

CAPA Competition Policy Update - September 2025

Eligibility Standards and AI Technology Guidelines

At CAPA, we are clarifying our competition eligibility standards regarding critiqued images and the emerging use of AI technology in photography.

Core CAPA Requirement

Our [Eligibility Criteria webpage](#) clearly states clearly: "*All parts of the submitted image are the creator's original work, containing no elements produced or captured by others.*"

What Is Acceptable vs. Not Acceptable

✓ ACCEPTABLE:

- Receiving critiques, suggestions, and mentoring advice from others
- Drawing inspiration from other photographers or artists;
- Using AI systems (like ChatGPT or Claude AI) to analyze your images and receive improvement recommendations;
- Learning through courses, videos, club discussions, and peer feedback.

✗ NOT ACCEPTABLE:

- Having others implement changes or modifications to your work;
- Allowing AI technology to automatically implement enhancement suggestions;
- Creating work with similarities in color, composition, elements, perspective, angle, subject, and tone that closely mirror another photographer's or artist's original work;
- Submitting images where the final execution involved collaborative implementation of changes.

The Critical Distinction

Mentoring and critique are essential parts of photographic growth and are strongly encouraged. However, there's an important and distinct line between receiving advice and having others execute that advice. The moment someone else, whether human or AI, makes actual changes to your image, it becomes collaborative work rather than individual creation.

CAPA Competition Clarification

Images where others (including AI systems) have implemented changes cannot be submitted for CAPA competition selection. This policy ensures:

1. Fair competition standards;
2. Alignment with CAPA's eligibility requirements;
3. The integrity of individual achievement in competition.

Moving Forward

At CAPA, We encourage all members to:

- Actively seek critiques and learning opportunities;
- Use available technology for analysis and education;
- Ensure the final execution and implementation remains entirely their own work;
- Contact us with any questions about specific situations.

This policy ensures fairness in our competitions while supporting the mentoring and learning processes that help us all grow as photographers.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the writer at competitions@capacanada.ca

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