

## Revised guidelines for submission to BPS Competitions, May 8, 2023

Every BPS member is encouraged to participate in BPS competitions.

The rules and the details for entry are also noted in the BPS Newsletter under "Competition" prior to these sessions. *Even if a member has done this before, please carefully review the entire process before the next submission as there have continued to be numerous naming & sizing errors requiring very time consuming corrections.*

***Once submitted, changes will no longer be accepted. Improper submissions will be deleted automatically, moving forward.***

Each dues-current BPS member is encouraged to participate in BPS competitions & may submit up to two images in the **Pictorial category (A)** and up to two images in the **Nature category (B)** for each competition, using either **Class A** (advanced) or **Class B** group. As a point of clarification, all new BPS members are placed in Class B unless their body of work is well known. All the prior year's competition results will be reviewed at the beginning of each year to determine if a Class B member qualifies to move up to Class A based on that year's scoring.

### Categories are defined as:

- **Pictorial (A)**: Almost anything goes in this category that originates fully within a camera - any type of image, genre, creative capture, creative processing, multiple exposures, composites, abstracts, gilding or scanned outputs of images created on film, in a conventional darkroom &/or with historic alternative photographic processes, such as Cyanotypes & collodion. Unique &/or modified cameras or lenses & camera/phone apps that alter the image are fine for use in Pictorial, including but not limited to: infrared capture; fisheye lenses; Lensbaby lenses; 360° outfit; image distorting pinhole & toy cameras; digital scanner (considered a camera); texture addition & painterly effect; & creative apps. Sky replacement is permitted *but only if* the composite image utilizes a sky that the artist photographed & is not from another photographer or software program. The Pictorial category encourages creative imagery. There are several exceptions for Pictorial: those images that qualify as Nature category images - nature images cannot be entered in the Pictorial category; AI computer generated assets/elements added to images; any form of nudity. The act of trespassing onto private property to make an image or an image that implies such is inappropriate.

- **Nature (B)**: Nature images must conform to the classic Photographic Society of America (PSA) definition of a nature image (except as described below). Eligible subjects include trees, wild flowers, weeds, grasses, fungi, ferns, mosses, animals, birds, reptiles, insects, fossils, weather, the night sky & deep space as single or stacked image files, geological formations, land/seascapes (without boats or other human evidence), etc. Banding on wild animals is acceptable. The PSA standard has been modified by BPS to allow photographs of zoo or game farm animals with their enclosures & surroundings, botanical gardens, cultivated plants &

aquariums. Ineligible subjects include scenics which show evidence of the hand of man (roads, fences, buildings, telephone wires, etc.), mounted specimens, domestic animals & feral animals (e.g., horses, dogs, cats, goats, rabbits, camels & pigs). These “non-nature” images would all belong in the Pictorial category.

Because the intent of a Nature image as defined by BPS is to accurately depict a real subject, the degree of digital manipulation should be “minimal” & must appear “natural”. Cropping, dodging/burning, grayscale black & white conversion, HDR & focus stacking are permitted, as that is what the eye can automatically perceive. Unique cameras, camera/phone apps & camera lenses that do not inherently or artificially change &/or distort the image are perfectly fine for capturing Nature submissions, including macro lenses, extension tubes & tele extenders. Digital scans of Nature images created on film or in a conventional darkroom or with historic alternative photographic processes are fine. However, the following are not permitted for Nature: adding, relocating, replacing or removing elements within the image; alteration of the truth; panorama stitched images; blurring &/or distortion created with camera movement, a modified camera or lens or done in processing; composite &/or blended images done in-camera or in processing; texture addition & painterly effect; & infrared images. All of these creative techniques would be perfectly acceptable for Pictorial.

These competition rules depend upon the honesty of our members. There could possibly be a request for the original, unprocessed file in rare circumstances.

**File Naming** is very specific & the protocol for each entry must be followed exactly as shown in the example below.

Example:

For the first digital entry submitted by John Smith entitled Covered Bridge in the Pictorial category, the submitted file would be named:

BPS-SmitJ-A1-Covered\_Bridge.jpg

Explanation:

BPS-SmitJ-A1-Covered\_Bridge.jpg

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A   B   C   DE   F

A - BPS ON ALL ENTRIES

B - FIRST FOUR LETTERS OF LAST NAME (Smit)

C - FIRST LETTER OF FIRST NAME (J)

D - A = PICTORIAL or B = NATURE CATEGORY

E - 1 = FIRST IMAGE IN CATEGORY or 2 = SECOND IMAGE IN CATEGORY

F - IMAGE TITLE (MAX. 36 CHARACTERS)

Important: you must use the dash ( - ) not the underscore ( \_ ) in between each part of the file name. And, you must use the underscore ( \_ ) between words in the image title (i.e.,

Covered\_Bridge). Do not use any blank spaces in the file name. Only JPG file format is to be used & designated by “.jpg”; do not use “.jpeg” or “.jpg.jpg”.

**File Sizing** is very important & is a common spot of errors. The maximum image dimensions are **1920 dpi (w) x 1080 dpi (h)**. In other words, images cannot be any wider right to left than 1920 pixels. Images cannot be any taller top to bottom than 1080 pixels. This sizing requirement holds for horizontal, vertical & square images. Images larger than the requisite file size will be automatically deleted.

**Image Attributes:** Text may not be added to any image nor the utilization of an artist watermark or image border. Images that have *placed* in any previous BPS competition may not be resubmitted.

**Image Submission** is performed using 4 links to 4 separate directories in the BPS’s SmugMug account to upload images into, depending on the photographer’s Class (A or B) and the image Category (Pictorial or Nature). This will then automatically separate the image files appropriately on the receiving end. There has been no change in the BPS file naming rules, the file size requirements, etc. **Please triple check your entries carefully before you submit to minimize errors & deletion.**

**Class A** photographers use these 2 links to upload files:

Pictorial (A1 & A2): <https://www.smugmug.com/upload/r5ZTvq/ClassAPictorial>

Nature (B1 & B2): <https://www.smugmug.com/upload/BkRVbG/ClassANature>

**Class B** photographers use these 2 links to upload files:

Pictorial (A1 & A2): <https://www.smugmug.com/upload/f7pVTw/ClassBPictorial>

Nature (B1 & B2): <https://www.smugmug.com/upload/F5hJxr/ClassBNature>

When the SmugMug web page opens, you will have 2 options:

- “Drag Photos & Videos Here”, or
- Click “Browse Computer” to be taken to your computer’s folder structure to find where your images are stored, then select them all & click “Open”.

Either way, the image files will then begin uploading to the SmugMug website. Once the upload is complete, you’ll see a message that says: “Hooray! That’s 2 happier photos. :)”. Just click the “Done” button at the top right - that’s it! Once you get the confirmation screen that your photos have been uploaded, your work is finished. You can then close your browser. You might get a screen that asks you to sign into the Smugmug Gallery. Just ignore this action.

**Once uploaded, you can’t exchange, delete or make changes to your photos. Improper submissions will be deleted.** It is strongly advised that members place all entries into a desktop folder and study them carefully to make sure that the images meet the category criteria & that the files are properly sized and named prior to beginning the submission process. Ideally, be

ready with all your images for the one submission event. If you did not upload all of the eligible images initially you can repeat the process later with more images.

After you are done uploading your photos, please email Vince at [Vince.Pellegrini@berksphotographic.com](mailto:Vince.Pellegrini@berksphotographic.com), simply typing "x number of images were submitted for BPS" in the subject line; nothing else is needed. You will receive verification that everything is ok with your upload within a short period of time. If you do not send this email, you will not receive confirmation.

If you have questions or need help with submissions, please email Vince *before* submitting images.

*Submission of an image for any BPS competition indicates agreement of the maker to allow BPS to post the image in the BPS Newsletter, online via the BPS website & BPS YouTube channel & via Zoom.*