

PCQC Video Presentation

Fundamentals of Photography II with Joel Sartore—National Geographic

Lesson 20: Live Event Photography: T-Ball

First off: what's T-Ball? T-B is a sport for toddlers through age 6 to prepare them for little league. It is just like little league but instead of having the ball pitched, it is placed atop a flexible stick at home plate. One of the best places to take action shots is at sporting events so in this lesson we will focus on techniques in a T-Ball or little league event. Techniques we will use include composition, anticipating the action (see Lesson 18: The Decisive Moment in Photography), freezing action by using fast shutter speed and motor drives or burst mode, autofocusing, and story telling



Lesson Takeaways

- Since we will incorporate storytelling into this lesson we will need to prepare for a beginning, middle, and an end. Begin with an establishing shot. Before the game starts get some shots of the teams, the coaches, the field and the audience participants. Get a wide view by positioning yourself above the field of action.
- Remember that telephoto lenses magnify your image and restrict your view. But they allow you to focus on an object or individual from afar. They will also help in cleaning up the background by blurring all but the subject. On the other hand, a medium length lens allows you to layer images and shape your frames, giving a sense of place.
- For action shots, find your subject and use single-point autofocus. Keep the autofocus dot on the subject to keep the subject sharply focused throughout the action.
- At some point turn your camera to the spectators, particularly when they are animated by a good or surprise play, or a scoring point.
- Ask for permission to shoot from the sidelines. If possible, a ladder safely placed may help you get an elevated shot.
- A fast shutter speed will freeze action in a fast paced game. Open the lens and shoot with a motor drive or burst mode.
- Sometimes you may be able to set up your camera and focus on an area of action. Wait for the subject(s) to get into your field of focus and shoot with a cable release.
- Now we are at the end of the story. Get some good parting shots of the players and the spectators.

Assignment

Visit a local sporting event or recreational center. Keep in mind that your aim is to tell a complete story. Get some establishing shots, get the action of the game, and get some parting shots. Practice freezing the action with a fast shutter speed, auto focus and a motor drive or burst mode.