



ROSSIYA SEGODNYA
International media group

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

RULES

of the 11th Andrei Stenin International Press Photo Contest

Moscow 2024

Terms and definitions

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

Full title of the Contest: 11th 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 but not limited to the submission of a Contest Entry for participation, work of the Jury, news conferences, signing an Agreement with the winner, exhibiting the Entries by the Winners and Runners-up, and Entries awarded an Honorable Mention, etc.

Expert Commission is a group of specialists 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 photo images 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 by way of the Contestant 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, as one party, and the Organizer, as the other party.

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, www.stenincontest.com, www.stenincontest.ru.

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 invitation 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 category 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 11th Andrei Stenin International Press Photo Contest.

User means an internet user who is registered (holds an account) of the following social network: VKontakte.

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

1. General provisions

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

2. Purpose of the Contest

To promote 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.
- 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 Contestants: at least 18 and not more than 33 years old at the time of the submission of Photo Images to the Contest by the Contestant.
- 4.2. One Contestant may submit only one Photo Image (series of images) in each Category.
- 4.3. Entry for the competition is free of charge. The selection of the Winners and Runners-up of the Contest 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 of the following categories there is the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize for a single Photo Image and for a series of photo images, respectively: Top News, My Planet, Portrait. A Hero of Our Time.

In the Sports and Top View categories, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes shall be awarded for single entries only.

A Grand Prize shall be awarded separately 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 in addition to the main categories to not more than three Photo Images and not more than three series in each category.

In addition, this year's Contest Organizer may but has no obligation to hold an online vote among internet users for Contest Entries of Winners, Runners-up and Photo Images awarded an Honorable Mention. Information about a Contest Participant who gets the most User votes shall be displayed on the Website.

6. Preparing and holding the Contest

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

6.2. Forming an Expert Commission.

6.3. Forming the Jury.

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

6.5. Expert Commission

Prequalification of Contest Participants and Entries shall be conducted by the Expert Commission to exclude Photo Images failing to comply with the Contest Rules and ensure that their creators do not become Contestants.

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 Contest theme and/or category, as well as with the objectives and purpose of the Contest
- contain unethical and/or obscene expressions/images and erotic and/or pornographic information
- contain obscene and/or abusive images, including those regarding an individual's sex, race, ethnic background, occupation, social background, age and native tongue, official state symbols (flags, state emblems and national anthems), religious symbols, and cultural heritage sites (monuments of history and culture)
- contain calls for violence, promote terrorism, extremism and fascism and incite ethnic, racial, religious and other strife
- contain advertisements
- offend the dignity of other Contest Participants or other persons
- infringe upon a third party's rights
- otherwise fails to comply with these Rules.

By entering the Contest, the Contest Participant agrees that the Organizer reserves the right not to consider, without giving any reasons for doing so, the submitted Photo Images, if the Photo Images violate Russian law and/or do not comply with the international law and/or the requirements set forth in these Rules and/or other terms and conditions of the Contest. The Organizer as represented by the Expert Commission will, at its 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 canceled.

The Organizer reserves the right to verify the authorship and originality of Entries in any way it 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. Voting procedures shall be determined depending on the way the Jury operates. 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 during a vote by the Jury make it into the second round.

The second round will consist of evaluating Contest Entries in order to select finalists. Voting procedures shall be determined depending on the way the Jury operates. 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.

The third round will consist of evaluating Contest Entries to select Contest Winners and Runners-up. Voting procedures shall be determined depending on the way the Jury operates. 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 of a disputed situation (two or more Entries receive the same number of votes), the Jury President 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. Voting procedures shall be determined depending on the way the Jury operates. Selection criterion: maximum number of votes cast by the members of the Jury. In the event of a disputed situation (two or more Entries receive the same number of votes), the Jury President will make the final decision.

The Jury may award Honorable Mentions during the fourth round.

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 (depending on the Contest Organizer's decision)

In order to take part in the online vote, Users must register on the Website by using their account in the VKontakte social network.

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 announced on the Website.

6.9 Announcement on the Website of Winners and Runners-up, as well as Contest Participants whose works were awarded Honorable mentions.

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, 2024 to December 21, 2025 (including both dates).

7.2. Entry submission:

Entries can be submitted from December 22, 2024, 0:01 am (GMT+3).

The last day for entry will be February 28, 2025, 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, 2025.

7.4. Online Voting (depending on the Contest Organizer's decision).

Online voting shall begin at 12:01 am (GMT+3) of July 1, 2025.

Online voting shall end at 11:59 pm (GMT+3) of July 31, 2025.

7.5. The winner in the online voting shall be announced on August 1, 2025.

7.6. Winners, Runners-up and Contest Participants awarded an Honorable Mention, stating specific places and prizes, as well as the Grand Prize shall be announced at the Awards Ceremony and on the Contest Website in September – October 2025 (the exact date to be announced on the Contest Website).

7.7. Awarding of Prizes: within 4 (four) months from the date of when Winners, Runners-up and Contest Participants awarded an Honorable Mention were announced.

8. Entry submission and requirements

8.1. Photo Images for the Contest will be uploaded to 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/private contractor.
14. Address of organization.
15. Website of organization/Participant’s website.
16. Where you learned about our contest

When 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 to 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 for Entries and their presentation:

- JPG files with compression of 10 or higher and a size of at least 2,200 px by 5,700 px on the long side.

- File size: 20 Mb maximum.

- Files must contain all EXIF data.

Photo Images accepted for the Contest must be created between the submission date and January 1, 2024. As an exception, a Series may be accepted that was started in the previous years; however, the last Photo Image in such Series must have been created in 2024–2025.

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

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 they submit 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 Participants conclude the Agreement with the 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 regarding the Entries.

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 worldwide 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 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. The Organizer shall not be held liable 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/Contest Participant awarded an Honorable Mention 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/Contest Participant awarded an Honorable Mention.

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 withdraw from the Contest.

10. Contest Jury

The Jury consists of prominent 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, Runners-up and Contest Participant awarded an Honorable Mention based on the subjective personal 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 shall be independent when making its choices. 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 sets forth 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 Winners and Runners-up

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, 2025.

Winners, Runners-up and Contest Participants awarded an Honorable Mention, The Grand Prize winner will be announced, including their specific places and awards, at the Awards Ceremony to be held in Moscow in September or October 2025 (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 transferring the relevant amount to the Winner/Runner-up's bank account within 4 (four) months from the date of the Announcement of the Winners, Runner-ups, Contest Participants awarded 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 Contest Participants awarded 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 its 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 will be published containing the Entries by Winners, Runners-up, and Contest Participants awarded an Honorable Mention.

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 while performing its obligations under these Rules as required under Russian and European law on personal data.

13.2. 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 find the list of Winners, Runners-up and Contest Participants awarded an Honorable Mention due to any reasons unrelated to the Organizer;
- non-receipt /untimely receipt of the information 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 the Organizer's control;
- failure to performe (untimely perfoamnce) 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. 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 settling 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. 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 with the view to informing the public about its efforts to prepare, hold the Contest and announce its results. 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 create, publicize and further use the Photo Images of the Contest Participant (including photo and video) without limitation regarding 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. Relations between the Organizer and the Contest Participants in connection with the Contest shall be governed by the laws of the Russian Federation.

15. Organizer's contact details

E-mail: info@stenincontest.com

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