



Digital Cameras and Sports Photography... Can this work?

There are many folks out there who use digital cameras for just about everything in their yearbook...except sports. They still go back to their good, old trusty film cameras when they have to shoot sports pictures. Should they?

Depends on the camera. But we think we can provide you with a few hints that might make shooting sports action photos with your digital a little more accessible and acceptable.

Becoming an Action Shot Ace

When you photograph a moving subject, whether it's a jump-roping child or a splashing waterfall, the shutter speed determines how sharply focused that subject appears.

A fast shutter speed stops motion, so the subject appears to be still.

At a slow shutter speed, a moving object appears blurred.

Shutter-speed controls vary depending on the camera's sophistication (and, unfortunately, price). If your camera doesn't offer manual shutter control or shutter-priority autoexposure but does offer scene assist modes, try these tricks to affect shutter speed:

To capture motion cleanly, look for an Action scene assist mode. This mode tells the camera to use its fastest possible shutter speed.

No Action mode? Try using Portrait mode, if that's available. In this mode, the camera uses its largest aperture. In bright light, the large aperture forces the camera to dial in a fast shutter speed to properly expose the photo.

To blur motion, give Landscape mode a try. This mode selects a small aperture, which usually has the effect of forcing a slower shutter speed. □

