

RULES OF COMPETITION:

The rules of the 2019, 67th Yazbeck National Championships will be the new Australian Underwater Federation A section rules and B section rules.

ASect rules are available on AUF website, Spearfishing. <http://auf.com.au/?s=A+sect+Rules>

“B Sect” Rules.



B section Rules for 2019 AUSTRALIAN SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS Port Fairy.

State Representatives

1. Each State and International group should provide a representative, namely SR and IR respectively. These people should be identified to the Competition Convenor (CC) on or before registration day.
2. Each SR and IR is advised to nominate a second person to represent his/her State/International country should they be unavailable.
3. One person will represent their State/International group at any one protest resolution meeting. It is preferred this is one of those previously identified to act in this role.
4. Mobile phone numbers for each SR/IR should be provided to the CC on or before registration day.
5. Any SR/IR meetings will be advised by telephone/text by the CC.
6. SR/IR meetings will aim to begin on time. If any representative is unable to attend, their co-representative should attend in their absence.

Code of Conduct

7. Inappropriate behaviour towards an official or volunteer or other competitor may incur an *inappropriate conduct* warning which can be issued by any identified official of the competition
 - a. A second warning may lead to a report of *inappropriate conduct* to be resolved by the Competition Convenor and officials.
 - b. Penalties may incur as a result, and are to be decided upon by the Competition Convenor.

8. Behaviour of competitors which brings the AUF into disrepute shall initially be reviewed by the Competition Convenor and Competition Committee. They will have the power to determine an appropriate penalty (including disqualification of the entire competition).

9. PARTICIPANTS WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE DAYS EVENT IF PROTECTED OR UNDERSIZE FISH (UNDER FISHERIES LEGAL SIZE LIMIT) ARE PRESENTED FOR WEIGHING OR IF FISHERIES FINE COMPETITORS ON THE DAY FOR ANY BREACH OF FISHERIES REGULATIONS.

Competition Entry

10. Competitor's age for entire championship will be considered to be the age they are on the first scheduled day of the competition.

11. A Traditional State pair's event will be held on day one of the Open competition. Pairs should be nominated no later than 90 minutes prior to the start of the competition on the morning of the competition but can also be nominated at the registration. Mixed Pairs(male/female) will be held on this same day.

12. A nominated Traditional State Four Person Teams Event will be held on day 2 of individual competition. Registration of each team must be made in writing by a team representative to the CC no later than 90 minutes prior to the start of the competition on the morning of the competition.

Note:- A true pair's event,(one up one down) is to be held on a day after the three days of individual heats are completed. Film fishing and Fin Swim events will also be scheduled and advised. Competitors are invited to compete in any these three events only without needing to compete in the open if they wish, see the fee structure in the Information package.

Protests

13. Protests must be lodged according to A Section Rules.

14. Protest should be lodged in writing to the Competition Convenor (CC) along with a \$50 protest fee.

15. Protests will be resolved by a resolution committee meeting.

16. Resolution committee meetings will be held prior to the next competition event.

17. Resolutions meetings will be restricted to one SR per state, the IR (if applicable) the CC, AUF National Representative (TBA) and one minute taker.

18. The Competition Director will act as chairperson in these meetings and will have one vote.

19. Each person present, (excluding the minute taker) has one vote.

20. A strict code of conduct will be adhered to at the meetings:

a. Witnesses of the incident may be asked to speak and then will leave the meeting

b. each committee member will be allowed to give their opinion on the incident, with a limit of 5 minutes to each speaker. A request for a 2nd turn at speaking may be made to the chair.

c. Anyone interrupting a speaker will be issued with a warning.

d. A second warning will have the person removed from the meeting and his /her vote is void.

21. A vote will be cast with a majority ruling being valid.

22. Failure to reach a ruling within 2 hours of the commencement of the meeting the chair (CC) may ask the National Chair of AUF or his/her Representative, to cast the deciding vote.

23. When possible the verdict will be given to the party/parties directly involved in the protest immediately at the conclusion of the meeting.

Sign On – Spearfishing Events

24. Each competition venue will have a clearly identifiable ring.

25. Competitors must be inside the ring at least 20 minutes prior to role call with ALL gear, including fins, weight belt, speargun and ALL safety requirements

26. A gear check will take place on the first day for each competitor in the ring. Use of safety gear is the competitors responsibility.

27. Competitors are required to stay within the ring, once they are signed on for that event, until commencement of competition.

28. The ring area will be closed off at 15 minutes to role call.

Time Keeping / Sign Off

29. An official time will be given by the dive convenor.

30. A siren or air horn will sound at the start and finish of competition.

31. At the finish siren the ring will be closed OFF & all competitors catch must be in the ring. Competitors must sign off immediately after depositing the days catch.

32. Competitors catch that remain outside the ring will be ineligible.

33. Fish may be progressively deposited in the ring during the event before the finish siren. These must all be bagged and tagged.

34. Time keeping during the event is the responsibility of the competitor.

35. The competitor will be given up to 15 minutes after the completion of the competition to sort through their catch before they finally bag and tag their catch. Once a competitor has been signed off he/she must ensure his catch is bagged and tagged correctly. Once bagged and tagged the competitor will place all bagged and tagged fish in a designated secure area and the fish will be treated fairly and evenly. Once bagged and tagged no one is permitted to open the bag until the weigh in begins.

The fish will then be transported off location to a designated weigh in facility TBA. This area is the official weigh in location for all 3 heats of the Open Championships.

36. The competitor and Officials only will be permitted in the immediate area during weigh in of a catch.

37. The Weigh Master will ensure all competitors' fish are treated in the same way after being deposited by the competitors.

38. The Competition Convenor reserves the right to have a separate sign off area from the official ring eg sign off may be on the beach if there is a safety issue. If this is the case;

a. All competitors will be informed before the start of the event.

b. Competitors must sign-off their name off at the designated location and then transport their catch to the official ring in a timely manner.

Entering & Exiting the water during Competition

39. During spearfishing events if a competitor needs to exit from the water within the first 3 hours of competition, he/she may do so;

- a. Within the start area identified
- b. Areas away from the start point ONLY in the event of danger
- c. Areas away from the start point ONLY in the event of personal need (to use the toilet)

IN ANY OF THE ABOVE SITUATIONS THE COMPETITOR MUST RETURN TO THE WATER IN THE EXACT POSITION OF EXITING.

40. After the first 3 hours of competition a competitor may exit and re-enter the water in any position.

Diver Identification Tags

41. Each competitor will be provided with 3 Diver Number Identification Tags at the initial registration and information session.

42. One tag must be attached to the competitors float and presented at each days sign –on.

43. Fish bags will be provided each day at the sign off.

44. Another tag must be attached to your bag with your catch at the end of each day's competition.

45. Competitors are responsible for collecting their tag after weigh –in to be re-used.

46. The third tag is a spare, or may be used for a second bag of fish if required.

Score Updates and location of heats

47. Maps of the venues will be on display at registration day and on the morning of the competition. These maps should show boundaries and approximate starting points.

48. Each day's scores will be sent via email to the relevant SR and IR upon completion. They will also be made available at the start of the second and third day's competition.

49. Heat location will be provided to SR and IR (to forward on to competitors) at least 12 hours prior to sign-on.

Eligible Species & Weights

50. Eligible Species and weights as per score sheet. The reference book for all identification will be "Sea Fishes of Southern Australia" By Barry Hutchins and Roger Swainston.

51. There is no unlisted category; only fish on the score sheet are eligible.

52. A competitor may weigh only one fish from each eligible specie. Not more than three fish from any one eligible specie are to be in a competitors possession. Should a competitor present more than two fish from any one specie to the weighmaster , a 105 penalty will be deducted from the competitors score.

53. Penalties will apply as per A section rules for under weight fish.

54. The maximum score for an eligible species shall be 250 points.

55. Competitors are responsible to know and adhere to Victorian fisheries size and bag limits.

56. Other species grouped together as “*all, others*”, will allow for only one of that species to be weighed in.
57. Competitors or their SR are responsible to see that their fish are properly weighed and recorded. Each competitor will be given a copy of their score sheet after the weigh in is complete.
58. All fish presented to the weigh in Will remain the property of the competitor unless notified otherwise.
59. ‘Banded Drummer’ will be weighed in under the Black Drummer specie.
60. Any hybrid purple wrasse/blue throat wrasse species will be weighed as a blue throat wrasse complying with the 500 gram minimum.

Berley

61. Berleying is only permitted using legal finned fish species. Victorian Fisheries daily bag limits apply to fish used for burley.
62. The berleying of Abalone, Southern Rock Lobster and Sea Urchins is strictly forbidden. Any competitor found to be berleying these species; will be disqualified from the day’s heat with no exception.
63. The taking of Cephalopods, Crustaceans and Molluscs (these include Southern Calamari, Octopus Cuttle Fish, crayfish and abalone), during competition hours is not permitted. Any person found with these species in their possession during the competition will be disqualified from that day’s heat.

Risk Management

64. Safety boat crews have the authority to pull competitors from the water in the event of a major safety concern. Failure to comply with the instruction of boat safety crew may lead to disqualification.
65. To alert safety boats use your whistle, reflector OR raise your gun in the air to draw attention to yourself.
66. When not in use, spearheads and knives must at all times be sheathed in an adequate manner.
67. Competitors accompanied by a parent (or safety buddy), will strictly compete on their own merit. If the safety buddy is not an entrant in the competition they will not be permitted to carry a loaded speargun. ‘Spotting’ of fish is also forbidden.
68. The CC and organising committee plan to run a Sub juniors competition on a separate, single day.

This competition will allow for each sub junior to have a safety diver/assistant swim with them and assist in their diving. This safety diver/assistant can help do anything in the water, i.e. tow floats, load guns, burly, etc. BUT MUST NOT spear any fish under any circumstances. The only person allowed to shoot fish is the sub junior. This competition duration will be 3-4 hours and venue to be advised.

69. All mandatory safety gear as per A Section rules will be checked at registration or on the commencement of the first day of competition. Use of safety gear is the responsibility of the competitor. Those divers not adhering to necessary safety gear will not be permitted to dive that heat.

Miscellaneous

70. Use of handheld GPS or GPS watch is not permitted by competitors during an event.

71. The use of torches during competition heats is permitted.

72. Flashers are permitted.

73. There will be boundaries placed on competition locations and these will be advised by maps. There will also be a buoy marked at the end of each boundary.

74. No competitor shall place or cause to be placed any floats or markers at any location before or during the events that could give advantage to themselves or another competitor. Competitors must rely on their own ability using their skills and natural topography to decide where to swim & dive during events.

75. Competitors shall not seek information from safety boat personnel that would give them any advantage over other competitors & Safety boat personnel shall not give any information or assistance to any competitor that would give advantage to that person.

-Safety boats must not give out GPS locations.

-Safety boats can not carry any equipment for competitors except in an emergency.

-Safety boats are there to provide emergency assistance.

76. Competitors shall not load their guns out of the water.

77. Competitors must not tow loaded guns on floats.

78. Competitors may swim in pairs; however the use of caddies during the course of the competition is illegal.

79. Selection of the venue site for an underwater fishing heat shall be at the CC discretion. See "ASect" rules 3.1.1.

80. The depositing of equipment at various sites in the Competition Venues prior to the start of competition for use during the competition will not be allowed and will be penalised by disqualification. eg: Backpacks, shoes, spare clothing, dive gear, water bottles etc.

81. The 6 possible venues for the Open Spearfishing Championships are: -

a. The Craggs

b. Port Fairy

c. Killarney

d. Armstrong Bay

e. Levys Beach

f. Murrells Beach.

Maps of the above 6 sites will be available for perusal at the Registration day and on the morning of the competition.

82. Shark Shields and shark deterrent devices are permitted to be used during the competition.

83. A Victorian recreational Fishing Licence is required by all people in Victoria 18 years of age and older and under the age of 70. Few exceptions do apply. Check out more at:

<http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/fishing-and-hunting/recreational-fishing/fishing-licence>

Competition officials have the right to request proof of competitors licence prior to or during the competition.

84. NO spearing of eligible fish species in the competition zones 5 days prior to the first scheduled day of the competition. Taking of crayfish and abalone is allowed prior to the competition.

85. Plaques, float boats, boogie boards etc. are allowed as floats during the competition as long as they follow A section rules re safety, i.e. correct colour and Alpha flag, reflective tape, etc. There is no maximum size for these floats HOWEVER they are not to be used to aid in the transportation of a diver at any stage during the competition.

86. No disposing of unwanted fish is permitted by any competitor on land during the competition. This includes all areas on the beach, the car park, etc. Any competitor caught dumping fish will be disqualified from that day's event.

87. Protected species in Victoria include Blue Groper. Any competitor caught in possession of a blue grouper throughout the competition will be disqualified from that day's event.

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