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67th Yazbeck Australian National Spearfishing Titles *Port Fairy2019*

RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

In the interest of a safe and incident free competition we all need to take responsibility. The organisers have taken these reasonable measures to ensure this is possible. Please ensure you fulfill your responsibility to take care of your own & fellow competitors' safety.

Here is relevant information on safety during the event and some tips to help each competitor remember his/her role in helping make this happen.

- First Aid is available at the main weigh in area. A first aid kit will be there.
- Each safety boat has a first aid kit with the operator on board.
- Each safety boat is equipped with communication to the other safety boat, as well as shore base, and emergency services.
- Each safety boat has emergency water on board, however this is only for emergency use. Competitors are strongly encouraged to carry sufficient water on their personal float for hydration.
- Divers are strongly encouraged to wait until they are out of the swell zone and well clear of other divers before loading their speargun.
- Ensure you have the safety equipment as set out in "A&BSect" rules as a minimum.
- Use a float capable of carrying your fish out of the water or enclosed.
- If a competitor's flag is laying in the water during the competition the safety boat crews will ask the competitor to right it. The flag must be upright and visible as much as possible allowing for weather conditions. Floats and diver below flags must be clearly visible to boat traffic at all times, to ensure the safety of the diver.
- If the flag continues to lie down in the water and not remain upright, safety boat crew are permitted to examine the float setup to check for problems and record the diver number, it will then be reported to the safety officer. Divers must co-operate with safety boat instructions at all times.
- If you suffer a cut, ensure you stop the bleeding & seek assistance if necessary.
- One of the biggest risks to a competitor in the water is collision with a craft/boat. The more visible you are the less likely this is to happen. Put your head up often & look about for boat traffic. If surfacing & hearing a boat raise your gun above your head as you ascend.
- The safety boats will aim to redirect/inform approaching water craft of the large amount of divers present whenever possible.

- Ocean currents in the areas of competition generally run along the coast so divers should not be at risk of being swept out to sea, however it can happen, and has happened in high level competition so please be vigilant. Stop, look, and see what the current is doing before attempting to enter the area.

RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN CONTINUED...

- IF you become aware of a strong rip or dangerous current, please notify the safety boat crew so they may warn other competitors.
- In case of exceptional high risk. Ie large predatory shark or dangerous weather change, the safety boat crews have the authority to remove competitors from the water. In this case the competition will cease for the day & no results will be recorded. If you see a large predatory shark, it is suggested you remain composed with slow deliberate movements to keep your eyes & speargun directed towards the animal as long as possible whilst you move away from any fish you may have & towards shore, another diver or nearby boat to back you up. If necessary, jab the shark hard around the head/eye/gills area & continue to fend off & watch until you feel the animal is gone. Remain watchful & move quietly to safety & ensure the safety boat is advised. Depending on the animal's behaviour & movement within the area the safety boat has the authority to remove all persons to shore or safety & cancel the event.
- Leading up to the event the organisers will be in contact with other Spearfishers, commercial divers & fishers, local fisheries to see of recent shark numbers, locations & observed behaviour. The organisers may cancel or move the event based on this information & previous history in the area.
- A competitor may only touch or hold onto a safety boat under instruction from the crew.
- Other ocean life that may cause discomfort to divers is jellyfish. Most jellies in this part of the country are fairly harmless, however should any diver sustain stings that cause swelling to throat or mouth area that may impede breathing or if you have an allergy, seek assistance from the safety boats immediately.
- To draw attention from one of the safety boats you may
 - Raise your gun in the air
 - Blow your whistle
 - Use your reflector
- Rocks close to the shoreline can be covered in weed which is extremely slippery. Care must be taken when exiting the water onto rocks.
- Whenever a competitor is out of the water, tips of guns must be covered, or spearhead removed.
- Aim to eat healthily and avoid excessive alcohol consumption during the week of competition. Energy levels and hydration are key elements to personal performance and safety during such physically demanding competitions.

- Wherever possible try to remain in sight of another person or float so you may attract attention for assistance. Raise your head often & think about the movements & safety of yourself & other competitors.
- Lastly, please remember that all committee members and helpers are volunteers. Organisation and planning for this competition has taken the majority of the past year. Please treat all volunteers, helpers and organisers with respect. Constructive comments are welcome, however inappropriate or abusive language/attitude is not.

We hope all competitors have an enjoyable and safe competition sampling some of the finest diving Victoria has to offer.

From the organising committee