REPORT · RECORDS AS OF 13 OCTOBER 2026

What photo contests take

Of the 34 contests, 25 take a licence over every photo entered, win or lose.

All 34 leave the copyright with the photographer and take a licence instead; who it covers, how long it lasts and what it allows differ from contest to contest.

CONTESTS	RECORDS AS OF	BASIS	LIVE DATA
34 verified records	13 October 2026	Each organiser's published rules	winphoto.io/reports/contest-terms.json

25 of 34
take a licence over every photo entered

26 of 34
set no end date for the licence

21 of 34
also allow third parties, sub-licensing or commercial use

17 of 25
AI bans that ask for original or RAW files

01 COPYRIGHT

What stays with the photographer

All 34 leave the copyright with the photographer, and none asks for exclusive rights.

> *"AAP recognizes you, the author of the image, retain full ownership of the copyright in each Entry."*

AAP Magazine #62: Travels 2026 (All About Photo) · rules, checked 11 Oct 2026

02 REACH

Who the licence covers

Of the 34 contests, 25 take a licence over every entry, 3 over shortlisted work and winners and 6 over winning or selected work only.

Every entry	25
Shortlisted work and winners	3
Winning or selected work only	6
No licence published	0

> *"By entering the competition, you grant World Sports Photography Awards, its sponsors, partners and media licensees a non-exclusive, irrevocable licence to reproduce, enlarge, publish or exhibit all submitted images in any media throughout the world at any time hereafter for any purpose directly connected with the awards."*

World Sports Photography Awards 2027 · rules, checked 11 Oct 2026

> *"By submitting images, entrants grant permission to the Underwater Photography Guide to use winning entries for the direct promotion of Underwater Photography Guide photo competitions, including Ocean Art."*

Ocean Art Underwater Photo Competition 2026 · rules, checked 11 Oct 2026

03 TERM

How long it lasts

Only 1 of the 34 contests sets a licence that ends in full, after a fixed term. At 7 it ends for some uses or entries only, and 26 set no end date at all. The licence is perpetual, at least in part, at 9 contests and irrevocable at 16.

Ends in full after a fixed term	1
Ends for some uses or entries only	7
No end date	26
No licence published	0
Perpetual, at least in part	9
Irrevocable	16

> *"a non-exclusive, worldwide, irrevocable licence, for the full period of any intellectual property rights (including all moral rights)"*

Bird Photographer of the Year 2027 (BPOTY 12) · rules, checked 11 Oct 2026

> *"Entrants licence the RPS to reproduce, without payment, any images for publicity and promotion purposes … for a period up to four years from the date of the open-call launching."*

RPS International Photography Exhibition 168 (open call) · rules, checked 11 Oct 2026

04 USES

What else it allows

At 21 of the 34 contests the licence reaches past the organiser's own promotion: 15 extend it to sponsors, partners or other third parties, 12 allow sub-licensing or transfer, and 6 cover commercial use or merchandise.

Sponsors, partners or other third parties	15
Sub-licensing or transfer	12
Commercial use or merchandise	6
At least one of the three	21

> *"an irrevocable, perpetual, unlimited, non-exclusive, royalty-free, transferable, infinitely sub-licensable, worldwide license to use and exploit your Content"*

PX3 Prix de la Photographie Paris 2026 · rules, checked 11 Oct 2026

> *"always with due credit and solely for promotional (non-commercial) use"*

Getxophoto 2027 Open Call — "Tide" (21st edition) · rules, checked 11 Oct 2026

05 AI

AI rules, and how entries are checked

Of the 34, 25 ban AI-generated images, and 17 of those 25 ask entrants for original or RAW files to check entries; the other 8 do not ask for them. Of the rest, 2 accept AI work in a dedicated category and 7 have no AI rule in the published terms.

None of the 34 records mentions C2PA or Content Credentials.

Bans AI-generated images	25
Ask for original or RAW files	17
Do not ask for original files	8
Accepts AI work in a dedicated category	2
No AI rule in the published terms	7

> *"If shortlisted, the RAW file for all images will be required."*

Travel Photographer of the Year 2026 · rules, checked 11 Oct 2026

> *"All submissions must be photographs. AI-generated imagery is strictly prohibited."*

Ocean Photographer of the Year 2026 · rules, checked 11 Oct 2026

06 FEES

What it costs to enter

Of the 34, 5 are free to enter. The other 29 charge a standard fee in their own currency: $10–$75 at 14 contests, €10–€35 at 7, £10–£35 at 7 and INR 2,360 at 1.

Free to enter	5
Charge an entry fee	29
$10–$75	14
€10–€35	7
£10–£35	7
INR 2,360	1

07 METHOD

How this report was made

Which contests	A contest counts only when WinPhoto's record of it is marked verified: its terms have been checked against the organiser's own published rules, linked on every row, on the date shown. The records cover the international awards and open calls WinPhoto follows for photographers; they are not a random sample of every photo contest.
As of	Licence and AI terms were last checked on 11 October 2026 for 30 of the 34 records; 1 record has terms last checked on 13 October 2026; 1 record has terms last checked on 12 October 2026; 2 records have terms last checked on 3 July 2026. Each contest shows when its licence and AI terms were last checked against the organiser's rules; where the two were checked on different days, the earlier date.
Who the licence covers	Whether the licence covers every entry; shortlisted work, including finalists and nominees, as well as winners; or winning and selected work only.
How long it lasts	A licence ends in full when a fixed term covers every use, and in part when a fixed term covers only some uses or some entries. Otherwise it has no end date: it is perpetual, or the rules state no term. Perpetual and irrevocable count the records whose licence wording uses those words.
What else it allows	Sponsors, partners or other third parties: the licence names parties besides the organiser, not counting the press. Sub-licensing or transfer: the organiser may sub-license the rights, including to the press, or transfer them. Commercial use or merchandise: the licence covers commercial purposes, merchandise, "advertising and trade" or the right to "exploit" the work, without a separate agreement.
AI rules	WinPhoto classes each contest's AI rule. Bans AI-generated images groups three of those classes: strict bans, nature rules that also bar composites, and bans that leave editing tools alone. A contest asks for originals when one of its eligibility rules asks entrants for original or RAW files, always, on request or once shortlisted.
Fees	Free to enter means no fee for a single-image entry. A fee is the standard entry fee in the organiser's own currency; some cover several images, and many vary by entry date or entrant status. No currency is converted.
Not stated is not the same as not done	Each figure counts what the published rules say, as WinPhoto recorded them. Where the rules say nothing, the contest is counted as not stating it. That describes the rules, not what a contest does in practice: a contest may check original files without saying so in its rules.
Not measured	Two terms are not reported. Photographer credit: the records do not yet hold the credit wording for every contest. Deadline time zones: the records do not show reliably whether a contest's rules state one.

CITE THIS SNAPSHOT

WinPhoto, *What photo contests take*, contest terms report, records as of 13 October 2026, data version d790990349fa. winphoto.io/reports/contest-terms

SOURCES AND CORRECTIONS

Each contest links to the rules it was checked against; quotes are the organisers' own wording, and an ellipsis marks a cut. The change log of WinPhoto's Rights & AI-Policy Ledger dates changes and corrections to contests' terms.

INDEPENDENCE

Buying a WinPhoto brief never changes how a contest is counted here, and corrections to the records are free for anyone. Live data: winphoto.io/reports/contest-terms.json

08 RECORDS

Contest by contest

CONTEST	LICENCE COVERS	LICENCE ENDS	ALSO ALLOWS	AI RULE	ORIGINALS	CHECKED
1839 Awards — Photographer of the Year 2026	Every entry	No end date	Third parties · Sub-licensing	Bans AI images	Asked for	11 Oct 2026
AAP Magazine #62: Travels 2026 (All About Photo)	Every entry	No end date	Sub-licensing	No AI rule	—	11 Oct 2026
Annual Photography Awards 2026	Every entry	No end date	Third parties	No AI rule	—	11 Oct 2026
Bird Photographer of the Year 2027 (BPOTY 12)	Every entry	No end date	Sub-licensing · Commercial use	Bans AI images	Asked for	11 Oct 2026
Chromatic Photography Awards 2026 (8th edition)	Every entry	No end date	—	No AI rule	—	11 Oct 2026
Close-up Photographer of the Year 8 (CUPOTY) 2026	Shortlist and winners	Ends in part	Third parties · Sub-licensing	Bans AI images	Asked for	11 Oct 2026
Communication Arts Photography Competition 2027	Every entry	No end date	—	Bans AI images	—	11 Oct 2026
The Epson International Pano Awards 2026	Every entry	Ends in part	Third parties · Sub-licensing	Bans AI images	Asked for	3 Jul 2026
Fine Art Photography Awards 2026–2027 (13th edition)	Every entry	No end date	—	No AI rule	Asked for	11 Oct 2026
Getxophoto 2027 Open Call — "Tide" (21st edition)	Winners or selected	No end date	—	No AI rule	—	11 Oct 2026
Glanzlichter der Naturfotografie 2027 (29th International Nature Photo Competition)	Winners or selected	No end date	Third parties	Bans AI images	Asked for	11 Oct 2026
Global Wildlife Fair International Photo Awards 2026	Every entry	No end date	—	Bans AI images	Asked for	11 Oct 2026
The Independent Photographer Monthly Awards 2026	Every entry	No end date	Commercial use	Bans AI images	—	11 Oct 2026
International Landscape Photographer of the Year 2026	Every entry	Ends in part	Sub-licensing	Bans AI images	Asked for	11 Oct 2026
Monochrome Photography Awards 2026	Every entry	No end date	—	No AI rule	—	11 Oct 2026
Nature Photographer of the Year 2026	Shortlist and winners	Ends in part	Sub-licensing	Bans AI images	Asked for	13 Oct 2026
The Nature Photography Contest 2026	Winners or selected	No end date	Third parties	Bans AI images	Asked for	11 Oct 2026
ND Awards 2026 (Neutral Density Photography Awards)	Every entry	No end date	—	No AI rule	—	11 Oct 2026
Ocean Art Underwater Photo Competition 2026	Winners or selected	No end date	—	Bans AI images	Asked for	11 Oct 2026
Ocean Photographer of the Year 2026	Every entry	No end date	Third parties · Commercial use	Bans AI images	—	11 Oct 2026
Photolucida Critical Mass 2026	Every entry	No end date	—	Bans AI images	—	11 Oct 2026
PhotoVogue Global Open Call 2026 — Brave New Visions	Every entry	No end date	—	Bans AI images	—	11 Oct 2026
PX3 Prix de la Photographie Paris 2026	Every entry	No end date	Third parties · Sub-licensing · Commercial use	AI category	—	11 Oct 2026
RPS International Photography Exhibition 168 (open call)	Every entry	Ends in full	—	Bans AI images	Asked for	11 Oct 2026
Sony World Photography Awards 2027	Every entry	Ends in part	Third parties · Sub-licensing	Bans AI images	Asked for	11 Oct 2026
Tokyo International Foto Awards 2026	Every entry	No end date	Third parties · Sub-licensing · Commercial use	AI category	—	11 Oct 2026
Travel Photographer of the Year 2026	Every entry	Ends in part	Third parties	Bans AI images	Asked for	11 Oct 2026
W. Eugene Smith Grant in Humanistic Photography 2026	Winners or selected	No end date	Third parties	Bans AI images	—	11 Oct 2026
Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2027	Winners or selected	Ends in part	Third parties · Sub-licensing	Bans AI images	Asked for	12 Oct 2026
World Food Photography Awards 2027	Every entry	No end date	Commercial use	Bans AI images	Asked for	11 Oct 2026
World Nature Photography Awards 2027	Every entry	No end date	Third parties	Bans AI images	Asked for	11 Oct 2026
World Sports Photography Awards 2027	Every entry	No end date	Third parties · Sub-licensing	Bans AI images	—	11 Oct 2026
World Street Photo Awards 2026	Every entry	No end date	—	Bans AI images	—	11 Oct 2026
Xposure International Photography Awards 2026/27	Shortlist and winners	No end date	—	Bans AI images	Asked for	3 Jul 2026

Each contest name links to the rules it was checked against. Originals: an eligibility rule asks for original or RAW files; — means the rules, as recorded, do not say.