



AUSTRALIAN UNDERWATER FEDERATION QUEENSLAND INC
SPEARFISHING COMMISSION RULES AND BY-LAWS
including the
“A-SECTION” RULES OF SPEARFISHING COMPETITION

[Contents](#)

SECTION 1: SPEARFISHING COMMISSION	2
Structure of the Spearfishing Commission	2
Changing These Rules & By-Laws	2
Perpetual Trophies	2
Team Manager	2
Codes of Practice & Other Matters	3
SECTION 2: RECORDS	3
Acceptable action:.....	4
Level of assistance rendering record claim ineligible:.....	4
Acceptable action by the second diver:	4
Level of assistance rendering record claim ineligible:.....	4
SECTION 3: “A-SECTION” RULES OF SPEARFISHING COMPETITION	5
Application of these Rules.....	5
Queensland Spearfishing Championships Organisation and Officials	5
Competitor Eligibility and Visiting / Overseas Competitors	6
Safety Equipment	6
Other Spearfishing Equipment and Rules	7
Boats	7
Competitor Behaviour	8
Protocol for Return to Diving Following a Blackout Event.....	8
The Championship Area	8
Titles and Trophies	9
Rules For True-Pairs Competitions	9
Open Spearfishing Championship	9
Nemrod Cup	10
Rules for Other Competitions	10
Film-Fishing	11
Spearfishing Weigh-In	11
Scoring	12
Eligible Species	12
Penalties.....	13
Protests and Dispute Committee	13



SECTION 1: SPEARFISHING COMMISSION

Structure of the Spearfishing Commission

1. The Spearfishing Commission shall consist of the Spearfishing Commissioner, or the Commissioner's appointee (Assistant Spearfishing Commissioner), and one delegate from each financial AUFQ Spearfishing Club.
2. The Spearfishing Commissioner is elected at the AUFQ AGM, becomes a member of the AUFQ Executive, and must maintain Australian Underwater Federation Inc (AUF) membership.
3. Club delegates must be current financial AUF members, and may be changed at any time by written or email notification by the Club.

Changing These Rules & By-Laws

4. These SPEARFISHING COMMISSION RULES & BY-LAWS may be changed by a motion which gains a simple majority at a general meeting of the Spearfishing Commission.
5. Only the delegates of financial clubs of the Spearfishing Commission shall be eligible to vote.
6. The vote of each such club shall be calculated as 1 vote for every financial member of that club who are also AUF members, up to a maximum of 50 votes per club. Individual members can only be counted in one club.
7. In the case of an equality of votes the motion, matter or resolution shall be determined to retain the status quo.
8. Any club delegate to the Commission may veto the change if prior notice of at least 4 weeks of the proposed change was not given to the Clubs.

Perpetual Trophies

9. Criteria for perpetual awards mainly include sporting achievement in the previous year in areas at national (not necessary), state, and club level. There is no limit on the number of times they may be awarded to any one person. Particular consideration is given to the calendar year prior, but events before and after this year are also considered. Fish considered for Most Meritorious Fish awards must have been speared in the calendar year prior.
10. Nominations for these Perpetual Awards shall comply with the relevant sections of these Rules and By-Laws.
11. All nominations for Perpetual Awards may come from an individual member, a Club or the Records Officer. They must be received before, or at, the AUFQ AGM.
12. The State Records Officer shall be the only receiver of nominations for Perpetual Awards.
13. Perpetual awards are decided by Club votes at the AUFQ AGM.
14. The Records Officer shall be responsible for the records pertaining to the holders of the Perpetual Awards.
15. Perpetual trophies will remain in the possession of AUFQ at all times. An individual trophy will be given to those receiving the Award.
16. The Perpetual Awards are: Skindiver of the Year; Sportsman of the Year; Junior Sportsman of the Year (The Cloughy Shield); Senior Most Meritorious Fish Speared Annually; Lady Most Meritorious Fish Speared Annually; and Junior Most Meritorious Fish Speared Annually (junior being <18).
17. Only financial members of financial AUFQ Clubs are eligible to win Perpetual Awards. The one exception is Skindiver of the Year which is a service award.

State Spearfishing Team

18. Only financial members of financial AUFQ Clubs may choose or be chosen to compete as members of the Queensland State Team at the Australian National Spearfishing Championships each year. This includes those members who reside outside Queensland but normally identify as a member of an AUFQ Club.
19. There is no maximum number in a State Team. All those complying with the above rule above will form the Queensland State Team unless they request otherwise.
20. Members of the Queensland State Spearfishing Team are bound under the direction of the Team Manager.

Team Manager

21. The Spearfishing Commissioner may act as the Queensland Spearfishing Team Manager if attending the National Titles.
22. Otherwise, the Spearfishing Commissioner shall call for nominations for the position of AUFQ Team Manager at least 2 months before the event. The Spearfishing Commissioner shall then select the AUFQ Team Manager and notify those concerned at least 6 weeks before the event.
23. The AUFQ Team Manager will also be responsible for Film Fishing and Team nominations.



SPEARFISHING COMMISISON RULES & BY-LAWS

including the "A-Section" Rules

24. The decisions of the AUFQ Team Manager relating to Competitions and camp discipline shall be abided by at all times.

Codes of Practice & Other Matters

25. All legislation relating to spearfishing under such State or Federal acts as Fisheries Acts, Harbours and Marine Acts, and Marine Parks Acts must strictly be adhered to.
26. Members are also expected to honour AUFQ and AUF rules, by-laws and [AUF Codes of Practice](#).
27. The sale of speared fish is strictly forbidden.
28. All fish taken in Spearfishing Competitions shall be of edible size and quality and as such shall be utilized so. No fish shall be discarded or otherwise wasted. All fish shall be handled or stored in a manner consistent with their use as food. Fish refuse shall be disposed of in a clean and proper manner.
29. Spearguns shall be treated with respect at all times by:
- Never having a loaded speargun out of the water.
 - Never pointing a speargun at anyone at any time.
 - Having spearheads sheathed in an adequate manner when not in use.
30. Members should assist the public whenever possible, and be courteous to any ranger, inspector or official.
31. Members should behave in such a manner so as not to discredit the Federation or the sport of Spearfishing. This includes the use of social media.
32. It shall be the responsibility of the Spearfishing Commissioner to provide all Clubs with up-to-date amendments to the Rules and By-Laws.

SECTION 2: RECORDS

33. The State Records Officer shall be responsible for the recording of all records and the issuing of all certificates.
34. Fish weight records (spearfishing records) will be accepted from financial AUFQ Club members and financial out of-state AUF Club members provided the fish are speared in the Australian Fishing Zone off Queensland and south to Hastings Point in NSW.
35. All applications shall be made on the appropriate AUF claim form and shall contain the following information:
- Scientific name and common name of the fish.
 - Name, address, phone, email and Club of applicant.
 - Weight, girth & length of fish.
 - Date & locality of catch.
 - Type of equipment used.
 - Signature of applicant and witness to catch.
 - Name, signature and address of Weight Recorder.
 - Name, signature and address of Witness to Weighing.
 - Details of scales used.
 - Clear photo of the fish permitting identification.
 - Age if a junior (<18.)
36. Eligible Species:
Species of the sub-class Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes) are eligible with the following exceptions:
- Order Syngnathiformes - Pipefish and allies, excluding the families Aulostomidae (Trumpetfishes) and Fistulariidae (Flutemouths)
 - Order Tetraodontiformes - Toadfish, Boxfish, Sunfish and allies, excluding the families Monacanthidae (Leatherjackets) and Balistidae (Triggerfishes)
37. To be eligible for a Queensland Spearfishing Record a fish must not be protected under State or Federal Government regulations at the location where captured.
38. Fish must have a minimum weight of 500 grams. (Historical records weighing less than 500 grams have been retained for the sake of completeness.)
39. All fish under 2 kg in weight must exceed the previous record by 50 grams, and fish over 2 kg must exceed the previous record by 100 grams. In the event of a claim not exceeding, the record by the required amount, a tied record will be ruled.
40. All claims should be made within 12 months of capture. If the form cannot be fully completed an accompanying letter of explanation should state clearly the reason, or reasons, for the incomplete form. At the discretion of the Records Officer, in the case of minor omissions, the record claim may be accepted.



SPEARFISHING COMMISISON RULES & BY-LAWS

including the "A-Section" Rules

41. Fish taken with the aid of SCUBA, or any breathing aid other than a snorkel, shall be ineligible for record purposes.
42. Incorrect identification of the fish may render the application ineligible.
43. At no time is it the responsibility of the Records Officer to prove the identity of any fish.
44. The catch must be made in accordance with the Spearfishing Commission Rules of Competition where applicable.
45. All fish must be weighed on scales meeting the requirements as set out for AUF National Records.
46. Assisted captures are not eligible for records. The list below is a guide to assist the interpretation of "*assisted capture*". It does not cover all possible situations.

Acceptable action:

- Showing location of a fish.
- Burleying for another spearfisher or group.
- Chasing sharks away from another spearfisher's speared fish.
- Accepting an unloaded gun from another spearfisher to use to place a second shot.
- Accepting a rig line from another spearfisher and attaching the rig line yourself to your rig during the act of playing a fish.
- The boat following as you swim after your float.
- The boat locating your float and giving you directions.
- Helping lift the subdued fish into the boat.
- Retrieving a stuck spear once the other spearfisher has removed his fish from the line. ☐ Placing your fish in another spearfisher's fish float (with permission.)

Level of assistance rendering record claim ineligible:

- Loading the speargun for another spearfisher.
- Accepting a loaded speargun from another spearfisher to use to place a second shot.
- Placing a second shot in another spearfisher's fish.
- Helping pull the fish up or holding the other spearfisher's float before the fish has been subdued.
- Another spearfisher attaching a rig line to your rig line during the act of playing a fish.
- The boat picking you up and taking you over to your fish float.
- Picking up the rig line and pulling the other spearfisher's fish up to the boat.
- Getting into or holding onto the boat and playing the fish from there.
- Retrieving a stuck spear for another spearfisher while the fish is still on the line.
- "Sledding" is where one diver swims another diver down under the surface towards the bottom. The second diver then continues further down under his own effort. This allows divers to go deeper than they usually would be capable of diving on their own. Muscular power has been given by another person and therefore is considered assisting in the capture of the fish.
- A diver, after shooting a fish, is assisted to the surface by another diver, this is considered assisting in the capture of the fish.

47. Acceptable True Pairs record claims: Information for those diving in True Pairs, with both persons attached to one float simultaneously via separate float lines. In some situations, the capture is still regarded as unassisted. The guidelines below do not cover all possible situations (see above):

Acceptable action by the second diver:

- Handing an unloaded gun to the other attached diver for a second shot.
- Be attached to the float via a second floatline, but not handle the other attached diver's floatline.
- Swim attached to the floatline to maintain visual contact with the other attached diver.
- Assist with placing the fish into a boat or float following it being subdued by the first diver.

Level of assistance rendering record claim ineligible:

- Handing a loaded gun to the other attached diver.
- Placing a second shot into the other diver's fish.
- Hold or help pull up the other diver's floatline.
- Swim attached to the floatline in a manner where it gives muscular pull against a speared fish.
- Handling the fish, equipment or floatline between the float and the first diver while the fish has not been subdued.



SECTION 3: "A-SECTION" RULES OF SPEARFISHING COMPETITION

Application of these Rules

48. The Club hosting the Queensland Spearfishing Championships must comply with the relevant sections of these Rules & By-Laws.
49. Rules of Competition for the Queensland Spearfishing Championships (Spearfishing and Film fishing events) shall be divided into two sections. These sections shall be termed the "A-Section" and the "B-Section".
50. The "A-Section" Rules shall cover all standing rules of Competition to which all clubs are bound when conducting the Queensland Spearfishing Championships on behalf of the Commission.
51. The "B-Section" Rules shall cover the local Rules of Competition and may be varied by the committee preparing the events. However, the Spearfishing Commission shall have the right to vary the "B-Section" Rules as and when it sees fit.
52. The "B-Section" Rules shall not contravene the "A-Section" Rules.
53. The "A-Section" Rules shall be circulated to all Clubs not less than two months prior to the opening date of the Queensland Spearfishing Championships.
54. Organisers of the Queensland Spearfishing Championships may also refer to the AUF National '[Guidelines and Standard Forms](#)' document which contains more detail regarding the practicalities of running such an event and other administrative matters - see www.aufspearfishing.com.au.
55. Other AUFQ Competitions (for example interclub competitions) may only proceed with official sanction by the Spearfishing Commissioner who will have regard to these AUFQ Rules & By Laws as well as the [National "A-Section" Rules](#), [National Guidelines and Standard Forms](#) as well as the [AUF National Code of Practice](#).
56. The details of the Queensland Spearfishing Championships must be notified to the Spearfishing Commissioner at least six weeks prior; and least four weeks prior for other AUFQ Competitions.
57. A nomination fee (capitation fee) of \$5.00 per Competitor (\$10.00 per pair) shall be set on the Queensland Spearfishing Championships and other AUFQ Competitions, and the host Club shall send this to the AUFQ to become part of the Spearfishing Commission finances.
58. The Spearfishing Commission may settle any matters not provided for in these rules.

Queensland Spearfishing Championships | Organisation and Officials

59. The Queensland Spearfishing Championships should be an annual event.
60. All financial Spearfishing Commission Clubs shall be eligible to take a turn to host the Queensland Spearfishing Championships on the following rotational basis: Cairns Underwater Association; Bundaberg Skindivers; Mackay Downunder Skindiving Club; Tweed Gold Coast Freedivers; Townsville Skindiving Club; Sunshine Coast Skindivers; and (any other emergent club)
61. Where a Club cannot host their turn notification must be given by them to the Spearfishing Commissioner at least 12 months prior; then the next in order of rotation will be offered the event until a host is found.
62. All Clubs shall be notified at the AGM regarding the holding of the following Queensland Spearfishing Championships.
63. Applications by any emergent club wishing to host the Queensland Spearfishing Championships shall be made to the Spearfishing Commissioner at or prior to the AUFQ AGM.
64. Host Club's must allow three (3) days for the overall event, with events prioritised as follows:
 - a **Day 1 | Priority 1 – Open Spearfishing Championship (Heat 1):**
 - i Competition must be between 4 to 6 hours duration;
 - ii Ladies and Juniors (aged 15-17) can compete in the Open Spearfishing Championship but do so as ordinary Competitors;
 - iii Juniors must swim in a True Pair with an adult;
 - iv Sub-Juniors (aged 14 and under) cannot compete in the Open Spearfishing Championship
 - b **Day 2 | Priority 2 – Other Competitions** - dedicated events held for Sub-Juniors, Juniors, Ladies & Film Fishing which can be held simultaneously:
 - i Competition must be between 4 to 6 hours duration;
 - ii Sub-Junior / Junior / Ladies events to be based on Personal Points and swum in True Pairs format with an adult observer;
 - iii Film-fishing event swum in True Pairs, or in True Pairs with an adult observer.
 - c **Day 3 | Priority 3 – Open Spearfishing Championship (Heat 2).**
65. For the Queensland Spearfishing Championships to be valid, a minimum of one heat of the Open Spearfishing Championship must be held.



SPEARFISHING COMMISISON RULES & BY-LAWS

including the "A-Section" Rules

66. The officials and their suggested roles are:
 - a **Competition Director** – oversees the promotion and running of the events, provides risk assessment, conducts safety briefings, manages the Dispute Committee, tabulates scores.
 - b **Sign On/Off Clerk and Timekeeper** – verifies memberships, eligibility and Start / Finish.
 - c **Weighmaster and Scorekeeper** - identifies, weighs Competitor's fish, records scores.
67. The Host Club, in consultation with the Spearfishing Commissioner, shall appoint a Competition Director to be responsible for the running of the Queensland Spearfishing Championships.
68. The Competition Director shall appoint a Competition Committee and officials as required.
69. Committee members and Officials may also compete.
70. The Timekeeper's decision as to starting and finishing times shall be final.

Competitor Eligibility and Visiting / Overseas Competitors

71. All Competitors (including overseas and interstate Competitors) must be financial members of the AUF.
72. An additional registration fee may apply to any Competitor who is not a current financial member of an AUFQ Club.
73. It is the responsibility of the Competitor to prove they are financial. A current AUF card shall constitute such proof.
74. Competitors in the Queensland Spearfishing Championships shall nominate one financial AUFQ Club. Some Competitors are financial members of more than one Club, but all Competitors must nominate only one financial AUFQ Club for the entirety of the event, and this will be used in the calculation of Club Teams, Club Pairs and Nemrod Cup scores.
75. Any Club Teams, Club Pairs and Nemrod Cup Teams must be composed entirely of members from the same nominated Club.
76. Competitors must be current financial members of the financial AUFQ Club they nominate.

Safety Equipment

77. Competitors for spearfishing and film-fishing must have the following **essential safety equipment** at all times during AUFQ Competitions:
 - a Each True Pair must use a **Compliant Float**. A Compliant Float:
 - i May be either a float or a plat (a 'boat float');
 - ii Must be a minimum size of 10 litres;
 - iii There is no maximum size on Compliant Floats, but the Competitor must not use the Compliant Float to aid swimming by lying on, or otherwise lifting the body out of the water, or partially out of the water, or to transport a diver e.g. kayak;
 - iv Must be coloured principally either Red, Yellow or Orange;
 - v Must be fitted with an International "*Code Flag Alpha*" (blue / white) of minimum size 250x150mm on top of the float at least 200mm above the surface of the water. Additional flag of similar size in hi-vis fluorescent yellow/green and flown below the alpha is highly recommended.
 - vi If comprising a float (as opposed to a plat), must be self-righting;
 - vii Must be attached to two float lines, one being no more than 4 meters, and the other being a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 30 meters in length. Either line may be bungee or part bungee; and
 - viii Have the Competitor's number/tag attached.
 - b **Whistle and signalling mirror** of at least 50 mm x 50 mm;
 - c **Orange plastic safety sheet** as a distress signal [minimum 1.0 X 0.5m] – for example an inexpensive large 'rescue orange' coloured garbage bag can be used;
 - d **Sheathed diver's knife** on the Competitor's person;
 - e **Weight belt fitted with quick release buckle**; and
 - f **Cover to spear points.**
78. Other safety equipment such as use of smoke flares, emergency laser signalling devices, personal EPIRB, or electronic shark shields shall be permitted. The Competitor is responsible for the registration and deployment of the EPIRB if carried.
79. A torch must not be used for spearfishing, but may be carried as a safety precaution.



Other Spearfishing Equipment and Rules

80. Competitors in the Queensland Spearfishing Championships must also comply with the following equipment rules:
- a Each member of a pair may carry a speargun.
 - b All fish must be captured by Competitors using rubber-powered spear, speargun, hand spear or similar device, or by hand. Guns fired by the discharge of compressed or explosive gases into water are forbidden.
 - c Burley is only permitted using finned fish species that have been obtained in the water at the competition site during the hours of the event. Such fish must comply with relevant bag and size limits.
 - d Flashers, Flasher rigs or other Fish attraction devices may only be used if allowed for in the "B-Section" Rules.
 - e Competitors may not enter any fish which:
 - i were already dead at time of capture;
 - ii have already been trapped or caught by any method other than spearfishing such as fish speared whilst in traps, nets or on lines; or
 - iii have been interfered with in a manner that is not permitted as a spearfishing technique.
 - f No breathing aid other than a snorkel shall be permitted. Mask, Snorkel, Fins, Knife, Weight belt, and protective clothing may be used. This includes non-competition days during the scheduled event period and 14 days beforehand i.e.; no scouting with hookah or scuba etc.
 - g Competitors must be immersed in the water at the time of spearing of any fish.
 - h A powerhead may be carried, but the Competitor must ensure it does not endanger other people, and that it is only used for protection against sharks. It is the Competitor's responsibility to see that the powerhead and its use complies with any Government legislation.
 - i Handheld GPS or similar devices are prohibited with the exception of safety devices that incorporate a GPS function provided they cannot be used as a navigational aid (e.g. personal EPIRB).
 - j It is recommended that Competitors carry sufficient water, food, and any necessary medications with them throughout the day.
 - k Speargun safety:
 - i Competitors shall not load their guns out of water;
 - ii No spare spearguns or shafts may be carried hanging vertically in the water from floats;
 - iii Competitors shall not carry loaded spearguns on floats;
 - iv No loaded spearguns are permitted on boats;
 - v Competitors must not point a loaded speargun towards another Competitor;
 - vi Competitors must handle spearguns with extreme care on boats to avoid injury or damage from spear tips;
 - vii Speargun spear tips, when not in use, shall be sheathed in an adequate manner.

Boats

81. In any Competition not conducted from shore, the Host Club shall arrange water transport for all Competitors.
82. When the Queensland Spearfishing Championships are held in the open sea, at least one safety boat shall operate within the competition area. All safety boats must have a radio or other effective means of communications fitted which is capable of contacting emergency groups, other dive boats and shore base.
83. Competition organisers are to brief boat drivers about the event safety requirements, risks, rules and emergency procedures.
84. Whenever a dive boat has divers in the water – whether either at anchor, whilst tending to divers, or whilst in the process of leaving an area with other divers in the water shall display an "International Code Flag Alpha" (blue / white) measuring a minimum of 750 mm in length and 600 mm in width in a prominent position mounted at least 2 metres above the water surface. A second flag of similar size flown immediately below Code Flag Alpha in hi-vis fluorescent yellow/green is highly recommended.
85. First aid kit and materials to prevent blood loss are to be readily accessible (see the National ['Guidelines and Standard Forms'](#) - Form 1 for other safety boat recommendations).
86. When operating in the area within a 100-metre radius of divers in the water, the maximum permissible speed shall be 4 knots or idle speed. Boat drivers are not to proceed in gear within 60 metres of a diver's float until the diver or pair's location is known.



SPEARFISHING COMMISISON RULES & BY-LAWS

including the "A-Section" Rules

87. The safety boat(s) will not accept fish; and while a Competitor may enter a safety boat or seek assistance from a safety boat at any time, doing so, for any reason, disqualifies that Competitor, and their pair, from that day's competition. However, this rule may be varied for safety reasons within the "B-Section" Rules.
88. Competitors may only land their catch throughout the competition on boats moored in close proximity to the Start / Finish area.
89. While it is intended no boats associated with the competition, other than safety boats, may manoeuvre in the competition area during the competition; all boats remain under the control of their Skipper, and should the need arise due to safety reasons, in the Skipper's opinion, the boat may move its location or undertake another task.
90. At all times, all boats shall operate at safe speeds and in a safe manner that is in accordance with Australian Maritime Regulations.

Competitor Behaviour

91. Behaviour of Competitors which brings the AUFQ into disrepute shall initially be reviewed by the Spearfishing Commission. The Spearfishing Commission will have the power to determine an appropriate penalty (including disqualification for a heat or the entire competition).
92. If the matter is serious, they may refer the matter to the AUF Board to determine a more severe penalty (fine of up to \$500.00 and/or reasonable costs based on damage and/or cancellation of AUF membership).
93. Competitors may not assist or interfere with other pairs, nor may assistance be received from persons not competing in the competition.
94. Assisted ascents and descents are not permitted.
95. Any Competitor / observer not enlisted in the competition may not dive in the competition area during the competition.
96. Competitors are solely responsible for landing, bagging and labelling their own catch.
97. All Competitors are individually and solely responsible to ensure they are medically fit and capable of participating in any AUFQ Competition.
98. Every Competitor must be in attendance for all competition briefings with each Competitor verifying their attendance at either a roll-call or sign-on.
99. All Competitors must remain within 30 meters of their float when on the surface of the water.

Protocol for Return to Diving Following a Blackout Event

100. Any Competitor who suffers a 'Shallow Water Blackout' during a competition must satisfy the following requirements before returning to competitions:
 - a Immediately leave the water and commence a stand down period out of the water of a minimum of 24 hours.
 - b Seek and obtain professional medical attention and obtain a signed statement from a physician confirming it is safe for the Competitor to compete.
 - c Satisfy the Championship Director that the above requirements have been met.
101. In all cases, the approval of the Championship Director must be obtained prior to that person resuming competition.

The Championship Area

102. The Queensland Spearfishing Championships are to run as a 'swim-off' competition i.e. all Competitors will assemble in the 'Start / Finish' area prior to the commencement of the event; and return to the 'Start / Finish' area before the official finish time.
103. For off-shore 'swim-off' competitions run from boats the Start / Finish area will be a triangular area designated by three floats or boats as indicated by the Championship Director. No other boats will be allowed in this triangle.
104. For land-based events the Start / Finish area will be a clearly designated marshalling area. Competitors must start and finish within the marshalling area.
105. Loaded spear guns are not allowed in the Start / Finish area at any time during the competition.
106. The Timekeeper will notify official time before the start of the event and notify finish time and then signal the start and finish.
107. Competitors must start and finish inside Start / Finish area. Any Competitor who begins before the start, or has not returned to the Start / Finish area and been signed off prior to the end of the competition, will cause that pair to be penalized (see 'Penalties')



SPEARFISHING COMMISISON RULES & BY-LAWS

including the "A-Section" Rules

108. It is the Competitor's responsibility to familiarize themselves with the area of the competition. Any Competitor outside the competition area will cause that pair to be penalized (see 'Penalties').
109. Maps of designated competition areas will be provided to Competitors within 14 days before the start of the Queensland Spearfishing Championships and the areas to be competed will be determined at the Championships by the Competition Committee, to suit the venue and prevailing conditions.
110. The organiser will provide maps showing two preferred locations and two other locations designated as reserved for adverse conditions.
111. General area limits shall be defined by the Host Club within the "B-Section" Rules, and definite area limits shall be defined no sooner than 12 hours before the commencement of the competition.
112. No Competitor is allowed to spearfish or scout with artificial breathing apparatus in the designated areas within 14 days prior to the start of the Queensland Spearfishing Championships.
113. For land-based events a Competitor may get out of the water outside the designated area after 3 hours (and may walk but use no other equipment e.g. backpack, push bike, car, unless such equipment was taken into the water by the Competitor at the start of the event and towed with them). No equipment is to be hidden on shore prior to the event. Competitors may leave the water prior to the 3 hours for safety, ablutions or equipment repair but must re-enter the water in the same location or they may walk back to starting point, deposit fish, or carry out repair/replacement and then re-enter the water at the starting point.

Titles and Trophies

114. No cash prizes shall be awarded for any event requiring AUFQ approval.
115. For the Queensland Spearfishing Championships: gold, silver and bronze medals will be presented for each section where the numbers of Competitors permit.
116. A Competitor's age category will be determined by the age of the person on the first day of competition being actually held.
117. All trophies will remain in the possession of AUFQ at all times.
118. The Queensland Spearfishing Championships shall be swum in True Pairs with Titles and Trophies being awarded to categories within **Open Spearfishing Championship** and **Other Competitions**.

Rules For True-Pairs Competitions

119. At any time during the competition at least one member of the True-Pair will remain on the surface.
120. At all times during the competition, one member of the True-Pair will hold the long float line (max. 30 metres), the other member will hold the short line (max. 4 metres).
121. While both Competitors are on the surface, the maximum distance between them both shall be 30 meters.
122. A Competitor in a True-Pair may assist the other Competitor in the pair to land a fish. However, one Competitor must always remain on the surface within 4 metres of a Compliant Float.
123. A True Pair shall at all times operate in such a manner that each diver (or observer) shall actively monitor their partner.

Open Spearfishing Championship

124. The Open Spearfishing Championship will normally be a one or two heat event (preferably two heats).
125. Each day of competition / heat will be between 4 to 6 hours duration.
126. For the Queensland Spearfishing Championship to be valid at least one heat of the Open Spearfishing Championship must be held for a minimum of four hours.
127. In the Open Spearfishing Championship, Competitors shall swim in True-Pairs. No diver shall be allowed to swim as an individual.
128. All scoring and placing shall be on True Pair Points (one species per True-Pair, per day of competition).
129. The competition will be a 'swim-off' competition with all Competitors starting in a designated Start / Finish area.
130. Ladies and Juniors (aged 15-17) can compete in the Open Spearfishing Championship but do so as ordinary Competitors;
131. Juniors wishing to compete in the Open Spearfishing Championship must be in a True-Pair with an adult (any Competitor over the age of 18 at commencement of competition) and such pairing approved by the organisers.
132. Sub-Juniors (Competitors aged 14 years or younger) are not eligible to compete in the Open Spearfishing Championship.



SPEARFISHING COMMISISON RULES & BY-LAWS
including the "A-Section" Rules

133. Open Spearfishing Championship True-Pairs categories are as follows:

CATEGORY	REQUIREMENTS	TROPHIES
CHAMPION PAIR OF QLD	Open Category Queensland State Champion True Pair Any club combination	<i>Cilento Championship shield & runner-up trophy</i>
VETERAN SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP OF QLD	Both Competitors in a True Pair aged 45 years or older Any club combination	<i>Veterans' shield</i>
CLUB PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP OF QLD	Both Competitors in a True Pair are to be from the same AUFQ Club	<i>Pairs trophy</i>
CLUB TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP OF QLD	A team comprised of two True Pairs. All Competitors to be from the same AUFQ Club <u>Nomination required</u>	<i>The Dolphin Club of Townsville shield</i>
NEMROD CUP	Top 2 Club Pairs based on results	<i>Nemrod Cup</i>

Nemrod Cup

134. This is a trophy with the aim of promoting inter-club competition in Queensland. It now consists of a final based on the scores from one of the days/heats of the Open Spearfishing Championship (if one heat is held the first heat, if two heats are held the second heat).
135. Nemrod Teams consist of the two highest scoring Club Pairs from each AUFQ Club.
136. This differs from the Club Teams Competition in that the combinations of Club Pairs are not nominated before the competition.
137. Both Club Pairs must be comprised of financial members of the same AUFQ Club.

Rules for Other Competitions

138. Other Competitions will be held on the second day of the Queensland Spearfishing Championships and will be between 4 to 6 hours duration, at the discretion of the Championship Director.
139. Other Competition categories are as follows:

CATEGORY	REQUIREMENTS	TROPHIES
LADIES SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP OF QLD	Female Competitor Any age Must swim with an adult observer in a True Pair	<i>Ladies' shield</i>
JUNIOR SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP OF QLD	Competitor aged 15 to 17 Must swim with an adult observer in a True Pair	<i>Monty Young Memorial Shield</i>
SUB-JUNIOR SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP OF QLD	Competitor aged 14 and under Must swim with an adult observer in a True Pair	<i>Aimrite Shield</i>
FILM FISHING	Any age / any gender / any club Must swim in a True Pair with at least one member of the pair an adult	<i>Film Fishing Trophy</i>

140. Other Competitions may be held simultaneously.
141. In all Other Competitions the Competitor must swim in a pair or accompanied by a safety observer (see Rules for True Pairs).
142. Other Competitions will be 'swim-off' competitions with all Competitors starting in a designated Start / Finish area.



SPEARFISHING COMMISISON RULES & BY-LAWS

including the "A-Section" Rules

143. All scoring and placing for the Ladies Championship, Junior Championship and Sub-Junior Championship shall be on each Competitors Personal Points (one species per Competitor basis).
144. The observer for a Lady, Junior or Sub-Junior Competitor may carry a speargun (for protection) but may not otherwise assist the Competitor in any way. Examples of assistance include, but are not limited to, berleying, towing the Competitor, finding fish, spearing or helping to land fish.
145. The exception to the above rule is Sub-Juniors aged 10 years and under the whereby the observer may assist the Competitor in any way except for firing the speargun.

Film-Fishing

146. The event is meant to closely parallel the conditions governing a spearfishing event. A Competitor seeks to take still photographs of up to 20 different species of fish or invertebrates.
147. Competitors shall swim in pairs with a Compliant Float; either two Competitors or one with an observer.
148. Competitors will use their own underwater digital camera.
149. Competitors under 18 years of age must swim with an adult.
150. Competitors are allowed to use the following equipment: Mask, snorkel, fins, weight belt, knife, torch, protective clothing and one underwater camera.
151. At the pre-dive briefing, Competitors are to be advised that the first photograph taken is to be a suitable personal identification photo. After that, only the next 20 underwater exposures will count. Blank frames are still counted in this number. Each frame scores only once.
152. Each photo is allocated points (1 for easy fish species up to 5 for more difficult fish species) on the degree of difficulty of photographing with additional points for framing.
153. A score sheet of acceptable species will be published for the event and will be selected by the Competition Committee.
154. The score sheet is to be representative of the local species and selected to form a suitable score sheet for this competition.
155. Points for different species will reflect the relative difficulty of capturing the species on camera.
156. A species must be in its natural habitat and photographed by the Competitor below the surface of the sea. Photographs of species in nets, hooked on lines, in containers or aquaria, out of the water or speared, will not be accepted.
157. Berley shall not be used. During the duration of the competition, a Competitor cannot have in his possession any marine life.
158. The Competition Committee will appoint three judges (someone knowledgeable with fish, someone knowledgeable with photography, an AUF member, or others available and considered suitable).
159. The three judges will decide which fish is the subject of the photograph, and then award points as per the Score Sheet for that species. Each species listing on the Score Sheet can be used only once. Should the same species be photographed a second time, it will score no points.
160. Each photo is awarded additional points for FRAMING of the main subject of the picture as follows:

FAR DISTANT (just recognisable)	0.5 points
MID TO CLOSE RANGE (not centred in the frame)	1.0 point
MID TO CLOSE RANGE (well framed and centred)	1.5 points
161. At the end of competition, downloads or sim cards are to be with the Championship Director or appointee within the time specified by the Timekeeper if their photos are to be eligible for judging; this should be as soon as possible after Competitors return to land.
162. The Competitor with the highest number of points will be declared the winner.
163. In the event of a dead heat, the overall quality of the photographs will decide the winner.

Spearfishing Weigh-In

164. At the end of the spearfishing competitions the weigh-in will commence at a location designated in the "B-Section" Rules.
165. The designated Scorekeeper will assist the Weighmaster and record the catch in writing so that a score can be given, and a record kept that is able to be audited in the event of a dispute.
166. There will be only one Weighmaster per day of competition, a screening table and all fish checked for their minimum weight. The Weighmaster may designate an assistant.
167. Fish will be checked on certified scales where possible on zero adjustable electronic scales.
168. It is highly recommended, where feasible, all fish weights recorded for scientific and eligibility purposes.



SPEARFISHING COMMISISON RULES & BY-LAWS

including the "A-Section" Rules

169. The screening table will be self-draining for the presenting of fish to the Weighmaster. The Host Club shall also provide a receptacle of water at the weigh-in point so that foreign matter can be removed from fish before weighing.
170. Each Competitor will be responsible for sorting their catch prior to presenting it to the Weighmaster. Fish will be placed on the screening table, checked and sorted, then 'Presented' to the Weighmaster. Once 'Presented' they may not be interfered with again by the Competitor.
171. Each Competitor shall present only eligible fish in size, weight, species and number as specified for that competition. Non-compliant fish will attract a penalty.
172. Any "other" fish species not recorded on the Official Scoresheet need to be presented to the weighmaster prior to the weigh-in for his consideration. It is at the weighmaster's discretion on the day of competition if he will accept the fish for the weigh-in. The decision will be based on the species, quality, weight and if it's common to the area.
173. Fish, which are not in the hands of Competition Officials, must be with the Competitor at sign-off or shall be disqualified from Weigh-in.
174. All fish shall remain the property and responsibility of the Competitor. At the Host Club's discretion, the Host Club may accept donations of fish to the Host Club or for charity.
175. Competitors will dispose of all fish refuse in a clean and tidy manner.

Scoring

176. Scoring shall be 100 points per species plus 10 points per kilogram for eligible species with a maximum weight for each species of 15kg.
177. **True Pairs Points** will be used to determine the Open Spearfishing Championship categories and based on one of each eligible species being weighed-in per True Pair, per day of competition;
178. **Personal Points** will be used to determine Other Competition spearfishing categories and based on one of each eligible species to be weighed-in per Competitor.
179. The highest points score for each day / heat in the Open Spearfishing Championship is awarded 100%, with all other points score in each Category being percentage benchmarked against that of the highest points score.
180. In the event of a tie, the position shall be decided by a count back system on the basis of species first and weight second.
181. A duplicate of the Competitor's score sheet, or viewing of the original score sheet, will be available to the Competitor 30 minutes after the conclusion of the weigh-in.

Eligible Species

182. The Host Club's score sheet may be used provided it does not contravene the "A-Section" Rules.
183. Fish that are protected under State or Federal Government regulations at the location of the Competition are ineligible.
184. When preparing the eligible scoresheet / species list ("B-Section" Rules) for the competition the Championship Director must refer to the Spearfishing Commissioner for advice and ensure that no fisheries or marine park limits or regulations are likely to be infringed.
185. The Championship Director and Host Club shall take into consideration the area, abundance and edibility of various fish in setting eligible species lists ("B-Section" Rules).
186. The "B-Section" Rules may designate that certain species should be gutted to maintain edibility quality.
187. The minimum fish weight will be 1 kilogram or as agreed by both the Spearfishing Commission and the Host Club running the Queensland Spearfishing Championships (and then given in the "B-Section" Rules).
188. **Ineligible species:** The following species shall be ineligible for weigh-ins at all events: sharks, rays and crustaceans; all molluscs and shellfish; squids, octopus, cuttlefish; pipefish, flutefish and trumpetfish; marine mammals; all toad fishes; protected species; catfish and frogfish; and any other fish ineligible under "B-Section" Rules.



SPEARFISHING COMMISSION RULES & BY-LAWS

including the "A-Section" Rules

Penalties

189. The Championship Director may penalise or disqualify any individual, Pair or Team who breaks either a safety or competition rule.
190. A 100-point penalty will apply in each instance any Competitor's fish presented for weighing is:
 - a An ineligible species;
 - b Under minimum weight; or
 - c In excess of the allowable number for that species.
191. Any Competitor, Pair or Team who infringes fisheries or marine park limits or regulations will be disqualified from all competitions.
192. Any Competitor or pair outside the competition area will be disqualified for that day.
193. Any Competitor, Pair or Team who starts before the start signal will be disqualified for that day.
194. There are two systems which can be used for any Competitor, Pair or Team who returns to the Start / Finish area after the finish signal:
 - a Competitors who have not reached the designated finish point by the conclusion of the competition will be disqualified (default).
 - b Competitors who reach the designated sign off point less than 5 minutes late are penalised 100 points. Those between 5 and 10 minutes late are penalised 200 points. Those who are later than 10 minutes are disqualified (alternative to be adopted and included in the "B-Section" Rules before competition).

Protests and Dispute Committee

195. All protests shall be dealt with by the Spearfishing Commission Dispute Committee. The Dispute Committee is chaired by the Spearfishing Commissioner or his delegate (e.g. Championship Director), and consists of a representative from each Club involved in the Competition. If the Competitor who protests is the only representative from his Club, then he is to nominate a substitute to represent his Club on the Protest Committee.
196. The Dispute Committee can also be used to rule on emergent problems or questions at a competition.
197. Protests prior to events being held shall be lodged with the Spearfishing Commissioner no later than one week prior to the commencement of competition.
198. Protests during or post Competition may be lodged by any Competitor or recognized official. Protests are to be lodged in writing as soon as possible after an issue is evident along with a protest fee of \$50.00 to the Championship Director and no later than one (1) hour from the time of posting of the official results for the protested event or heat.
199. Members of the Dispute Committee shall each have one vote.
200. Where necessary the Championship Director shall have the casting vote.
201. The Dispute Committee's decision will be final.
202. The protest fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld.

END OF THE "A-SECTION" RULES