts scenes from city life as opposed to country or rural life. Allowable images include the grand cityscape, buildings, bridges, street scenes, etc.

Tabletop/Still Life

A tabletop/still life image usually depicts a static arrangement of objects.

Weather

Weather images typically depict conditions occurring in the atmosphere at a given time and place, with respect to variables such as temperature, moisture, wind velocity, and barometric pressure. The human element is allowable in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves.

Random

This category will be chosen by the competition committee and a description provided 3 months prior to the competition. This category comes into the rotation once every 6 competitions.