FODCC

The use of AI in Club Competitions

The recent rapid developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) present some interesting dilemmas for club photographers. Is the use of AI based editing software acceptable in club competitions and, if so, should we impose any limitations on its use? This short paper is intended to provide guidance for club members.

We have been using AI based tools for some time in our photography even though we may not be aware of it. Smartphones make extensive use of AI. Modern DSLRs are relying more and more on AI based algorithms for functionality including jpeg editing, subject identification and object tracking.

The recent developments in editing software that use generative AI to produce images, or part of images, from a textual description are of particular concern. The committee's view is that our rules already require that any image presented for a competition should be solely the member's work and therefore there is no need for amendment to specifically exclude AI generated images as they are clearly not the author's own work.

To be clear the guidance for members is that:

1. The inclusion of image elements that are wholly generated from text or images, not taken by the author, is not acceptable.
2. Editing that includes AI based algorithms (sharpness, noise removal and other basic edit) is acceptable.
3. Masks made with AI assistance are acceptable.
4. Content aware fill and stretching backgrounds (whether AI generated or not) is acceptable.
5. AI based sharpening and denoising products are acceptable

The committee has no intention of actively 'policing' competition entries and will rely solely, as we do now, on the integrity of members. This is a fast-moving subject and we will keep the guidance under review and change it if necessary.

At the start of the new season it would be prudent for members to reacquaint themselves with our competition rules (https://www.forestofdeancameraclub.co.uk/competitionRules).

If you have any questions or doubts relating to the use of AI or the general competition rules, please contact the Competition Secretary or the Chairman before you enter your image into a competition.

I look forward to seeingyou all at the beginning of the new season.

Andrew MacBean
Chairman
FOREST OF DEAN
Camera Club
A photography club at the heart of the Forest of Dean