



O3C Open Challenge Inter-Club Competition

Use of AI / Artificial Intelligence

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) assisted enhancement tools are available to the maker in many software applications used to post process images. Examples include sky replacement, sharpening, object selection, spot healing, cloning, object removal, auto correction, neural filters, etc. These types of AI enhancements, which are similar to traditional post processing tools used for productivity in post processing, are acceptable to use on original images for competition submissions, if the majority of the image is still evident when compared to the original RAW file, see below. Any replacement imagery must be the maker's own work and not part of the supplied program/plugin (ie. cloud based applications or stock images).
- However, AI generated imagery that uses Text-to-Image or Image-to-Image Generative processes that draw from an external, cloud-based database of photographs – content not owned by the maker -- is not allowed for any portion of a photo entry whatsoever (eg. Adobe's 'Generative AI' features in Lightroom and Photoshop).
- Programs that allow AI "Remove" and "Expand" Tools WITHOUT the use of Text-Prompts to remove elements (distractions, wires, people, etc.) or expand image area with either local or cloud based processing are acceptable so long as it represents no more than 10% of the final image, *(the only exception being the Creative Vision category where there is no specified limit – however, all elements of the CV project must have been created by the maker and not using an cloud-based AI sources)*. To state this clearly, a use of remove or expand must not represent more than 10% of the final image for the following categories: Birds, Nature Animals, Nature Botany, Nature Landscape/Geology, Expansive Views, People, People in Action, Architecture, Pictorial, and Theme Topic.

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- For this competition, the O3C will employ any tools available for detection of AI generation. Should there be a question about an image's inappropriate use of AI, the Competition Committee will give the member the opportunity to submit their RAW/Jpeg/ Post-Processed files that were used to produce the submitted image or risk disqualification. The committee's decision following any review is considered final. In all cases, the files must retain the metadata history originally encoded in the files.
- Since AI technology, as well as the tools available to detect AI generation, are rapidly changing, these rules are subject to change in future competitions.
- Some Competition categories allow Digital Manipulation, and some do not. Full details regarding digital manipulation are found in the category descriptions. It is recommended that makers read the descriptions carefully to obtain a clear understanding of how much, if any, digital manipulation is allowed in each category. Full details and examples of acceptable allowances are noted in the category description.