

SYNOPSIS FROM THE PSA JOURNAL  
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IMAGE MANIPULATION

**“No element may be moved, cloned, added, rearranged or combined. No manipulation or modification is permitted except resizing, cropping selective lightening or darkening, and restoration of the original color of the scene. No special effect filters can be applied. Any sharpening must appear natural.”**

Unwanted elements should be removed from the image before it is taken, not done digitally. Perhaps, change the angle of perspective.

Filters- Some filters are acceptable because they do not change reality. These are the polarizer, split neutral density, and warming or color enhancing filters.

Blurring the background - This is acceptable with the choice of lens, but it is not acceptable if it is done digitally.

Borders – this is not disallowed but care needs to be taken that the border does not distract from the image.

Combining images is not allowed. Sometimes two shots of the same image are taken. One is set to bring out highlights and the other to bring out the shadows. The two images are combined for perfect exposure.

With your digital photo program, you may

1. Adjust the exposure to bring out details.
2. Correct white balance
3. Adjust color casts.
4. Adjust saturation
5. Apply sharpening
6. Remove dust spots, sun flares
7. Flip horizontally
8. Straighten a horizon

Truthfulness and natural appearance are the essence of nature photography. Any deviation from these qualities may lower scores or cause disqualification.