

Alpha Awards

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

What to Submit

To be eligible for consideration, every submission to the Alpha Awards needs the following:

1. A finished image in high-resolution JPEG

This image is your primary submission, and is used for judging and for display. Do not submit watermarked images.



File size is limited to 5MB for this file. We recommend that you submit a JPEG in whatever resolution your image is mastered, and adjust the JPEG compression quality to fit the file size. JPEG quality of 60% is enough to bring most A7R V files under 5MB. While this compression is certainly visible at the pixel level, for the purposes of the competition it is not relevant, and will not impact judging or display.

Please also leave “All Metadata” checked where applicable, as this assists our vetting and archival process.

2. One or more straight-out-of-camera RAW, JPEG or similar file/s.

This is for verification only. These files are not used for judging or printing, and will not be shared or reused after the competition concludes.

3. Full Metadata

Assuming you export with “All Metadata” checked, or the equivalent for your chosen editing suite, information like ISO, Shutter Speed and Aperture should auto-fill when you upload. We do ask that you take the time to put in your camera and lens if they don’t autofill.

FAQs

1. Q: I don’t have a RAW file for my image, what can I do?

A: We will also accept unedited JPEG, HEIF, etc images. So long as the metadata is intact, there is no problem to accept any original capture format.

2. Q: The form will not accept my original image upload, what can I do?

A: Please contact us at sonyscene.SANZ@sony.com.au and we will ensure you are able to submit.

3. Q: Why are you not using an uncompressed image for printing?

A: In the rare case where resolution or compression is an issue, we reach out to participants for a suitable file. In general, it is our policy to use a single file from initial judging all the way through to printing and exhibition, as this ensures continuity and consistency. A 5MB JPEG file is fully sufficient at the print and display sizes that we deal with, and keeps our data management reasonable when we are dealing with thousands of submissions each year.

4. Q: Which category should I submit my image in?

A: Unfortunately we can’t provide guidance on a case-by-case basis. In most cases, if the answer is not immediately obvious, either category will be acceptable. In general, we recommend submitting in a more specific category where possible (ie, a cityscape is better served in City/Street than Landscape; an environmental portrait is better in Portrait than in Nature or Landscape.)

5. Q: Can I submit photos that have been edited using generative AI?

A: Outside of the Creative category, use of generative AI tools is generally forbidden. Judges have some leeway where the impact is minor and does not substantially affect the content of the image.