

# How can you distinguish between what is allowed and what is not allowed when entering SPF and PAGB or FIAP Competitions?

The SPF, PAGB and FIAP all have their own statements of what is allowed. The SPF and PAGB are currently the same – *'Images entered must be entirely the work of the photographer. Composite Images are permitted provided all component images meet this requirement. For the avoidance of doubt, use of images from any source including, but not limited to, royalty free image banks, textures and clipart are not permitted'* An entry is also still subject to any additional specific Competition requirements e.g. Nature or Monochrome Definitions. FIAP is slightly different and is given separately at the bottom of this article.

This statement is not normally expanded upon as it is difficult to police all aspects of what is meant by this statement, and may vary in interpretation by different Judges and Competition Organisers.

**The SPF's advice would be to try and enter images that comply with the 'spirit' of these rules when entering our Competitions. The following, which follows this ethos, may also help but is not meant to be definitive, merely a guide;**

- **'Images entered must be entirely the work of the photographer'**, does not preclude trade processed prints being entered but does mean that you should have taken any photographs or made any elements used.
- **'Royalty Free Images are not permitted'**, neither are images freely available to use for other purposes on the web, or elsewhere, or copyright images that you have purchased the right to use, but did not take.
- **'Clip art'** includes any other material available for you to use, whether free or that you have purchased the right to use, but did not make. This includes photographing e.g. artwork/scrapbooking/crafting material that someone else made, and passing it off as your own. (Read the 'Plagiarism' article by Christine Widdall for more on this <http://christinewiddall.co.uk/musings/plagiarism-photography/> - please note the SPF have asked permission of the author to circulate this. If you wish to do so you must do likewise, unless as part of this document)

**Q - To use a FILTER from within Photoshop to create a rain-drop effect say - is that allowed? as an example for simplicity**

A - Yes, provided it is only using picture material from within your photograph(s) to create the effect (as opposed to say Filter > Render > Photo Frame (or Tree) within Photoshop, for example, where a complete Photo Frame (or Tree) is imported in to your image from a selection in Photoshop's library) – If it adds an 'image layer' that was not created from your own work, then it's not allowed. For complex Filters/Plug-Ins this should give a gauge as to what is acceptable.

- The use of Textures, not created by yourself, should not be used for the same reason as above.
- The use of non-standard Brushes e.g. birds/snowflakes and the like, not created by yourself, falls in to the same category as above.

**Q - To create something digitally in Photoshop like a non-existing planet - is that allowed?**

A - Yes, the PAGB and SPF allow you to create elements (graphics or artwork) to use within your images; however this is not now allowed in FIAP Competitions unless it is solely created from your own photographs.

**Q - The use of text from within Photoshop - is that allowed? my understanding is that it should not be because that is not your font**

A - Theoretically you are correct, although it is unlikely that your image would be disqualified for this, *but this is not now allowed in FIAP Competitions*

**Q - If I make the font myself and use that as a text from within Photoshop - is that allowed?**

A - Yes, *but this is not now allowed in FIAP Competitions*

**FIAP - This is relevant only to events with FIAP Patronage** e.g. Scottish Salon, Edinburgh International.. (or FIAP Biennials and Clubs World Cup) and does not affect any SPF Competitions other than the Scottish Salon

**The current FIAP rules now state (017 and 018/2017)** – *'All the parts of each submitted image have to be photographed by the author who must be in possession of the original unretouched 'capture' version(s) of the image and where applicable of all component parts of the image. The author must also hold the copyright to each submitted image and of all component parts of it.'*

**Additionally FIAP say** – *'that all parts of the image have to be photographed by the author who is holding the copyright of all works submitted.'* Any person who is found guilty of using photographic material that was not captured in camera by that person will be excluded for life from FIAP activities.

*Any author, whose image shows any suspicions about the compliance with FIAP regulations or definitions, can be requested by the organiser or by FIAP, to submit the original capture file (file containing the data recorded by the sensor; i.e. : the RAW or the original unretouched JPEG files) plus the file of the images immediately before and immediately following the questionable image.*

**i.e. the following underlined is no longer allowed in FIAP events** – *'Images may be altered, either digitally or otherwise, by the maker. Artwork or computer graphics created by the entrant may be incorporated if the photographic content predominates; subject to nature, Photo Travel and Photojournalism divisional restrictions'.* - This is still however the PSA statement, meaning this is allowed in PSA Patronage only Exhibitions.

**Photographing in Public Places/Copyright** - For an interesting article on UK Photographer's Rights please visit the following Sirimo website <http://www.sirimo.co.uk/category/ukpr/> (Please note Sirimo has no connection with the SPF. This has been added here as a general resource for those Photographing in Public places, and also has additional useful information on Copyright)