



**ROSSIYA SEGODNYA**  
International media group

**FEDERAL STATE UNITARY ENTERPRISE  
ROSSIYA SEGODNYA INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY**

**RULES**  
**of the X Andrei Stenin International Press Photo Contest**

**Moscow 2023**

# **RULES**

## **of the X Andrei Stenin International Press Photo Contest**

### *Terms and definitions*

**Contest** is a competition of several participants in photojournalism to identify the most outstanding Contest participant.

Full title of the Contest: X Andrei Stenin International Press Photo Contest.

For the purposes of these Rules, Contest refers to any event related to preparing and holding the Contest, including the submission of a Contest Entry for participation, work of the Jury, news conferences, the awards ceremony for Winners and Runners-up, signing an Agreement with the Winner and the Runners-up, exhibiting the Entries by the Winner and Runners-up, and Entries awarded an Honorable Mention, etc.

**Expert Commission** is a group of experts from among the Organizer's employees who conduct the initial selection of Photo Images submitted for the Contest, verification of Entries and their compliance with the Contest requirements as well as preparation of the Entries for Jury voting.

**Jury** means a group of leading photography experts invited by the Organizer for selecting the best Contest Entries and awarding Contest prizes.

**Photojournalism** is a specific kind of journalism that uses photography as the main form of expression.

**Photo Image** is the result of capturing and preserving an image with a camera, the final result of the photographic process. The term includes a series of images ("Series") unless specified otherwise herein.

**Professional photographer** is an individual whose main occupation is photography.

**Agreement with a Contestant** is a license agreement signed by the Contestant and the Organizer, initiated by the Contestant's accepting an offer on the Organizer's Website.

**Agreement with the Winner** is a license agreement signed by the Winner/Runner-up/Contestant awarded an Honorable Mention of the Jury and the Organizer.

**Contestant** or **Contest Participant** is an individual who submitted a Photo Image for the Contest according to these Rules.

**Website** is a websites of the Contest at [www.stenincontest.com](http://www.stenincontest.com), [www.stenincontest.ru](http://www.stenincontest.ru), [www.cn.stenincontest.com](http://www.cn.stenincontest.com)

**Contest Entry** or **Entry** is a Photo Image or Series submitted by the Contestant to the Contest.

**Organizer** or **Contest Organizer** is the Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency.

**Offer** is a public offer published on the Website that includes the Organizer's proposal to individuals who wish to compete in the Contest to conclude an Agreement with a Contestant.

**Winner** is the Contestant whose Entry was judged to be the best in each category by the Jury; a winner will be chosen in each nomination; a Grand Prize winner will also be chosen.

**Runner-up** is a Contestant whose Entry came in second or third in each nomination as a result of the Jury vote.

**Honorable Mention of the Jury** is a decision by members of the Jury to distinguish certain aspects of a Contest Entry.

**Rules** are these Rules of the X Andrei Stenin International Press Photo Contest. User means an internet user who is registered (holds an account) with one of the following social networks: VKontakte, Facebook, Twitter, Weibo.

**Contest Partner** is a person who shares the Goals of the Contest.

### *1. General provisions*

These Rules contain Contest procedures, selection criteria for Contest Entries and participation terms.

### *2. Purpose of the Contest*

To develop and improve professional photojournalism in Russia and around the world.

### *3. Contest objectives*

3.1. To perpetuate the memory of Andrei Stenin, a Russian journalist and Rossiya Segodnya photo correspondent who was posthumously awarded the Order of Courage for the bravery and heroism he demonstrated in the performance of his professional duties.

3.2. To support and promote high standards of photojournalism and documentary photography in Russia and around the world.

3.3. To promote photography and raise public awareness about photojournalism.

3.4. To support young photographers.

### *4. Contest participants*

4.1. The Contest is open to Russian and foreign nationals who are professional photographers. The age limits for Contest Participants: at least 18 and no more than 33 years old at the time of the Contestant's submission of Photo Image(s) to the Contest.

4.2. The Contestant may submit only one Photo Image (Series of Images) in each category.

4.3. Entry for the competition is free of charge. Determination of the Winners and Runners-up of the Competition is not accidental. The Contest is not a lottery.

### *5. Contest categories:*

1. Top News.
2. My Planet.
3. Sports.
4. Portrait. A Hero of Our Time.
5. Top View.

In each category, there is the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize for a single photograph and for a series, respectively.

In the Sports and Top View categories, only single entries are accepted.

The first, second and third place prizes will be awarded for a single Photo Image in each category and for a Series of photo images.

A Grand Prize shall be awarded for the best Contest Entry among Contest Participants in all categories, to be selected by a majority vote of the Jury.

In the event that no Photo Image submitted to the Contest complies with the Contest Rules, Winners and Runners-up will not be selected.

The Jury may award Honorable Mentions to not more than three Photo Images and not more than three Series in each category.

Apart from the main Contest categories, Users can vote online for Contest Entries of Winners, Runners-up and Photo Images awarded an Honorable Mention. A Contest Participant who gets the most User votes receives a Contest diploma.

## 6. *Preparing and holding the Contest*

6.1. The Contest Rules and other organizational documents are published on the Website.

6.2. Representatives of the Contest Organizer shall form an Expert Commission.

6.3. The Jury consists of leading Russian and/or foreign photojournalism experts.

6.4. Contest Participants shall upload entry forms and Contest Entries to the Website.

6.5. Expert Commission

Prequalification of Contest Participants and Entries will be conducted by the Expert Commission to exclude from competing Contestants and Photo Images failing to comply with the Contest Rules.

The selection of Contest Entries consists of reviewing them in terms of compliance with the requirements set forth in the Rules and the Russian law.

Entries will be disqualified at the prequalification stage if they do not comply with the requirements for the theme and/or category, as well as with the objectives and tasks of the Contest; or

- contain unethical and/or obscene expressions/images and erotic and/or pornographic information; or
- contain obscene and/or abusive images, including those regarding an individual's sex, race, nationality, occupation, social background, age and native tongue, official state symbols (flags, state emblems and national anthems), religious symbols, and cultural heritage sites; or
- contain calls for violence, promote terrorism, extremism and fascism and incite ethnic, racial, religious and other hatred; or
- contain advertisements; or
- offend the dignity of other Contest Participants or other people; or
- infringe upon a third party's rights; or
- break any other rule hereof.

By entering the Contest, the Contest Participant agrees that the Organizer reserves the right not to consider, without giving their reasons for doing so, the submitted Photo Images, if the Photo Images violate Russian law and/or do not comply with

the Rules and/or other terms and conditions of the Contest. The Organizer as represented by the Expert Commission will, at their sole discretion, take a decision on whether a Photo Image submitted for the Contest complies with the Rules or not.

In the event of a dispute arising in connection with copyright to an Entry, the submitting Contest Participant shall automatically discontinue his or her participation in the Contest; and if such Entry is announced the Winner/Runner-up, the results of the vote will be annulled.

The Organizer reserves the right to verify the authorship and originality of Entries in any way they deem fit.

#### 6.6. The Jury

The Jury will select winners in each category in four rounds.

First round: Qualification round to select Contest Entries for the semifinals out of all accepted entries.

- Second round: Selecting finalists.
- Third round: Selecting Winners and Runners-up.
- Fourth round: Selecting the Grand Prize winner.

*The first round* will consist of evaluating Contest Entries accepted for the Contest. The Jury will vote to establish a list of Entries that will compete in the second round. Selection criterion: Entries that receive over 50 percent positive marks make it into the second round.

*The second round* will consist of evaluating Contest Entries in order to select finalists. The Jury will vote to establish a list of Entries that will compete in the Contest finals. Selection criterion: Entries with three or more votes from the Jury make it into the third round. Selection criterion: Entries that receive over 50 percent of the Jury vote make it into the second round.

*The third round* will consist of evaluating Contest Entries to select Contest Winners and Runners-up. The Jury will vote to establish a list of Contest Winners and Runners-up. Selection criterion for Winners and Runners-up: largest amount of the votes cast by the Jury. In the event that two or more Entries receive the same number of votes, Jury members will make the final decision. In the event of a disputed situation (two or more Entries receive the same number of votes), the Jury Chairperson will make the final decision.

*The fourth round* will consist of the selection of the Grand Prize winner. All Contest Entries in all categories are eligible. The Jury will vote in a manner it chooses to select the Grand Prize winner. Selection criterion: maximum number of votes. In the event of two or more Entries receiving the same number of votes, Jury members will make the final decision.

The Jury may award Honorable Mentions during the fourth round.

The Contest results shall be recorded in a protocol signed by the president of the Jury.

6.7. Publication on the Website of information on Winners, Runners-up, and Contest Participants awarded an Honorable Mention without stating the place in the corresponding category (Shortlist).

#### 6.8. Online vote by Users.

In order to take part in the online vote, Users must register on the Website by using their account in one of the following social networks: VKontakte, Facebook, Twitter, Weibo.

An authorized User may vote for several Entries, with one vote per Entry, by pressing the Vote button under the Entry that the User believes to be the best on the Shortlist.

The winner of the online vote is a Contest Participant whose Entry has received the most User votes. Information about the winner in the online vote will be released on the Website.

#### 6.9. Announcement on Winners and Runners-up during the Awards Ceremony for Winners and Runners-up.

#### 6.10. Awarding Prizes.

#### 6.11. Exhibition of the Entries of Winners, Runners-up and Entries awarded an Honorable Mention.

### 7. *Contest terms*

7.1. The Contest is held on the territory of the Russian Federation from December 22, 2023 to December 21, 2024 (including both dates).

7.2. Entry submission:

Entries can be submitted from December 22, 2023, 0:01 am (GMT+3).

The last day for entry will be March 15, 2024, 11:59 pm (GMT+3).

7.3. Information about the Winners, Runners-up and Contest Participants awarded an Honorable Mention in each category, without indicating the place in the corresponding category (Shortlist), shall be posted to the Website on June 17, 2024.

7.4. Online Voting.

Online voting shall begin at 12:01 am (GMT+3) of July 1, 2024.

Online voting shall end at 11:59 pm (GMT+3) of July 31, 2024.

7.5. The winner in the online voting shall be announced on August 1, 2024.

7.6. Winners and Runners-up and their places, the Awards Ceremony for Winners and Runners-Up, and the Contest's Grand Prize will be announced in October 2024 (the exact date to be announced on the Contest Website).

7.7. Awarding of Prizes: within 4 (four) months from the date of the Award ceremony.

7.8. Exhibition of Entries of Winners and Runners-up, as well Entries awarded an Honorable Mention.

## *8. Entry submission and requirements*

8.1. Photo Images for the Contest will be uploaded by Contest Participants on the Website.

The Contestant must fill in the required forms posted on the Website (hereinafter referred to as the “Forms”), indicating the following:

1. E-mail address.
2. Name.
3. Family name and assumed name (if applicable).
4. Date of birth.
5. Place of birth.
6. Biography.
7. Contact telephone number.
8. Country of residence.
9. Region of residence (for Russia only).
10. City of residence.
11. Postal address.
12. Place of work (principal activity)
13. Name of organization.
14. Address of organization.
15. Website of organization.
16. Where you learned about our contest

While uploading each Image, the Contest Participant must fill out a form that includes the title of the Photo Image/Series and a detailed description of the pictured event in Russian or English.

All the Entries uploaded on the website receive an ID and will participate in the Jury vote under the Contestant’s code and Image ID. The Jury does not know the names of the Contestants before the announcement of the Winners and Runners-up.

8.2. Technical requirements:

- JPG files with compression from 10 and 2,200 px in size; up to 5,700 px on the long side.
- File size: maximum 20 Mb.
- Files must contain all EXIF data.

Photo Images accepted for the Contest must be created on or after January 1, 2023. As an exception, a Series may be accepted that was started in the previous years; however, the last Photo Image must have been created in 2023–2024.

Contest Participants can submit single Photo Images or a Series. The maximum number of Photo Images in a Series: 12 (twelve).



Minor processing of the Photo Images is allowed, including cropping, white balance correction, density correction (brightness, contrast).

Photo Images with a frame, collages, heavily processed Images are not accepted. Photo montage, erasing, replacing or changing of parts of Images are not acceptable.

The Contest Organizer may request that the Contestant provide non-processed original electronic files of the Entry.

Photo Images must not contain the name of the photographer, an organization or a reference to a published work, or any other information that may reveal the photographer's identity (this information must be provided by the accompanying description of a Photo Image rather than by the Photo Image itself).

### *9. Intellectual property*

9.1. For the purposes of this Contest, the Contest Participants grant the Organizer the right to use the Photo Images submitted to the Contest.

During the Contest, Contestants sign a license agreement with the Organizer to grant the Organizer the right to use the Photo Images (Agreement with a Contestant). Contest Participant concludes the Agreement with a Contest Organizer by accepting the Offer. Contest Participants who accepted the Offer grant the Organizer a non-exclusive license to use the Photo Images for the purposes of the Contest by the means stated in the Offer. The License to use the Photo Images is granted by the Contest Participant free of charge and from the date when the Contest Participant transfers the Photo Images to the Organizer by uploading them to the Website until the end of the Contest.

In some cases, the Organizer may request that the Contest Participant (including Winners and Runners-up) additionally sign documents confirming their agreement to grant a license to the Organizer.

9.2. Winners, Runners-up and Contest Participants awarded an Honorable Mention shall sign a license agreement with the Organizer to grant the Organizer the right to use the Entries that were awarded prizes or an Honorable Mention (Agreement with the Contest Winner). The Agreement with the Contest Winner shall be drawn up in writing after the results of the Contest have been finalized.

Under the Agreement with the Contest Winner, Winners, Runners-up and Contest Participants awarded an Honorable Mention shall grant the Organizer free of charge a non-exclusive worldwide license to their Entries, and this includes the right to use the Entries in any way consistent with the applicable Russian laws and international norms throughout the entire exclusivity period of their Entries, as well as grant the Organizer any other rights and permissions under the Agreement with the Winner.

Within fourteen (14) business days of the date of the publication of the Shortlist on the Website, the Organizer shall send a draft Agreement with the Winner to each Winner, Runner-up and Contest Participant awarded an Honorable Mention using the email and/or postal address indicated in the Contestant's application form.

The Contest Winner/Runner-up/Contest Participant awarded an Honorable Mention shall, within seven (7) calendar days of the receipt of the draft Agreement with the Winner, sign two copies of the Agreement with the Winner and return it

by post to the Organizer at the following address: 4 Zubovsky Blvd., Moscow 119021, as well as email a scanned copy of the Agreement with the Winner signed by the Winner/Runner-up/Contest Participant awarded an Honorable Mention to the following email address: [info@stenincontest.com](mailto:info@stenincontest.com).

The Organizer shall not be held responsible for the non-receipt of the draft Agreement with the Winner by a Contest Participant in the event that the Contest Participant provided incorrect contact details as well as due to the Contest Participant's email failure or any other circumstances beyond the control of the Organizer.

If during this period of time the Organizer is unable to contact the Winner/Runner-up/Contest Participant awarded an Honorable Mention using the contact details provided by the Winner/Runner-Up/Contest Participant awarded an Honorable Mention to the Organizer, and the Winner/Runner-up/Contest Participant awarded an Honorable Mention does not contact the Organizer within seven (7) calendar days from the publication of the Shortlist on the Website or refuses to sign an Agreement with the Winner, the Organizer may, but is under no obligation to, select another Winner/Runner-up from the list of Contestants who will have the next closest number of Jury votes to the number received by the earlier selected Winner/Runner-up.

For the purposes of concluding an Agreement with the Winner, Winners, Runners-up and Contest Participants awarded an Honorable Mention shall provide the Organizer copies and originals (for review) of the following documents:

- Passport or other form of ID of the Winner/Runner-Up/Contest Participant awarded an Honorable Mention ;
- Pension insurance card (for Russian citizens).

9.3. By submitting an Entry to the Contest, each Contest Participant guarantees that he/she created the Entry independently, not as part of a work assignment (the Entry is a work not made for hire) and owns exclusive rights to the Entry.

9.4. Provisions of this section of the Rules are not exhaustive. In cases when the Contest Participant must accept the Offer or sign an agreement, the terms of the Offer or the agreement will prevail over these Rules. If the Contest Participant does not agree with the terms of the Rules or other documents suggested for acceptance or signature by the Organizer, the Contest Participant must refuse to participate in the Contest.

### *10. Contest Jury*

The Jury consists of world renowned photography experts. The list of the Jury members will be published on the Website.

The Jury shall evaluate all Photo Images selected by the expert commission and name the Winners and Runners-up of the Contest based on the subjective opinions of Jury members and guided by the following criteria: originality, integrity, creative approach and being in compliance with the Contest requirements for the theme and/or category.

The jury is impartial. Influencing the Jury in any matter is strictly prohibited.

## *11. Contest prizes*

- The Grand Prize winner will receive RUB 700,000 (seven hundred thousand).\*
- The first place winner in each category for an individual Photo Image or a Series of Photo Images will receive RUB 125,000 (one hundred twenty-five thousand).\*
- The second place winner in each category for an individual Photo Image or a Series of Photo Images will receive RUB 100,000 (one hundred thousand).\*
- The third place winner in each category for an individual Photo Image or a Series of Photo Images will receive RUB 75,000 (seventy- five thousand).\*
- Contest Sponsors and/or Partners may also offer additional prizes.

\*This section contains the amount of awards to be paid to the Winners/Runners-up after deduction of taxes according to the current laws of the Russian Federation.

\*\*The relationship regarding additional prizes from the Contest Sponsors/Partners exists directly between a Contestant and a Contest Sponsor/Partner. No demands regarding the additional prizes instituted by a Contest Sponsor/Partner may be placed on the Organizer

## *12. Contest results and awarding ceremony*

12.1. The list of Winners and Runners-up will be published on the Website in an order not related to their ranking on June 17, 2024.

Winners and Runners-up in each category and in which place they finished, The Grand Prize winner will be announced at The Awards ceremony in October 2024 (the exact date will be indicated on the Website of the Contest).

12.2. Upon the Winner/Runners-up providing all necessary documents, the Organizer shall award the Contest Prizes by transfer to the Winner/Runner-up's bank account within 4 (four) months from the date of the Announcement of the Winners, Runner-ups, Participants whose Work has received an Honorable Mention, indicating the places taken and the announcement of the Grand Prix of the Contest on the Contest Website.

Payment of the Prize will be in the currency of the Prize (Russian ruble) or in one of the currencies freely convertible within the territory of the Russian Federation at the exchange rate of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation on the date of announcement of the Winners, Runners-up, and Participants whose works have received an Honorable Mention. The Winner/Runner-up is required to sign all necessary documents related to receiving the Prize. In exceptional cases, the procedure for issuing Contest Prizes may be changed by agreement between the Winner/Runner-up and the Competition Organizer. Direct transfer of the Prize to the account of the Winner/Runner-up can be carried out either by the Contest Organizer or by one of the Contest Partners.

Awards may not be swapped for other Awards. In the event of a refusal to accept an Award, the Award may not be changed for another one. Unclaimed Awards will not be stored and Awards may not be claimed after the deadline specified herein. The Organizer will keep all unclaimed Awards and use them at their discretion.

According to the laws of the Russian Federation, the Organizer, during the Contest, will be recognized as a withholding agent and will therefore calculate

and withhold tax payments in accordance with the laws of the Russian Federation.

12.3. Following the Contest, a photo album of the winning Entries will be produced and a photo exhibition of the winning Entries will be organized.

### *13. Responsibility of Contest Participants and the Contest Organizer*

13.1. The Contest Organizer shall ensure confidentiality of the personal data received from the Contest Participants for the purposes of the Contest and secure processing of these data during fulfillment of its obligations under these Rules as required under Russian and European law on personal data.

13.2. The Contest Participants shall be responsible for the accuracy of the data included in their Forms. In the event of a breach, the Organizer may deprive the Contest Participant of the right to participate in the Contest.

13.3. The Organizer shall not be held liable for the:

- failure or disruption of computer networks, communication networks and data transfer;
- technical failures or disruption on the Website if not caused by the Organizer;
- copying and distributing of the Photo Images from the Website by third parties;
- inability of the Contest Participants to familiarize themselves with the list of Winners and Runners-up due to a fault of the Contest Participant or the communications operator or other reasons beyond control of the Organizer;
- non-receipt /untimely receipt of the data required to receive the Award by the Contest Participants due to his or her own doing or the fault of a communications operator or other reasons beyond control of the Organizer;
- non-fulfillment (untimely fulfillment) of the obligations hereunder by the Contest Participants;
- non-receipt of the Awards by the Winners/Runners-up if the Awards were not collected within the period stated in the Rules or due to a Winner/Runner-up's refusal to receive his or her award;
- life, health issues, moral and/or mental traumas of the Contest Participants due to his or her participation in the Contest.

13.4. The Contest Participants shall be held liable, according to the current laws of the Russian Federation, for the violation of the rights and legal interests of third parties and in cases of any claims and/or lawsuits against the Organizer by third parties shall held liable and will compensate the Organizer for any resulting damages, including, among others, any legal expenses incurred by the Organizer in relation to settlement of such claims and/or lawsuits.

13.5 The Organizer's liability for award-giving is limited by the number and choice of Awards specified herein.

### *14. Final Provisions*

14.1. By participating in the Contest, the Contest Participants agree that their names, assumed names and other data may be used by the Organizer and authorized persons for advertising purposes and to inform the public about the Contest worldwide, without any payment or remuneration to the Contest Participant and for an unlimited time. By participating in the Contest, the

Contest Participants agree to provide their personal data (including those stated in the Form) for processing in relation to the Contest, including collection, recording, sorting, accumulation, storage, clarification (updating and amending), extraction, using, including for authorization on the Website, as well as for sending Contest-related messages, presenting the Awards, individual communication with the Contest Participants in relation to the Contest, transfer (distribution provision, access), depersonalization, blocking, deleting, destroying of personal data in relation to the Contest. Personal data may not be distributed and provided to any third parties without prior written consent of the owner of the personal data. The Contest Participants also agree that their personal data, e.g., their full name or pseudonym, biography and city of residence, will be published if the Organizer decides to publish such information about the Contest Participants. The Organizer shall destroy or depersonalize personal data of the Contest Participants that is stored in any format when the goal of the processing has been achieved, with the exception of the final documents that shall be stored for five years along with publication of the Contest results.

14.2. Any person wishing to participate in the Contest must, while submitting a Photo Image to the Contest, read and agree with the Rules and the Offer. By agreeing with the Rules, the Contest Participant confirms and agrees that

- The Photo Images submitted to the Contest will not be returned and no review will be provided.
- The Organizer reserves the right to reject a Participant without explaining the reasons for the rejection;
- The Participant is eligible for the Contest;
- The submitted information about the Contest Participant and the Photo Images are correct;
- He or she allows the Organizer, under Article 152.1 of the Russian Civil Code, to publicize and further use the Photo Images of the Contest Participant (including photo and video) without limitation for the term and area of use;
- He or she covers all the expenses related to participation in the Contest (including without limitation the cost of the Internet access) apart from those directly stated in the Rules such as expenses covered by the Organizer.

14.3. Any disputes in relation to this Contest shall be governed by the laws of the Russian Federation.

### *15. Organizer's contact details*

E-mail: [info@stenincontest.com](mailto:info@stenincontest.com)

Address: 4/1,2,3 Zubovsky Boulevard, Moscow, 119021, Russia