

PSA Division Definition Policy June 2020

Introduction:

There are three reality-based Divisions in PSA, Nature, Photo Travel and PJ, that have definitions defining what is an acceptable image in their Division. From time to time, it is necessary for the Divisions to revise the definitions. Recently this has become a bone of contention between the Divisions and Exhibition Services. We must be mindful that while it is the Divisions prerogative to revise the definition, exhibitions are involved with policing the definitions. We must also be mindful that the definitions are not solely used in exhibitions, as there are also Division competitions.

History: Previously, definition changes would be presented by the Division to the ESVP and the ESVP would review and suggest changes or comments. The two sides would then discuss the issues and hopefully reach a consensus. Any continued disagreement would then be brought to the Directors of the BOD. The Directors would make their preferences known. It was the ESVP who brought all ES changes to the Board. Final changes to the definition would be voted on by the full Board, but today according to our new Bylaws, it is the Executive Committee that votes on the definitions. But the important point is that the ESVP, was fully involved with the Division definitions.

Purpose of the Policy: To establish a clear procedure for how a Division changes its standard definition. It needs to involve the ESVP, Division VP, and the Division board at the development stage, and eventually the EC, who will provide guidance if no agreement is reached and who will vote on the final definition. But the EC should not vote on a motion that has not involved the ESVP, the DVP and the Division.

Procedure: Either the ESVP or the Division's board may feel the need to ask for a change in the Division's definition. The Division's board will review and revise the definition and send it to the DVP. The DVP will bring the newly proposed definition to the ESVP, who will review and make suggested changes if necessary. The ESVP and the DVP will check that the language used is clear and accessible to those whose first language is not English, by checking with the Translation Services. After the Division, DVP, and ESVP have come to an agreement, the DVP will send a motion to the PSA Secretary for the EC to vote on the motion to accept the newly proposed definition. The motion must include any justifications for any changes. If any of the parties cannot reach an agreement on terms or procedure in a definition, then the DVP will present a document with an explanation of the differences for an EC resolution.

Since the ESVP has a policy that all changes to the Exhibition Standards must be finalized before June 1 (or requested date by the ESVP) every year, any changes to be made to the Division definitions must meet that deadline. Please be mindful of the fact that the EC usually meets 2 times a month to consider motions, so it would be best to have any motions in by April 1st.

Prior to any changes in the Nature Definition, agreement must be sought from FIAP.

FIAP: There is an agreement in place where both organizations have a mutual nature definition. If the Nature definition is to be changed, the ESVP must communicate with FIAP and coordinate the changes. This means that FIAP must agree to the changes.

Original Date: June 2020