

Rule : The use of AI Post Processing in club competitions

The Club is attempting to ensure that all key elements in an image presented for competition were the work of the author, not generated by Artificial Intelligence.

1. Purpose: The purpose of this rule is to ensure fairness, creativity, and authenticity in photography competitions by prohibiting the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the post-processing of images. By disallowing AI-assisted editing techniques, the club aims to uphold the artistic vision of the photographer and maintain a level playing field for all participants.
2. Prohibited Use of Artificial Intelligence: In the same way that other rules state that all parts of the work a photographer produces must be their own (e.g. skies, brushes, textures), photographers are prohibited from utilising artificial intelligence or any AI-assisted tools or software to significantly alter their images.
3. Unacceptable use of AI in post processing includes (but is not limited to) the following examples.
 - Any AI technique that alters the original intent of the image.
 - Any generative AI that creates content within your image (e.g. birds, planes, cars)
4. Permitted Post-Processing Techniques: Acceptable use of AI in post processing includes
 - AI-driven noise reduction or sharpening algorithms.
 - AI-powered color grading or tonal adjustments.
5. Verification and Disqualification: The club reserves the right to verify the compliance of participants with this rule. In case of suspicion or evidence of AI post-processing, the club may request the original unprocessed image or raw file from the photographer for verification purposes. Failure to provide the requested material within the designated timeframe may result in disqualification.
6. Penalties: Any violation of this rule will result in disqualification from the competition. Disqualified participants will forfeit any trophies, or recognition they might have been eligible for and may be banned from future competition entry.
7. Discretion: The club retains the right to interpret and enforce this rule. They may take additional actions, beyond disqualification, if necessary, to ensure the integrity and fairness of competitions.
8. Notification and Publication: This rule will be clearly communicated to all participants through the official club website, guidelines, entry forms, or any other relevant communication channels. The rule will also be made publicly available to promote transparency and fairness.
9. Effective Date and Modification: This rule shall take effect from the start of the 2023/2024 season. The club reserve the right to modify or amend this rule if

necessary, with any changes being communicated to members in a timely manner.

10. Judges of competitions will be asked to not comment upon whether an image has had prohibited AI applied to it or not during the competition, but to raise any concerns about an image's veracity with the club's Internal Competition Secretary. Article 4 above will potentially be enacted in this situation.

By participating in the club competitions, participants acknowledge and accept the terms of this rule, agreeing to abide by its provisions.

The club acknowledges this is a very difficult area to police. We ask that all members use their sense of integrity, honesty and fairness

The table below lists some common AI features and whether they are permissible in a club competition. This is not an exhaustive list. As new techniques become available we will revisit these rules.

AI Feature	Use?	Reason
Masking	Y	Does not change the artistic intent
Sharpening	Y	Does not change the artistic intent
Upscaling	Y	Does not change the artistic intent
Background Replace	Y	Permitted if all images used are yours
Noise reduction	Y	Does not change the artistic intent
Generative AI	N	The intent of original images can be significantly altered
Cropping	N	The intent of original images would be altered by AI, not you

If you are concerned that a submitted image could contravene the guidelines above, please contact the club's Competition Secretary and supply a copy of the original image as taken.