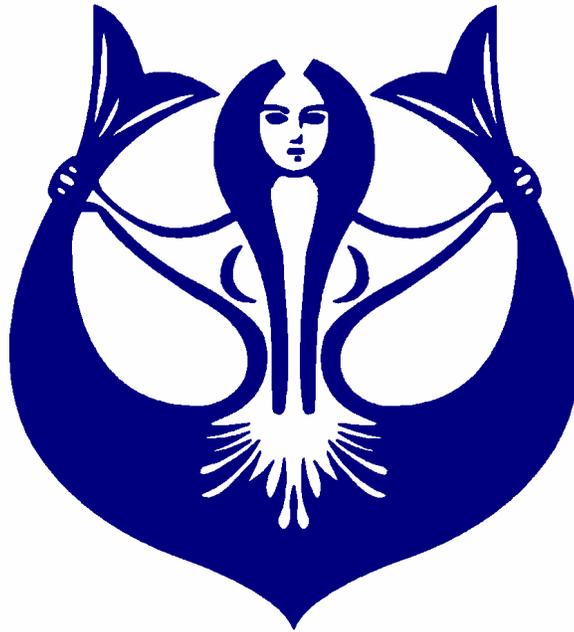


Confédération Mondiale des Activités Subaquatiques
World Underwater Federation

SPEARFISHING



INTERNATIONAL RULES

These Special Rules for Underwater Fishing supplement the General Rules applicable to all CMAS Championships.

Article 1 General Rules

- 1.1 Competitive underwater fishing is defined as the hunting and capture of fish underwater without the aid of artificial breathing devices, using gear that depends entirely on the physical strength of the competitor.
- 1.2 Underwater fishing championships will be organised under the exclusive supervision of CMAS that is the exclusive holder of all related rights.
- 1.3 The faculty of organising the championships will be granted to a National Federation, only after CMAS has received the relative agreement duly signed by the President of the National Federation. Under this agreement, the National Federation undertakes to guarantee the fulfilment of all related duties.
- 1.4 The world and continental (or intercontinental) underwater fishing championships will be classified in numerical order, according to the year when they are held or will be held.
 - 1.4.1 World Championships
 - 1.4.1.1 20 (twenty) countries will be allowed to participate.
 - 1.4.1.2 The countries taking part in the championships will be chosen according to their results in the 3 qualifying events organised in the different continents: 1 Europe - Africa Championship, 1 America (North and South) Championship and 1 in Oceania - Asia Championship.
 - 1.4.1.3 The continental or intercontinental championships held the year before the World Championships shall be considered qualifying events. If these championships are not staged, the CMAS Executive Bureau will designate participating countries and applications will be accepted according to the chronological order in which they were submitted.
 - 1.4.1.4 20 (twenty) countries will be allowed to participate, according to the following criteria:
 - 19 (nineteen), for having passed continental qualifying events;
 - 1 (one), as the organising country.
 - 1.4.1.5 The countries taking part in the final championships will be subdivided per continent as follows:
 - a) America (North & South) 5
 - b) Europe & Africa 10
 - c) Oceania & Asia 4
 - 1.4.1.6 The organising country will be excluded from the subdivision under 1.4.1.5.
- 1.5 The World Championships and the Continental Championships will be organised as a single competition over three days, broken down as follows:
 - 1.5.1 A first day of rest reserved traditionally to the opening ceremony of the championships.
 - 1.5.2 Two days of competition.
- 1.6 A chart (scale ranging between 1/50.000 and 1/150.000) showing the boundaries of the competition sites has to be submitted together with the application to host the competition.
- 1.7 For the World Championships and Intercontinental Championships, the organising Federation has to provide for the transfer of one delegate of the Commission, at its own expense, so that the latter may submit a detailed report with a view to taking appropriate decisions, after having acquired exhaustive information on the competition sites and technical organisation of the Championships.
- 1.8 The organising Federation will undertake to obtain the necessary authorisation from the maritime authorities and/or other competent bodies to hold the competition, in compliance with the laws of the country hosting the Championships and provisions to avoid activities in the competition site that may hinder the smooth running of the Championships throughout their duration.
- 1.9 Special Rules
 - 1.9.1 The National Federation is required to forward the Special Competition Rules to CMAS at least 8 months prior to the date of commencement of the competition, so that the CMAS Underwater Fishing Commission may approve them (4 months before international competitions). These rules should include communications and information on the Championships, in accordance with the General Rules and the provisions under the aforementioned agreement.
 - 1.9.2 The Special Rules should cover the following aspects:
 - 1.9.2.1 Charts clearly showing the boundaries of the competition site and the sheltered area.
 - 1.9.2.2 The definition of catch not deemed legal and respective scientific names.

The organisers are required to motivate their decisions regarding the determination of the maximum and minimum weight, catch not deemed legal and in some specific cases, the use of a different scoring system. The rules may establish that penalties will be given to some catches.
 - 1.9.2.3 How competitors will deliver catches to Competition Officials and how the latter will deliver them to the organisation.
 - 1.9.2.4 How competitors will be moving during the competition:
 - either on motor boats;
 - or using fins.
- 1.10 If the Special Rules establish that during the competition, competitors will be moving by motor boat, the organisation will be required to provide a support motor boat to each competitor and to each captain.
- 1.11 If the Special Rules establish that during the competition, competitors will use fins only to move, then the Special Rules in Attachment 1 of these rules will be applied.



Article 2 Entry and Participation

- 2.1 Each National Federation is allowed to enter one team made up of:
- 3 (three) competitors;
 - 1 (one) reserve;
 - 1 (one) captain.
- (The 2 team managers under articles 5.4.1 and 8.9 are not part of the official team, but must be appointed when the team is entered).
- 2.2 The captain may act as a reserve or competitor.
- 2.3 The minimum age at the start of the championships should be at least 18.
- 2.4 The CMAS delegate will check affiliation the day before the competition. In case of irregularities, competitors will not be allowed to take part in the event.
- 2.5 Each competitor and each reserve will be given a different number. This number will identify the competitor throughout the competition. Furthermore, the number will be affixed on the support boat, float and underwater board, in addition to the sack or any other gear used to carry catches to the weighing premises. The number affixed on the boat must be at least 15 centimetres high. The flag or name of the represented country will be affixed on the boat of the captain.
- 2.6 During the competition days, the following may gear may be used:
- one or more rubber-band or air spearguns, charged by the competitor with muscle power only unaided by other external force;
 - fins, mask, diving gloves, goggles, snorkel, weight belt, spears and hooks, knives, protective gear, watch, depth gauge, balloons, diving board equipped with a compass, underwater light;
 - it is compulsory to use an official float have a minimum volume of ten litres. The competitor must keep within a range of 15 metres from the float. In the case of surge, and if the athlete is heading towards the waves, the float may be anchored behind the line where the waves break.
- 2.7 It will not be possible to substitute a competitor with a reserve during the competition. However, at the end of the first day, the captain may decide to substitute one of the three athletes who took part in the first day of the competition for the second day event. The captain is required to give written notice, duly signed by him, to the President of the International Jury and the Competition Director no later than one hour prior to the commencement of the competition on the second day.
- In this case, each of the four competitors will be included in the individual ranking and the ranking by nation will be calculated by adding the points scored by each of the four competitors.

Article 3 Duties of the organisation

- 3.1 Within twenty-four hours prior to the commencement of the competition, a meeting will be organised between the following:
- the head of the organisation;
 - the President of the Judges;
 - the team captains and/or the heads of delegation (who in case of voting have one vote);
 - the physician of the organisation;
 - the CMAS delegate.
- 3.2 The meeting has the following aims:
- 3.2.1 Appoint the international Jury for the competition, made up of:
- 3.2.1.1 The President: namely the President of the international Judges, appointed by the Executive Bureau upon the proposal of the Commission.
 - 3.2.1.2 A second international Judge appointed by all the Competition Judges.
 - 3.2.1.3 If only one international Judge is needed for the competition, then all the Judges, choosing among all those present who have the necessary qualifications will designate the second judge.
 - 3.2.1.4 Two representatives of the captains designated by and among all the captains.
 - 3.2.1.5 It is necessary to appoint two (2) additional members.
 - 3.2.1.6 The CMAS delegate will act as the secretary of the meeting without the right to vote.
 - 3.2.1.7 The members of the Jury must:
 - a) be of different nationalities;
 - b) have the technical expertise of a Judge;
 - c) be conversant in French and/or English and/or Spanish;
 - d) ensure their presence for the entire duration of the competition.
- 3.2.2 Provide information concerning:
- technical issues;
 - schedules and means of transport;
 - directives for the protocol ceremonies;
 - the competition schedule.
- 3.2.3 Assignment of Competition Officials to support and motor boats by draw.
- 3.2.3.1 On each support boat there will be only the competitor or captain, the Competition official, the boatman and, providing permission is granted by the organisation, a passenger holding a national license, if so requested by the competitor or captain.
 - 3.2.3.2 The Competition Official is required to ensure compliance with the General Rules, the Special Rules and all other provisions issued by the Jury. The Competition Official is required to inform the Competition Director of any behaviour in breach of the rules.
 - 3.2.3.3 As far as the boats of the organising nation are concerned, the Officials will be appointed by the CMAS judge before the competition and must be of a different nationality.
- 3.2.4 If the CMAS judge deems it necessary, there will be a second draw for the second day.
- 3.2.5 The draw must be held under the supervision of the President of the International Jury and the CMAS delegate.



Article 4 Functions of the International Jury

- 4.1 The International Jury will have to examine complaints and take decisions within one hour after they have been filed.
- 4.2 If a member of the International Jury is of the same nationality as one of the parties involved, he or she will be substituted by one of the additional members.
- 4.3 Decisions will be taken with a simple majority of votes.
- 4.4 In order to take valid decisions, at least four members have to be present.
- 4.5 In case of a tie during voting, the President will have the casting vote.
- 4.6 The decisions of the International Jury are final, unless new facts arise.
- 4.7 The decision has to be notified in writing to the petitioner immediately after the closing of the session.
- 4.8 The CMAS delegate will act as the Session secretary without the right to vote.

Article 5 Disqualification and Penalties

- 5.1 The following is explicitly forbidden and will lead to disqualification:
 - 5.1.1 Any unsportsmanlike action;
 - 5.1.2 Any action in breach of the rules;
 - 5.1.3 Straying more than 25 metres from the official float;
 - 5.1.4 Exchanging or trading catches among competitors;
 - 5.1.5 Using any underwater autonomous propulsion motor and/or any artificial breathing devices during the preparation for or participation in an underwater fishing championship;
 - 5.1.6 Keeping a fish hook near the body of the competitor;
 - 5.1.7 Charging the speargun or keeping it charged on land or on the support boat;
 - 5.1.8 Hanging a charged speargun on the float or underwater board;
 - 5.1.9 During the competition, the competitors or captains are not allowed to use:
 - any type of detection and/or communication equipment;
 - any form of mechanical propulsion other than the support boat;
 - the support boat or the captain's boat to be towed in the water or to scare fish;
 - the support boat or the captain's boat to moor or scare fish.
- 5.2 The International Jury will evaluate any infringement of the rules.
- 5.3 Penalties
 - 5.3.1 The infringement is envisaged by the rules and associated with the penalty of disqualification.
 - 5.3.2 The infringement is not envisaged by the rules. In this case the Jury has to opt for one of the two following solutions: disqualify or give a warning, being fully aware that a second warning will lead automatically to disqualification.
- 5.4 Awarding of Penalties
 - 5.4.1 A penalty can be awarded to each member of the team made up of 7 people at the most (the official team plus two team managers).
 - 5.4.1.1 If the infringement is committed by 1 competitor, the penalty will affect him or her directly and the team will be deprived of a competitor.
 - 5.4.1.2 If another team member (captain, reserve, and team managers) commits the infringement, the Jury inflicts a disqualification (either directly or as a result of two warnings) and the team will be deprived of a competitor chosen by the captain of the nation concerned.
 - 5.4.1.3 In case of disqualification, the reserve cannot take the place of the disqualified team member.

Article 6 Complaints

- 6.1 Complaints may be lodged by team captains only.
- 6.2 Complaints have to be submitted to the President of the Jury in writing, either in French, English or Spanish:
 - before weighing operations, if the complaint pertains to the running of the competition;
 - during weighing operations, if the complaint concerns weighing;
 - one and a half hours after the publication in writing and announcement of the results, if the complaint relates to ranking errors.
- 6.3 The filing of a complaint must be accompanied by a deposit of US\$ 100 (one hundred).
- 6.4 If the aforementioned conditions are not met fully, the complaint will be rejected.
- 6.5 If the complaint is rejected, the deposit of US\$ 100 will be returned immediately.



Article 7 Competition

- 5.1 The underwater fishing championships should be held for either 4, 5 or 6 hours on end per day, as specified in the Special Rules.
- 5.2 The official time will be fixed by the President of the International Jury and should be notified to competitors during the meeting under Article 3.1.
- 5.3 The beginning and end of the competition will be announced by a loud sound signal and a visible signal, as established in the Special Rules (e.g. flag or flare).
- 5.4 When the signal announcing the end of the competition is given, competitors may recover only the material that is lying on the sea bed. Fish brought to the surface after the end of the competition will not be considered valid for weighing operations.
- 5.5 The championships shall be considered valid even if one competition day is cancelled.
- 5.6 A competition day started and interrupted due to bad weather conditions or force majeure will not be considered valid, if the time elapsing from the beginning of the event does not exceed two thirds (2/3) of the expected duration of the competition day.
- 5.7 Only the CMAS judge and the Competition Director may jointly decide to interrupt or cancel a competition day. If they fail to reach an agreement, the CMAS judge may impose his or her decision.
- 5.8 During the competition, only the official boats and those duly authorised by the President of the Judges upon the proposal of the organisation may be present in the competition site.
- 5.9 If visibility in the water is less than 4 metres, competitors will be required to dive at a distance of at least 10 metres from each other.
- 5.10 Photographers and cameramen.
 - 7.10.1 Only the photographers and cameramen authorised by the Competition Director will be allowed to take pictures or film underwater, after having obtained written consent from the team captain and verbal consent from the competitor.

Article 8 Competition Sites

- 8.1 For the two competition days, the organisers will have to choose 2 competition sites, in addition to a sheltered area valid for the entire duration of the championships; the assignment of the 2 sites for the 2 competition days will be made by the President of the Judges on the eve of the Championships. At any rate, these sites will be subject to the approval of the Underwater Fishing Commission.
- 8.2 Each of these areas has to be marked accurately and respective boundaries have to be defined using landmarks that can be found easily on the chart and on the ground.
- 8.3 To ensure alignment, it is essential to align two landmarks accurately. To this end, landmarks or buildings that may be easily spotted and found by everybody will be chosen preferably. In case of difficulty, it will be possible to make this alignment using one or two buoys.
- 8.8 Pendant les trente jours précédant le championnat, il est interdit à tous les participants, d'utiliser ou d'amener dans le bateau qu'ils utilisent un fusil, un locoplongeur ou un appareil respiratoire de quelque type que ce soit.
- 8.4 The areas have to be chosen, taking the geographical conformation, the type of seabed and the number of competitors into due consideration and must be of a maximum length of fifteen kilometres for World Championships and ten kilometres for other competitions.
- 8.5 Once marked, the boundaries of the sites cannot be changed in any way.
- 8.6 The competition site and the only sheltered area will be officially communicated to the Commission 8 months prior to the competition at the latest and to the other parties concerned three months before. On the eve of the championships, the competition areas will be closed to competitors, captains and all divers.
- 8.7 The competition site and the only sheltered area will be officially opened to team visits from one month to the second day before the start of the championships.
- 8.8 During the thirty days prior to the championships, it will be forbidden for competitors to use or bring on board the boat used a speargun, an underwater motor or any type of artificial breathing device.
- 8.9 During the thirty days prior to the championships, only the team members, under Article 2.1, besides the 2 team managers, will be authorised to visit the underwater sites.
- 8.10 Only the President of the Judges and the Competition Director may jointly decide to use the sheltered area in case of bad weather conditions or force majeure. In case of disagreement, the decision of the President of the Judges will prevail.
- 8.11 When entering into the agreement with CMAS, the organising Federation appoints a person in charge of inspecting, referred to as the inspector. Once the international jury has been designated, the inspector will be required to submit a detailed written report to the Jury on the infringements reported in the course of the previous month. In this circumstance, the Jury will take a decision after having heard the defence.

Article 9 Weighing

- 9.1 The order in which the catches of the various competitors are weighed will be fixed by a draw for the first day. For the second day, instead, weighing will take place in the reverse order of the provisional ranking.
- 9.2 The boat officials have to be present during weighing operations.
- 9.3 In the Special Rules, the organisers have to specify how the fish waiting to be weighed will be protected.

Article 10 Methods of calculation

- 5.1 Points will be awarded as follows:
 - a) one point per gram for each legal catch. The maximum weight considered will be established in the Special Rules, but it should not exceed 12.5 kilograms;
 - b) for each legal catch a bonus equal to the minimum weight of the legal catches, in accordance with the Special Rules, which should not be less than 300 grams;
 - c) as far as congers and morays are concerned, if their capture is authorised, a specific minimum weight has to be established which, at any rate, should not be less than 2 kilograms. An identical number of points will be scored for the capture of the latter, regardless of their weight. This calculation corresponds to the minimum number of points awarded for a legal catch;
 - d) There will be a penalty for catches having a weight of less than one third of the minimum weight of legal catches, in accordance with the Special Rules. This penalty will correspond to the number of points awarded for a minimum weight catch.



Article 11 Ranking

- 11.1 The individual ranking will be calculated according to the score of each competitor.
- 11.2 In case of a tie, the competitor with the largest number of legal catches will be the winner. In case of a further tie, the competitor with the highest weighing catch will be the winner.
- 11.3 Ranking by nation (excluding the awarding of the CMAS prize)
- a) The ranking by nation will be calculated by summing up the points scored by competitors of the same nation in the individual ranking.
 - b) The ranking by nation will include national teams made up of less than three competitors.
 - c) In the event of a tie, the same procedure described above for the individual ranking will be followed.

Article 12 Safety Measures

- 12.1 The application sent by the national Federation and signed by the President will serve as a guarantee that all team members are fit to dive and are fully aware of related requirements and duties.
- 12.2 The organising Federation is required to provide the necessary assistance and ensure the smooth running of the event, by giving necessary information regarding relief and competent bodies or emergency services.
- 12.3 Equipment for oxygen therapy has to be set up on the competition premises.
- 12.4 A physician, possibly with expertise in the field of diving, has to be present on the competition premises.

Article 13 Liability

- 13.1 The World Underwater Federation (C.M.A.S.), the organisers and their representatives and assistants, the Competition Director and the Judges cannot be held liable for contingent damage to the gear and personal property of competitors, or for any accidents occurring to competitors and other participants as a result of their participation in the competition and, more specifically in diving activities.



APPENDIX 1

Contestants' material, official boards :

It is obligatory that the organisation supply each contestant with a brightly coloured (yellow, orange or red) board, though contestants may use their own boards as long as these conform to contest specifications, as indicated below.

Official board specification:

- Length: 70 - 120 cm end - to - end
- Width: 40 - 60 cm
- Thickness: 17 - 30 cm
- Propulsion system: flippers only.

Each board must be equipped with a mooring line and a flag staff 40 cm high and 12-18 mm in diameter set at the front end of the board for the pennon that will be supplied by the organisation. That pennon bearing the contestant's number must be attached to the flag-staff in such a way as to be easily legible.

Grappling irons, supplied by the contestants themselves must only be attached to the official buoy or board.

Contestants are strictly prohibited from attaching a grappling iron or a fish-killer spike to their belts.

The official board is the only authorised location for grappling irons and spares, none of which may be placed on the steward's boats, except for masks, flippers and snorkels.

The tips of all darts attached to the official board must be shielded.

A rope may be attached to the back end of the board as long as it is no more than 20 metres long.

No nets or hessian sacks may be attached to the board, nor may any loaded harpoon gun.

Every contestant should wear a knife or diver's dagger throughout the competition.

Fishing ground.

All contestants must respect each others' "fishing ground" ie the area within a 10 metre radius around each board or buoy when at anchor.

Contestants may pull their boards around their fishing ground by means of a rope long enough for them to reach the sea bed or may paddle themselves around the area while lying on their boards.

Competition.

The Competition Director must inform the contestants of their designated fishing grounds and exact start time.

The duration of the contest will be calculated exclusively from that official start time.

Each contestant must enter the water from a specific location point at the dead centre of a line that runs from a point on the coastline to the flagship and is indicated by a GPS reading in the contest regulations.

The start will take place in two stages :

The contestants enter the water at least 10 metres from the start point.

At the exact designated time the signal will be given by whatever means are available to the organisers.

No contestant may set foot on dry land during the competition and only English-style starts (on foot) will be permitted.

At the end of the competition, all contestants must return to their boards, harpoon guns unloaded and masks removed and wait to be picked up by an official boat. Where any doubt arises about compliance with this rule, the contestants in question will be disqualified, as will anyone who fails to observe the start and finish times.

It will be the contestants' responsibility to synchronise their own watches.

However, having checked the official time with the Competition Director, the steward may issue time information to the contestants during the event.

Safety, Supervision.

The captains and the crews of the stewards' boat will be responsible for all safety at sea.

The competition ground will be divided into 3 zones, each one under the overall control of a zone steward on a boat equipped with a VHF set. The zone steward will remain inside his own zone at all times to monitor compliance with the regulations, to track any contestants entering or leaving his zone and, most importantly, to assist any contestant who is in difficulty.

Each zone steward must be in a position to make oral reports to the Competition Director and to the senior judge on events in his zone at all times.

Depending on the nature of the site and the predictable conditions, the Competition Director may or may not decide to use additional safety personnel, appointed by the organisation. These people will only enter the water for rescue purposes.

They may be transported around the competition venue by an official boat to avoid impeding the contestants.

All boats must circulate around the fishing ground at low speeds while the competition is taking place and if they have to approach the contestants, they must switch their motor off and use oars only, when within a 20 metre radius of any contestant (except in the case of force majeure)

Any boat that receives a call for help from any contestant must respond immediately to that call.

If any contestant falls ill, he must be examined by the organisation's own doctor, who is the only person entitled to decide whether the contestant should withdraw from the competition for health reasons.

Boat pick-ups.

There will be several safety boats, which will not be authorised to transport contestants. A contestant who calls for assistance must anchor his boat at the pick-up point and can only return to the water at that specific point. Should a contestant wish to return to the water before the competition ends, he must call for an official boat, which must obtain the authorisation of the relevant zone steward before complying with his request.



Competition boats.

The organisation must supply each captain with a boat. All boats must be identical in type and motor and must be assigned as indicated in art. 3.2.3 of the regulations.

Only the following boats will be entitled to enter the fishing grounds while the competition is in progress:

- the Captains' boat
- the Competition Director's boat
- the senior judge's boat
- the 3 zone stewards' boat
- the Competition Doctors' boat(s)
- the Press boat(s)
- the dignitaries boat (elected officials, CMAS and organising Federation officials) for any of these who are not already accommodated on other boats.
- the flagship



APPENDIX 2

Underwater fishing and the environment.

The specific regulations for each competition must always

- accurately list all the species that may be caught during the competition
- indicate the maximum number of fish in each species that may be caught by each contestant on each day of the competition, which may never be more than 10 fish
- in the Mediterranean, no more than one “mérrou” sea bream per competitor may be caught on any one day. Since this species is both of symbolic significance and endangered, any “mérrou” caught must weigh at least 5 Kg.
- in other seas other species may be in a similar position and the organisers of competitions in those waters should introduce appropriate regulations on the basis of the scientific information available.

The entire catch from any competition should be made available to reputable scientists so that they can study trends in the species captured and produce a detailed report on competition catches.

Once the scientific analysis has been completed, the organisation should offer the fish to a charitable organisation of its choice.

Underwater fishing and the medical profession.

Any international underwater fishing event should be accompanied by :

- anti-doping tests
- a detailed report of any incidents or accidents which must then be sent to the CMAS Medical Committee
- a meeting between the team doctors of the various nations competing for the purpose of an exchange of information and, in more general terms, in order to ensure that all information that can enhance the safety of underwater fishers reaches the widest possible audience.

