

Strategies to Overcome Shutter Lag

- **Prefocusing**

Typically

- 1) Find a similar target, Press shutter button 1/2 way
 - Then either hold until ready to take pic, *or*
- 2) Do you have a focus lock button? Release shutter.
- 3) Do you have manual focus? AF/MF
- Some quickly revert to auto focus (by closing LCD?)
- Of course you must be standing at the right distance when the action happens. This is the hard part!

Action Photography

Strategies to Overcome Shutter Lag

- **Continuous or Burst Mode**

- Lets the camera take a series of quick shots before saving them to the card
- Sometimes RAW works faster because less processing is needed
- **“Pan Focus” Mode** (man+mount icon)
- Presets the focus at a moderate distance

Action Photography

Panning

- Following a moving subject with the camera to freeze its motion against a blurred background.
 - Blur heightens the sense of subject motion.
 - Possibly good for wedding dance photos too.
- Sometimes your only option, especially in low light.
- Tip: Continue the panning motion well after completion of the exposure, like the follow-through in a golf swing.

Action Photography

Panning

- Practice to find out how quickly your camera actually takes the picture once you press the shutter. You may have to anticipate the action and press the shutter early.
- A good tripod improves results.

Action Photography

Events/Sports Action Notes

- 1/640 sec or faster shutter speed.
 - Fill the frame with action. Shoot vertical.
 - Go for the face.
 - Include identifying elements that add to the narrative: colors, flags, scoreboard, etc.
 - See if you can get the crowd reacting.
 - Capture the losers’ emotion too.
- Great sports photographers know the game.
- Pros switch cameras, not lenses.

Action Photography

Composing for Action

- Generally we leave **space in front** of moving object (a conservative approach)
- Sometimes have the object **leaving the frame** ... as if it’s so fast even the camera can’t catch it!
- **Wildlife** generally need somewhere to go in the frame even if they are not moving fast.
- Usually avoid close-cropping.

Action Photography