



# **Australian Underwater Federation**

**COMPETITION RULES**

**FOR THE**

**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**A-SECTION RULES**



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## INTRODUCTION

*This updated version of Australian National Spearfishing Championships Rules is a reorganization of the previous editions into a more concise and logical layout.*

*These updated “A-Section Rules” (and associated Guidelines) have strong links to history. The AUF, its State bodies and clubs, have always actively promoted safe spearfishing and developed spearfishing competition rules, many of which remain today even if the wording is different. These rules have always been evolving and times will inevitably move on; and now, more than ever, there are serious health, safety, conservation issues to consider more carefully.*

*Having regard to ‘best practice’ in respect of risk management and safety, amendments have been necessary to shift the Australian National Spearfishing Championships from a purely individual format to a pairs format. The new changes align the Rules with current ‘best practice’ pairs competitions being held in places like Queensland, Western Australia and New Zealand, along with the Inter-Pacific Championships (the pre-eminent international event for Australian divers).*

*This document contains the actual competition rules (the “A-Section Rules”); a separate document contains guidelines and standard forms to further assist those organizing and running the championships.*

*The Rules have also been updated due to an evolving membership. The traditional role of clubs has changed and been somewhat diminished; in that there is a new generation of spearfishers who own their own boats, dive as and when they want to, learn spearfishing techniques from the internet and use social media to find diving buddies within the hour.*

*As such, the Rules and Guidelines also aim to pass on the institutional know-how of the past about the organization of the Australian National Spearfishing Championships; thus, ensuring efficient, enjoyable and safe running of an event.*

*Now that organized spearfishing competitions are far more inclusive of a wider constituency of spearfishers, it is hoped that the availability of these updated Rules and Guidelines will assist those doing the organizing and bring consistency to the planning of events, and thoroughness in carrying them out.*

*Arnold Piccoli*

AUF National Spearfishing Commissioner

## ORGANISATION AND OFFICIALS

1. The philosophy of these rules is to be simple, practical and easily understood and implemented by administrators and divers. Because there were gaps and problems, the rules have been redrafted to reduce duplication and to be aligned as much as possible with previously agreed versions. In addition, the AUF wants to ensure that the “A-Section Rules” recognize and encourage the interchange of our competitors with other nations (particularly Tahiti, New Caledonia and New Zealand) and that our rules in no way disadvantage or discriminate against them when they come to our shores.
2. The Australian National Spearfishing Championships will be an annual event.
3. The National Spearfishing Commissioner shall provide final authorization of the Host State body’s selected Competition Director to be responsible for the running of the Championship’s events. The Championship Director shall appoint a local committee and officials. Officials may also compete.
4. Host States or Territories must allow at least eight (8) days for the overall event to allow for rest days and adverse weather.
5. 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
6. These rules are for the Australian National Spearfishing Championships; the associated ‘Guidelines and Standard Forms’ document contains more detail regarding the practicalities of running the Championships, the Selection of the Australian National Team and other administrative matters  
(see [www.auf-spearfishing.com.au](http://www.auf-spearfishing.com.au)).
7. Rotation: -
  - a. The Australian National Spearfishing Championships are to be rotated as follows: Victoria; (Northern Territory); Queensland; (Tasmania); Western Australia; South Australia; New South Wales.
  - b. States and Territories shown in brackets are for future consideration.
  - c. Where a State or Territory cannot host their turn notification must be given by them to the National Spearfishing Commission at least 12 months prior; then the next in order of rotation will be offered the event until a host is found.

## **APPLICATION OF THESE RULES**

1. The Australian National Spearfishing Championships shall be run according to these A-Section Rules.
2. The A-Section Rules may be changed by agreement between the National Spearfishing Commissioner and all State Commissioners or by majority at a meeting of the Australian Underwater Federation Spearfishing Commission.
3. Rules changes are of immediate effect when decided.
4. The Australian Underwater Federation Spearfishing Commission may settle any matters not provided for in these rules.
5. The 'Guidelines and Standard Forms' document is intended as a 'best practice' guide, and may be altered by the Australian Underwater Federation Spearfishing Commission as considered appropriate.

## **COMPETITOR ELIGIBILITY AND VISITING / OVERSEAS COMPETITORS**

1. The Australian National Spearfishing Championships shall be open to any individuals from within Australia who are financial members of the AUF or international visitors who satisfy the Championship Director as to their ability to compete.
2. Competitors under the age of 15 (sub-junior) may only compete with the approval of the Championship Director who will first assess the standard and suitability of the other member of the pair.
3. Individuals and pairs from other countries may be permitted to compete provided they are affiliated to CMAS and make advanced application to the Championship Director and pay any relevant fees.
4. Individuals and pairs from other approved Australian Spearfishing organizations who are financial in that organization may compete at the discretion of the National Spearfishing Commissioner and State Commissioners provided the entrant pay appropriate full AUF membership and competition entry fees.
5. Host State Competition Committee have the right to protest the entry of any non AUF competitor they feel has acted unsafely or in a way that brings the sport, or the AUF, into disrepute. Such protest to be dealt with before day one of the event by the Dispute Committee.
6. All perpetual trophies won by overseas competitors shall not leave Australia however the winner's names will be recorded on them. They will also be entitled to any prizes offered for that category.

## **SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

1. 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.
  - ii) Whistle and signaling mirror of at least 50 mm x 50 mm;
  - iii) 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;
  - iv) Sheathed diver's knife on the Competitor's person;
  - v) Weight belt fitted with quick release buckle; and
  - vi) Cover to spear points.
- b. Other safety equipment such as use of smoke flares, emergency laser signaling devices, personal EPIRB, or electronic shark shields shall be permitted. The Competitor is responsible for the registration and deployment of the EPIRB if carried.
- c. Unless provided for in State legislation, a torch must not be used for spearfishing, but may be carried as a safety precaution.

## OTHER SPEARFISHING EQUIPMENT AND RULES

1. Competitors in the Australian National 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.
  - 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

1. In any Competition not conducted from shore, the Host Club shall arrange water transport for all Competitors.
2. 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.
3. Competition organisers are to brief boat drivers about the event safety requirements, risks, rules and emergency procedures.
4. 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 hivi fluorescent yellow/green is highly recommended.
5. 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).
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Competitors may only land their catch throughout the competition on boats moored in close proximity to the Start / Finish area.
9. While it is intended no boats associated with the competition, other than safety boats, may maneuver 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.
10. 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**

1. Behaviour of Competitors which brings the AUF 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).
2. 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).
3. Competitors may not assist or interfere with other pairs, nor may assistance be received from persons not competing in the competition.
4. Assisted ascents and descents are not permitted.
5. Any Competitor / observer not enlisted in the competition may not dive in the competition area during the competition.
6. Competitors are solely responsible for landing, bagging and labelling their own catch.
7. All Competitors are individually and solely responsible to ensure they are medically fit and capable of participating in any AUF Competition.
8. Every Competitor must be in attendance for all competition briefings with each Competitor verifying their attendance at either a roll-call or sign-on.
9. 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**

1. 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.
2. In all cases, the approval of the Championship Director must be obtained prior to that person resuming competition.

## THE CHAMPIONSHIP AREA

1. The National 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.
2. 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.
3. For land-based events the Start / Finish area will be a clearly designated marshalling area. Competitors must start and finish within the marshalling area.
4. Loaded spear guns are not allowed in the Start / Finish area at any time during the competition.
5. The Timekeeper will notify official time before the start of the event and notify finish time and then signal the start and finish.
6. 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')
7. 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').
8. 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.
9. The organiser will provide maps showing two preferred locations and two other locations designated as reserved for adverse conditions.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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

1. No cash prizes shall be awarded for any event unless agreed beforehand by the national and state chairpersons.
2. A competitor's age category will be determined by the age of the person on the first day of competition being actually held.
3. All trophies will remain in the possession of AUF at all times.
4. An individual medallion or similar memento will be given to those receiving awards.
5. Commencing in 2022 the Australian National Spearfishing Titles shall be swum in pairs with Titles and Trophies being awarded to categories within **True-Pairs Competitions, Nominated Pairs Competitions** and **Individual Competitions**.



## RULES FOR TRUE-PAIRS COMPETITIONS

1. At any time during the competition at least one member of the True-Pair will remain on the surface.
2. At all times during the competition, one member of the True-Pair will hold the long float line, the other member will hold the short line.
3. While both competitors are on the surface, the maximum distance between them both shall be 30 meters.
4. 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.
5. Scores shall be taken from the Open Spearfishing Championship.
6. Junior Competitors (aged between 15 to 17 years old) 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.
7. True-Pairs categories are as follows:

Category	Requirements
<u>Open Spearfishing Championship</u>	Any gender / Any State combination Gold / Silver / Bronze medals awarded to top three True-Pairs.
<u>Mixed Pairs</u>	A True-Pair consisting of a male and female / All ages / Any State combination
<u>Neptune's Apprentice</u>	A True-Pair consisting of an adult and Junior / Any gender / Any State combination
<u>State Team Championship</u>	Team Event   Top 3 same State pairs All ages / Any gender / Same State combination Nomination not required
<u>Top Team Championship</u>	Team Event   Top 2 Pairs All ages / Any gender / Any State combination Nomination Required
<u>Most Species</u>	'Most Species' title is awarded to the True-Pair with the most species caught across all Spearfishing Championships. In the case where more than one fish per species is weighed-in, then those fish shall count as only one for the purposes of this award.



## **OPEN SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP**

1. The Open Spearfishing Championship will normally be a two-day or three-day event (preferably three days).
2. Each day of competition will be between 4 to 6 hours duration.
3. For the competition to be valid, a minimum of four hours competition per day must be held on at least two days.
4. In the Open Spearfishing Championship, competitors shall swim in True-Pairs. No diver shall be allowed to swim as an individual.
5. All scoring and placing shall be on a True-Pairs basis using one of the following systems to be selected by the Championship Director;
  - a. One eligible species per True-Pair per day of competition; or
  - b. Two eligible species per True-Pair per day of competition; or
  - c. hybrid - one species per True-Pair per day of competition for sedentary and/or less prolific species; two eligible species per True-Pair per day of competition for more common and/or commercial species.
6. The competition will be a 'swim competition' with all competitors starting in a designated Start / Finish area.

## **MIXED PAIRS**

1. Points shall be taken from the Open Spearfishing Championship.
2. A male and female competitor must swim as a True-Pair.

## **NEPTUNE'S APPRENTICE**

1. Points shall be taken from the Open Spearfishing Championship.
2. The adult and Junior must swim as a True-Pair.

## **STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP**

1. Points shall be taken from the Open Spearfishing Championship.
2. This is a trophy with the aim of promoting inter-State competition in Australia.
3. True-Pairs competing for the State Team Event will comprise the top performing three True Pairs (six competitors) who are all bona fide members from the same State.
4. This differs from the Top Team Event in that the combinations of True-Pairs are not nominated before the competition but based on results.

## TOP TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Points shall be taken from the Open Spearfishing Championship.
2. Teams competing for the Top Team Event may be comprised of any two True-Pairs; competitors may be from different States or have no State affiliation.
3. Teams must be nominated before start of the competition and may not change during the competition.
4. In the event of one member of a True-Pair withdrawing through illness or otherwise after the start of the competition, then the remaining competitor must withdraw or, with the approval of the Championship Director may participate with an observer.

## RULES FOR INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

1. In all individual competitions (except the Fin Swimming), the competitor must swim in a pair or accompanied by a safety observer.
2. In the Sub-Juniors championship event for competitors aged 11 to 14 the observer may not 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.
3. For Sub-Juniors aged 10 years and under the observer may assist the competitor in any way except for firing the speargun.
4. Individual Competition categories are as follows:

Category	Requirement
Sub-Junior	Competitor aged 14 and under Must swim in a True Pair with an adult observer
Fin Swimming	Self-propulsion in water of a competitor equipped with fin(s) (no use of arms for propulsion)
Film Fishing	Must swim in a True Pair with at least one member of the pair an adult
Super Diver	Competitors must compete in the following three events; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Open Spearfishing Championship</li> <li>2. Film Fishing Championship</li> <li>3. Fin-Swimming Championship</li> </ol>
Most Meritorious Fish	As judged by the Championship Director from fish taken during either the Open or Sub-Junior Spearfishing Championships
Largest Fish	Heaviest fish weighed in during the championship



## **SUB-JUNIOR SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP**

1. Rules will be the same as for the open competition, with the following exceptions:
  - a. Competitors must be under the age of 15 at the time of the competition.
  - b. The Sub-Junior Spearfishing Championship shall be of four hours duration.
  - c. The Sub-Junior Spearfishing Championship shall be scored as an individual competition (but swum in a pair for safety with an adult observer).

## FILM FISHING

1. 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.
2. Competitors shall swim in pairs with a Compliant Float; either two competitors or one with an observer.
3. Competitors will use their own underwater digital camera.
4. Competitors under 16 years of age must swim with an adult.
5. Competitors are allowed to use the following equipment: Mask, snorkel, fins, weight belt, knife, torch, protective clothing and one underwater camera.
6. The competition shall be a maximum of four hours but at the discretion of the Championship Director.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. A score sheet of acceptable species will be published for the event and will be selected by the Competition Committee.
10. The score sheet is to be representative of the local species and selected to form a suitable score sheet for this competition.
11. Points for different species will reflect the relative difficulty of capturing the species on camera.
12. 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.
13. Berley shall not be used. During the duration of the competition, a competitor cannot have in his possession any marine life.
14. The Competition Committee will appoint three judges (a fish expert, a photography expert, AUF member, or others available and considered suitable).
15. 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.
16. Each photo is awarded additional points for FRAMING of the main subject of the picture as follows:
  - a. FAR DISTANT (just recognisable) 0.5 points
  - b. MID TO CLOSE RANGE (not centred in the frame) 1.0 point
  - c. MID TO CLOSE RANGE (well framed and centred) 1.5 points
17. At the end of competition, downloads or sim cards are to be with the Championship Director or appointee within the specified time if their photos are to be eligible for judging; this should be as soon as possible after competitors return to land.
18. The competitor with the highest number of points will be declared the winner.
19. In the event of a dead heat, the overall quality of the photographs will decide the winner.

## FIN SWIMMING

1. Fin-Swimming shall be defined as the self-propulsion in water of a competitor equipped with fin(s).
2. There are no restrictions on fin size or material.
3. The style of swimming shall be by fin(s) only (no use of arms for propulsion).
4. Optional equipment shall include: masks / goggles, snorkel, and neoprene exposure clothing.
5. The event shall be held over distances of between 200 and 500 metres and conducted in open water.
6. It shall be the responsibility of the Championship Director to ensure that the distances and markers are correctly set up and checked both prior to and at the conclusion of the events.
7. The start and finish points must be clearly obvious to competitors.

## SUPER DIVER

1. Competitors must compete in the following three events: -
  - a. True-Pairs - Open Spearfishing Championship;
  - b. Film Fishing Championship; and
  - c. Fin-Swimming Championship.
2. Scoring shall be on a numerical basis, and based on individuals placing in the event.
  - a. Example 1 - 3 competitors in Film-Fishing
    - (1) 1<sup>st</sup> – 3 points
    - (2) 2<sup>nd</sup> – 2 points
    - (3) 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1 point
  - b. Example 2 - 36 competitors in Fin Swimming
    - (1) 1<sup>st</sup> – 36 points
    - (2) 2<sup>nd</sup> – 35 points etc.
  - c. Example 3 – 18 True-Pairs in Open Spearfishing Championship (36 competitors)
    - (1) 1<sup>st</sup> True-Pair - 36 points – both divers in the top True-Pair get this score;
    - (2) 2<sup>nd</sup> True-Pair – 34 points – both divers in the second placing True-Pair get this score, and so on.
  - d. In the event of a draw the competitor with the highest placing in the True-Pairs - Open Spearfishing Championship will be determined to win the Super Diver event.

## RULES FOR NOMINATED PAIRS COMPETITIONS

1. In Nominated Pairs Competitions the pair does not have to swim together (such as in True-Pairs); rather any two competitors in a particular category (i.e. age / gender) can nominate prior to the commencement of the Open Spearfishing Championship.
2. Nominated Pairs categories are as follows:

Category	Requirements
Grand Master	For competitors aged 64 years and over
Master	For competitors aged 55 to 63 years
Veteran	For competitors aged 45 to 54 years old
Senior	For competitors aged 25-44
Intermediate	For competitors aged 18-24
Junior	For competitors aged 15-17
Women's	For female competitors aged 15 and over

3. Scores shall be taken from the Open Spearfishing Championship.
4. The competitors in a Nominated Pair age category can be from any gender / State.
5. Female competitors can nominate different pairs for both the Women's category and their age category.
6. As regards the scoring of Junior and Women's Nominated Pairs Competitions: competitors are allowed their own individual fish tally and each Competitor's individual scores are then added together.

*Example: where a female or junior competitor in a True-Pair hasn't shot the largest of a particular species they shouldn't be disadvantaged in their separate nominated pairs category and should be allowed to weigh that smaller fish of the same species towards their nominated pairs score.*

7. As regards all other Nominated Pairs categories 50% of each competitor's True-Pair score will be combined for their Nominated Pairs score.

## WEIGHING IN

1. The minimum fish weight will be 500 grams or as agreed by both the AUF Spearfishing Commission and the Host State body running the Championships (and then given in the B-Section Rules).
2. There will be only one Weighmaster per day of competition, a screening table and all fish checked for the minimum weight.
3. Fish will be checked on certified scales where possible or zero adjustable electronic scales.
4. It is highly recommended, where feasible, all fish weights recorded for scientific and eligibility purposes.
5. Generally, competitors will weigh-in as True-Pairs. For the purposes of calculating the Junior and Women's Nominated Pairs categories each competitor's individual catch will be scored separately and added together; as regards all other Nominated Pairs categories 50% of each competitor's True-Pair score will be combined for their Nominated Pairs score.
6. The screening table will be self-draining for the presenting of fish to the Weighmaster.
7. Each competitors / pair 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 competitors.
8. Each True-Pair / competitor shall 'Present' only eligible fish in size, weight, species and number as specified for that competition. Non-compliant fish will attract a penalty.

## SCORING AND ELIGIBLE SPECIES

1. Scoring shall be 100 points per eligible fish plus 10 points per kilogram for eligible fish with a maximum weight for each fish of 15kg.
2. When preparing the eligible scoresheet / species list (B-Section Rules) for the competition the Championship Director must refer to the National Spearfishing Commissioner for advice and ensure that no fisheries or marine park limits or regulations are likely to be infringed.
3. The Championship Director and Host State body shall take into consideration the area, abundance and edibility of various fish in setting eligible species lists (B-Section Rules).
4. The B-Section Rules may designate that some species should be gutted to maintain edibility quality.
5. 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;
  - c. Under minimum competition length; or
  - d. In excess of the allowable number for that species.
6. 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. Edible species of eels will be allowed if agreed by the majority of State/Territories.



## **PENALTIES**

1. The Championship Director may penalise or disqualify any individual, pair or team who breaks either a safety or competition rule. However:
  - a. Any competitor or pair outside the competition area will be disqualified for that day.
  - b. Any competitor, pair or team who starts before the start signal will be disqualified for that day.
  - c. Any competitor, pair or team who returns to the Start / Finish area after the finish signal will be disqualified for that day.
  - d. Any competitor, pair or team who infringes fisheries or marine park limits or regulations will be disqualified from all competitions.

## **PROTESTS AND DISPUTE COMMITTEE**

1. 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.
2. The Dispute Committee shall be comprised of the Championship Director and an appointed representative from each State.
3. Members of the Dispute Committee shall each have one vote.
4. Where necessary the Championship Director shall have the casting vote.
5. The Dispute Committee's decision will be final.
6. The protest fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld.

## **END OF THE A-SECTION RULES**