

## Editing for Competitions

Before you start editing:

- 1. Check the rules:**

Competitions may have different requirements for file format, and what types of editing are permitted.

- 2. Use high-quality files:**

Start with a high-quality photograph, ideally a RAW file, as it contains more information for editing.

Step-by-step editing process:

- 1. Crop and Align:**

- **Crop:** Remove unnecessary elements to improve your composition and focus on the main subject.
- **Straighten:** Ensure that any important horizontal or vertical lines in your image are perfectly level.

- 2. Adjust Exposure and Lighting:**

- **Exposure:** Correct any issues with the overall brightness of the image.
- **Highlights & Shadows:** Use these controls to bring out detail in the brightest and darkest areas, enhancing the image's depth.
- **Contrast:** Carefully adjust contrast to make the image more dynamic but avoid making it look unnatural.

- 3. Finesse Colour:**

- **White Balance:** Adjust the colour temperature to ensure colours appear natural and accurate.
- **Saturation:** Subtly increase or decrease saturation to enhance or calm the intensity of colours, creating a consistent look.

- 4. Enhance Details:**

- **Sharpening:** Add a touch of sharpening to make important details crisp and clear, as judges often zoom in.
- **Clarity & Texture:** Use these tools to bring out the existing texture in the image rather than creating new details, which can look artificial.

- 5. Check for Distractions and Watermarks:**

- **Remove distractions:** Use masking tools to selectively brighten or blur areas of the image to draw attention to the subject.
- **No Identifying Marks:** Make sure there are no watermarks, signatures, or other identifying marks on the final image.

**Final Steps:**

- 1. Save Your Image:**

Save the image in the required file format (often JPEG) and adhere to any file size limits specified by the competition rules.

- 2. Name Your File:**

Use the file naming convention required by the competition, such as including your name.