



EDITING POLICY

All photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared.

The following editing techniques are allowed, **but only in moderation so that the original character of the image is retained. Images that are obviously edited or clearly exaggerated will be disqualified. A decision by the judges to disqualify any submission is final.**

- Minor adjustments to color, white balance, exposure, contrast, shadows/highlights, vibrance/saturation, clarity and sharpness;
- Use of digital graduated grey filter;
- Removal of vignetting;
- Moderate dodging and burning;
- Removal of dust or sensor spots and hot pixels;
- Moderate reduction of image noise;
- Removal of chromatic aberrations and lens distortion;
- Rotation of the image (to level the horizon line, for example);
- Cropping that removes extraneous areas of the photo;
- HDR blending of multiple exposures (in-camera or through the use of software)
- Panoramas (in-camera or through the use of software)
- Focus stacking (in-camera or through the use of software)

The following editing techniques are not permitted:

- Digital tools may not be used to remove, rearrange, or distort people, objects, or features that were in the original image; or to add people, objects, or features that were not in the original image.
- Double exposures or composite images.
- Color changes that are so significant that the processed colors vary widely from the original colors.
- Frames, borders, watermarks, signatures or names are not permitted.
- Images or parts of images created using artificial intelligence (AI) are not permitted.

You may be required to provide Picture Hocking Hills officials with original image files (RAW, jpeg, etc.) upon request. Judges will determine whether changes to an image are significant enough to disqualify an entry. Failure to provide original files may result in the disqualification of the entry at the sole discretion of Picture Hocking Hills.