



## CONTEST RULES

### GENERAL RULES

1. The contest is open to all amateur and professional photographers from Slovenia and abroad. All photos entered to the contest must have been made by competing author, without co-author.
2. Pictures submitted to previous Vodan contests will be disqualified. Pictures that have won first, second, or third award on any other major contest or festival will be disqualified.
3. All entries, regardless the category, must have been taken under the water surface, so that at least 50% of the image depicts underwater environment. Images taken in aquariums or pools are not eligible.
4. All photos must apply to the EPIC rules. Marine life should never be stressed or endangered for the sake of a photo. Entries exhibiting the following behavior will be disqualified:
  - 4.1. Divers visibly damaging the environment (e.g. gear dragging or kicking up sand);
  - 4.2. Animals with signs of stress (e.g. puffed puffers, inking octopus);
  - 4.3. Animals moved to an unnatural environment or risky location;
  - 4.4. Animals being fed artificial food from divers;
  - 4.5. Marine life being touched (e.g. coral polyps, seahorse tails);
  - 4.6. Divers exhibiting poor buoyancy control.
5. Only limited processing of digital images is permitted. Only the photo as a whole may be processed: work with layers, masking, compilation of different photos or parts of photos, and similar image manipulation is not allowed. Photos may be cleaned with the "clone stamp" or "heal" tool. The cropping of images is allowed to the maximum extent of 20 % of the original image. Double or multiple expositions are not allowed, regardless if the procedure is made in camera or as a part of post-processing.
6. The names of the files should include category codes, camera type (when using film camera use the word "dia" instead of camera type) and the entrant's name. Example: *AT2\_NikonD100\_john\_doe.jpg* is the second image of a tropical ambience by photographer John Doe, taken with Nikon D100.
7. The Organizing Committee holds the right to reproduce and keep the copy of any picture for the archives of the contest, for printing in the festival catalogue, for preparing the exhibition, or for other non-commercial purposes, without any further obligations to the author. However, the Organizing Committee must name the author of the picture.

## CATEGORIES

8. The contest includes the following photo categories:

Open categories	<b>Tropical Waters</b>	<b>Cold Waters</b>	<b>Freshwater (FW)</b>
	Ambience (TA)	Ambience (CA)	
	Fish (TF)	Fish (CF)	
	Macro (TM)	Macro (CM)	

Digital compact cameras	<b>Tropical Waters (TCC)</b>	<b>Cold Waters (CCC)</b>	<b>Freshwater (FCC)</b>
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<b>Creative category (NL)</b>
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<b>Beginners – portfolio (ZP) – open for entries by photographers from Slovenia only</b>
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9. "Cold Waters" categories include all sea waters in temperate zone and polar zone; "Tropical Waters" categories include all tropical and subtropical sea waters.
10. "Macro" categories include images of all marine organisms, except fish (*Pisces*). The longer side of image capture must correspond to 15 cm or less in the nature.
11. "Fish" categories include marine fish (*Pisces*) images only. Photos of individual animal, a school, a portrait, or a detail are accepted.
12. "Ambience" categories include the image of natural underwater marine ambience with wide-angle lens, with or without the diver.
13. "Freshwater" categories include any image taken in any natural freshwater environment (lakes, rivers, underground caves, brackish environment). Photos can represent ambience and/or freshwater organisms.
14. "Digital Compact Cameras" categories include only images taken with compact cameras which have no exchangeable lenses.
15. Images entered in "Creative Category" (NL) must comply with the articles No. 2., 3., and 4. of these Rules, but are not limited by regulations about digital manipulation, or motif of the picture.
16. "Beginners – Portfolio" category is open for photographers from Slovenia only.
17. Each entrant may submit a maximum of three (3) entries in each photo category. Each individual image may be entered in only one category.
18. The entries should be sent on a CD or DVD (Windows compatible). The photos should be submitted in a TIFF format, or as a high-quality JPEG (Photoshop Level 12). All photos should be submitted in the basic resolution of the camera without interpolation. The lowest resolution accepted for Open Categories is 6 megapixels. 35 mm transparencies should be scanned at 4000 dpi. Compact digital cameras resolution has no downward limitations.

## ASSESSMENT OF ENTRIES AND AWARDS

19. Photo entries will be judged by an international jury of established underwater photographers. Awards for the first three positions will be presented for each individual photographic category. Grand Prix will be awarded in overall classification of Open categories (TA+TF+TM+CA+CF+CM+FW). A separate Grand Prix will be awarded in overall classification of Digital Compact Cameras categories (TCC+CCC+FCC).
20. A special award will be presented to the author of one single picture, chosen from all entries by a separate jury of established art experts as the most artistic image.
21. All jury decisions are final. Complaints are acceptable only regarding the article No 2. of these Rules. Organizing Committee judges about those complaints, and its decisions are final.
22. The awards will be announced at the ceremony in Nova Gorica, Slovenia, on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Awarded authors will be informed of their awards in time. Awarded authors that will not be able to attend the ceremony will receive their awards by mail.

## MODES OF ENTRY AND ENTRY FEE

23. All entries must be received by 10<sup>th</sup> of September, 2008 in order to be eligible for the competition. Send the entries to:

**HSA Vodan  
30. divizije 15a  
5000 Nova Gorica  
Slovenia**

24. Entry fee must be sent together with the entry form. The amount of the entry fee depends on the number of entries for the competition:

Entries in one category	15 €
Entries in two categories	25 €
Entries in three categories	35 €
Entries in four or more categories	40 €

25. Entries will not be send back to the authors. Any entry, requiring additional payment by Organizing Committee for the postal package receipt will be declined.
26. Every competing author will receive a printed festival catalogue.

**ENTRY FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY, ZIP, COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I AM ACQUAINTED WITH THE RULES OF 10TH INTERNATIONAL UNDERWATER PHOTO CONTEST VODAN 2007, AND I AGREE WITH THEM. THE PHOTOGRAPHS I ENTERED TO THE VODAN 2007 CONTEST WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY AWARDED ON OTHER CONTESTS.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**LIST OF ENTRIES**

OPEN CATEGORIES			
	TROPICAL WATERS AMBIENCE (TA)	TROPICAL WATERS FISH (TF)	TROPICAL WATERS MACRO (TM)
1			
2			
3			

	COLD WATERS AMBIENCE (CA)	COLD WATERS FISH (CF)	COLD WATERS MACRO (CM)
1			
2			
3			

	FRESHWATER (FW)
1	
2	
3	

	CREATIVE (NL)
1	
2	
3	

DIGITAL COMPACT CAMERAS			
	TROPICAL WATERS (TCC)	COLD WATERS (CCC)	FRESHWATER (FCC)
1			
2			
3			

We kindly ask the competing authors to include the picture of themselves besides the entries to the contest. The photo will be used for the purpose of presenting the author during the projection on the evening of the concluding event of Vodan 2008 festival.