

*Scomberomorus commerson*



*Scarus ghobban*



*Chrysophrys auratus*



*Seriola lalandi*



*Aprion virescens Valenciennes*



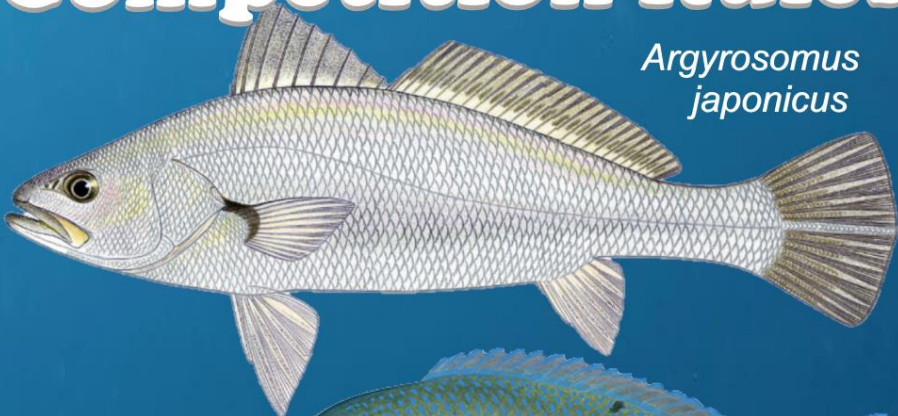
**Tweed Gold Coast**  
**Freedivers**

Est 1984

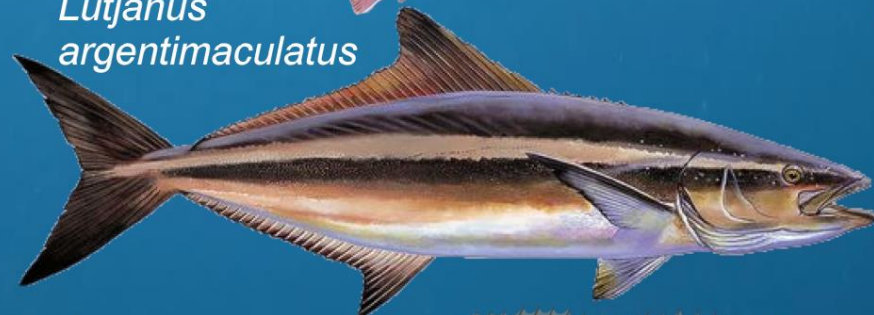
# **Spearfishing Competition Rules**



*Lutjanus argentimaculatus*



*Argyrosomus japonicus*



*Rachycentron canadum*



*Choerodon schoenleinii*



*Acanthocybium solandri*



## SPEARFISHING COMPETITION RULES

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## **TGCFD SPEARFISHING COMPETITION RULES**

### **1) ORGANISATION AND OFFICIALS**

- a) The Tweed Gold Coast Freedivers (TGCFD) is an active member of the Australian Underwater Federation (AUF) and the Australian Underwater Federation Queensland (AUFQ). TGCFD runs a yearly spearfishing schedule that provides Competitors and participants with a range of competitions in accordance with these rules.
- b) The philosophy of these rules is to be simple, practical and easily understood and implemented by administrators and divers.
- c) The rules have been redrafted to reduce duplication and to be aligned as much as possible with previously agreed versions; along with being informed by the following 'best practice' documentation which compliment these rules:
  - i) [AUF – Codes of Practice for Safe, Sustainable and Selective Spearfishing](#)
  - ii) [AUF – Competition Rules for the Australian National Spearfishing Championships – The “A-Section Rules”](#)
  - iii) [AUF – Australian National Spearfishing Championships – Guidelines and Standard Forms](#)
  - iv) [SPEARSAFE – Australian Spearfishing Safety Initiative](#)
- d) The Clubs competition year commences 1 July and ends 30 June each year. The competition year is broken up into 4 separate quarters. Please refer to the current competition schedule available on the members only Facebook page for specific dates and events.
- e) The officials and their suggested roles are:
  - i) Spearfishing Committee (the 'Committee') – oversees the promotion and running of the events, provides risk assessment, conducts safety briefings, manages any disputes, and tabulates scores;
  - ii) Sign On/Off Clerk and Timekeeper – verifies memberships, eligibility and Start / Finish; and
  - iii) Weighmaster and Scorekeeper - identifies, weighs Competitor's fish, records scores.
- f) The Committee shall consider if the dive conditions and marine/weather forecasts are suitable to run a safe scheduled event. Competitors will be advised via the members only Facebook page, email or text message in the days leading up to the event.
- g) Spearfishing events are normally 5 to 6 hours competition time in open boats. The Committee will confirm the Sign-off time at the event briefing. Where bar crossings are required the competition officially starts from a safe predetermined location after the bar crossing.
- h) The number of available boats and divers may also determine if an event will be held. TGCFD rely on members private boats for use during competitions. Numbers may be limited by the number of boats and spots available. It is the diver's responsibility to arrange their own boat ride. Please try the members only Facebook group first then contact a Committee member to assist in trying to arrange a boat ride prior to the competition day. It is recommended that divers also discuss fuel costs with their respective skippers.

### **2) APPLICATION OF THESE RULES**

- a) Competitions shall be run according to these Rules.
- b) The Rules may be changed by agreement by the Committee.
- c) Rules changes are of immediate effect when decided.
- d) The Committee may settle any matters not provided for in these rules.



- e) The 'best practice' documentation compliments these rules and may be considered by the Committee as appropriate.

### 3) ELIGIBILITY, SIGN-ON, SIGN-OFF and BRIEFING

- a) Competitions are open to financial members of the TGCFD; all competitions must be conducted by a member of the Spearfishing Committee.
- b) If a competition has been opened to all spearfishers for any purpose all Competitors must be financial members of the AUF.
- c) All Competitors must:
- i) Sign and acknowledge the current **Disclaimer Form**.
  - ii) If under the age of 18 must have the approval of their parents / guardians and Committee;
  - iii) Sign-on before the event starts and pay the nominated fees;
  - iv) For competitions held in NSW waters possess a current NSW Fishing Licence;
  - v) Load all their gear into the boat prior to the briefing, unless a safety gear inspection has been announced;
  - vi) Ask the skipper to brief them on all the safety equipment, EPIRB, First Aid kit and buoyancy vests located on the vessel;
  - vii) Sign-off at the end of each competition.
- d) **Sign-on** is normally 6:30am AEST (Queensland Time) the Committee will confirm via social media, email or text. Official start times may change due to location of events.
- e) A pre-dive briefing will be conducted by a member of the Committee and announcements concerning the competition shall be made.
- f) Boat launch times are generally between 7:00 to 7:30 AEST (Queensland Time).
- g) **Sign-off** / return time is generally around 13:00 to 14:00 for open boat competitions at the designated boat ramp (confirmed at briefing). All competitors on any boat returning early must still sign-off with the Sign On/Off Clerk via text message or message on the closed Facebook page.

### 4) SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- a) Competitors for spearfishing must have the following **Essential Safety Equipment** at all times during the competition:
- i) Each Competitor or pair must use a **Compliant Float**. A Compliant Float:
    - (1) May be either a float or a plat;
    - (2) Must be a minimum size of 7 litres;
    - (3) 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;
    - (4) Must be coloured principally either Red, Yellow or Orange;
    - (5) 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.
    - (6) If comprising a float, must be self-righting;
  - 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.
- d) Equipment/apparel not listed above may not be used without prior approval from the Committee.

## 5) OTHER SPEARFISHING EQUIPMENT AND RULES

- a) Competitors in Competitions must also comply with the following equipment rules:
  - i) Each member of a pair may carry a speargun.
  - ii) 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.
  - iii) 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.
  - iv) Flashers, flasher rigs or other fish attraction devices may be used.
  - v) Competitors may not enter any fish which:
    - (1) were already dead at time of capture;
    - (2) have already been trapped or caught by any method other than spearfishing such as fish speared whilst in traps, nets or on lines; or
    - (3) have been interfered with in a manner that is not permitted as a spearfishing technique.
  - vi) No breathing aid other than a snorkel shall be permitted. Mask, Snorkel, Fins, Knife, Weight belt, and protective clothing may be used.
  - vii) Competitors must be immersed in the water at the time of spearing of any fish.
  - viii) 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.
  - ix) It is recommended that Competitors carry sufficient water, food, and any necessary medications with them throughout the day.
  - x) Speargun safety:
    - (1) Competitors shall not load their guns out of water;
    - (2) No spare spearguns or shafts may be carried hanging vertically in the water from floats;
    - (3) Competitors shall not carry loaded spearguns on floats;
    - (4) No loaded spearguns are permitted on boats;
    - (5) Competitors must not point a loaded speargun towards another Competitor;
    - (6) Competitors must handle spearguns with extreme care on boats to avoid injury or damage from spear tips;
    - (7) Speargun spear tips, when not in use, shall be sheathed in an adequate manner.



## 6) BOATS

- a) All safety boats must have a radio or other effective means of communications fitted which is capable of contacting emergency groups through the other dive boats or shore base.
- b) Whenever a dive boat has divers in the water – whether 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 2m above the water surface. This flag size may be varied where State / Territory maritime regulations allow. A second flag of similar size flown immediately below Code Flag Alpha in hi-vis fluorescent yellow/green is highly recommended.
- c) First aid kit and materials to prevent blood loss are to be readily accessible (see ‘Guidelines and Standard Forms’ for other safety boat requirements).
- d) 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 divers float until the diver or pairs location is known.
- e) In ‘Swim-Off’ Competitions a safety boat shall operate within the competition area.

## 7) COMPETITOR BEHAVIOUR

- a) Behavior of Competitors which brings the AUF into disrepute shall initially be reviewed by the Committee. The Committee will have the power to determine an appropriate penalty (including disqualification for a heat or the entire competition).
- a) Competitors should familiarize themselves with the [AUF – Codes of Practice for Safe, Sustainable and Selective Spearfishing](#) which can also be located on the AUF website.
- b) 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).
- c) Competitors are solely responsible for landing, bagging and labelling their own catch.
- d) All Competitors are individually and solely responsible to ensure they are medically fit and capable of participating in the Championships.
- e) Every Competitor must be in attendance for all competition briefings with each Competitor verifying their attendance at either a roll-call or sign-in.
- f) All Competitors must remain within 30 meters of a Compliant Float when on the surface of the water.

## 8) PROTOCOL FOR RETURN TO DIVING FOLLOWING A BLACKOUT EVENT

- a) Any Competitor who suffers a 'Shallow Water Blackout', samba or other serious injury during a competition must satisfy the following requirements before returning to competitions:
  - i) Immediately leave the water and commence a stand down period out of the water of a minimum of 24 hours.
  - ii) Seek and obtain professional medical attention as soon as possible and obtain a signed statement from a physician confirming it is safe for the Competitor to compete.
  - iii) Satisfy the Committee that the above requirements have been met.
- b) Any witnesses to the incident and first aiders will accompany the diver to provide any required information to medical professionals.
- c) In all cases, the approval of the Committee must be obtained prior to that person resuming competition.

## 9) COMPETITION LOCATIONS

- a) The Spearfishing committee is responsible and has the authority for determining if a spearfishing competition will be run prior to the scheduled competition date. Competitions may be cancelled, deferred or have a change of location or event type based on anticipated marine forecasts, dive conditions, availability of boats and numbers of divers attending.
- b) Dive Calendar is formatted to Queensland Time and 24hr clock;
- c) Tide times are approximate according to the Bureau of Meteorology tide predictions;
- d) Sign on time is generally 6:30 Queensland time (Spearfishing committee will advise Divers if it is changed);
- e) Choice of Locations is generally Tweed Heads, Moreton or Evans Head but other areas may be notified by the Committee.
- f) If no boats are available for a scheduled competition the event will be held as a Shore Dive event from Kingscliff or another suitable location. Conditions must be suitable and safety issues addressed before the Spearfishing Committee will approve the change.
- g) **Tweed Heads Based Competition:** The competition vessels will be departing from the Fingal boat ramp located near 109 Fingal Rd, Fingal, NSW. The Sign On/Off, briefings and weigh are at the same location.



- h) **Moreton Bay Based Competition:** The competition vessels will depart from Thurecht Parade boat ramp (Near Redcliffe Coast Guard), Scarborough, Queensland. The Sign On/Off, briefings and weigh are at the same location.



- i) **Evans Head Based Competition:** The competition vessels will depart from the Ocean Drive boat ramp. Proceed along Elm St, after crossing Evans River proceed along Ocean Drive and take the first left. The Sign On/Off, briefings and weigh are at the same location.



## 10) RULES FOR PAIRS DIVING and COMPETITION FORMATS

- a) After years of trialing both pairs and individual formats in 2022 the Open Spearfishing Championship moved to a Pairs only format.
- b) Pairs format involves divers work together as a team. They assist each other with equipment management, locating, hunting and capturing eligible fish species as well as keeping sharks away.
- c) Assisted ascents and descents are not permitted.
- d) At any time during the competition at least one member of the Pair will remain on the surface – **'one up one down'**.
- e) While Competitors are on the surface, the maximum distance from a Compliant Float shall be 30 meters.
- f) A Competitor in a Pair may assist the other Competitor in the pair to land a fish. However, one Competitor must always remain on the surface.
- g) In the event of an odd number of divers in the water a team of three divers will be allowed instead of two – a team of three divers must dive **'two up one down'**. Nobody is ever allowed to dive alone!
- h) Competitors aged 15 and under are not permitted to dive together and must dive with an adult.
- i) Competitors will submit their own individual catch to be weighed for scoring.
- j) A minimum of four (4) competitors (ie 2 pairs) is necessary to hold a competition.
- k) At the discretion of the committee Pairs Competitions will either be run as:
  - (1) Traditional Pairs or True Pairs; and
  - (2) Open Boat Event or Swim-off Event.

## 11) Traditional Pairs Format

- a) Two divers of similar capability team up and nominate to compete together as a Traditional Pair.
- b) **Each diver has their own Compliant Float**, rigline and other Essential Safety Equipment.
- c) There is a maximum length of 30m on rig-lines, which may be made from bungee or part bungee.
- d) Both divers must practice **'one up-one down'**. This means:
  - i) watching your buddy dive down, and return safely to the surface.
  - ii) make eye contact after a dive - a blackout can occur up to 15 seconds after ascent so maintain direct supervision for at least 30 seconds after a diver has surfaced.





- iii) if you are diving with someone not as adept as you are, stay within their comfortable limits, not yours.
- iv) Whilst the spearing diver is submerged the surface diver must always do his best to stay above the submerged diver and be aware of their position at all times.
- v) Both divers are not allowed to be submerged below the surface at the same time. Penalty is disqualification.
- vi) The diver on the surface must not dive or endanger the submerged diver in any way.
- vii) The pair ought to work in depths and conditions where, either one could rescue the other in an emergency situation.
- viii) Dive well within your limits. Don't push yourself. Never risk your life or that of another for the sake of a fish.
- ix) In the event of an odd number of divers in the water a team of three divers will be allowed instead of two – a team of three divers must dive **'two up one down'**. Nobody is ever allowed to dive alone!

## 12) True Pairs Format

- a) Two divers of similar capability team up and nominate to compete together as a True Pair.
- b) True Pairs are to use the same Essential Safety Equipment as for Traditional Pairs Format (Compliant Float | Whistle and signaling mirror | Orange plastic safety sheet | Sheathed diver's knife | Weight belt fitted with quick release buckle | cover to spear points); but **each diver in a True Pair shares a Compliant Float.**
- c) The divers may have one gun each and spare guns unloaded and stored horizontally on a Compliant Float.
- d) The True-Pair tows one Compliant Float with the following set up:
  - i) two rig-lines are attached to the float; one is 4 metres long and the other is a maximum of 30 metres long;
  - ii) Either rig-line may be bungee or part bungee;
  - iii) One diver attaches the long line to his gun or person and is allowed to dive and spearfish;
  - iv) The other diver holds onto the short line, remains on the surface and tows the float;
  - v) Divers alternate between the short and long rig lines between dives;
  - vi) Both divers must always remain within 30 metres of the float whilst on the surface.
  - vii) In True pair format participants can use, if preferred, a single maximum length 30m float-line that passes freely through a sliding ring setup, having each diver's gun attached on each end.
- e) The two divers can swap duties of spearing or towing to suit themselves.

## 13) Open Boat Events

- a) The majority of Competitions are Open Boat Events. Most of our competition locations are subject to strong currents generally not suitable for Swim-Off Events. Boats are used to access dive locations. Drift diving is used mostly due to constant strong currents and boats are required to follow, pickup and transport divers.
- b) Boats are not allowed to have a single diver in the water and a boatie. Divers are only allowed to dive in Pairs or a trio.
- c) Boats following closely to divers must make sure that they are following the reduced speed limit within 30m of an alpha dive flag.
- d) It is the responsibility of all divers on a boat that regardless of pairings that no diver should be diving alone. So, in the event of 3 divers in the water with a boatie divers must dive **'two up one down'**. No diver must dive alone!



- e) The boatie should immediately be directing or assisting any divers splitting up to get back together.
- f) Open Boat Events are generally held using a Traditional Pairs Format.

**14) Swim-Off Events**

- a) Boats meet at a suitable predesignated competition area (for example Kingscliff Reef / Palm Beach Reef). All competitors will assemble in a pre-designated 'Start / Finish' area prior to the commencement of the event. Loaded spear guns are not allowed in the Start / Finish area at any time during the competition.
- b) For off-shore competitions run from boats the Start / Finish area will be a triangular area designated by three floats or boats as indicated by a Committee member. No other boats will be allowed in this triangle.
- c) For land-based events the Start / Finish area will be a clearly designated marshalling area. Competitors must start and finish within the marshalling area.
- d) Swim-off Events are generally held using a True-Pairs Format. The *AUF Guidelines and Standard Forms* document contains further particulars for swim-off events.

**15) SPEARFISHING COMPETITION CATEGORIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

- a) A Competitor’s age category will be determined by the age of the person on the first day of the competition year (1<sup>st</sup> July).
- b) All trophies will remain in the possession of TGCFD at all times.
- c) An individual medallion or similar memento may be given to those receiving awards.
- d) All Tweed Gold Coast Freedivers spearfishing championships and competitions shall be swum in pairs with Titles and Trophies being awarded in the following categories:

OPEN SPEARFISHING COMPETITION CATEGORY	REQUIREMENTS [Entry Fee: \$10.00 per person per competition]
<b>Club Champion Pair &amp; Runners-Up</b>	Awarded to the Club Champion Pair – two divers who have paired up during the Open Spearfishing Championship. Any division / Any gender / Any age combination.
<b>“A” Grade Division &amp; Runner-Up</b>	“A” Grade diver with the highest “A” Grade personal total combined percentage points over four quarters of the Open Spearfishing Championship.
<b>“B” Grade Division &amp; Runner-Up</b>	“B” Grade diver with the highest “B” Grade personal total combined percentage points over four quarters of the Open Spearfishing Championship. Additional species allowed as per the scoresheet.
<b>Women’s Division</b>	Female diver in either division with the highest personal total combined percentage points over four quarters of the Open Spearfishing Championship.
<b>Junior’s Division</b>	For competitors aged under 18. Junior diver with the highest personal total combined percentage points over four quarters of the Open Spearfishing Championship. Additional species allowed as per the scoresheet.
<b>Master’s Division</b>	For competitors in either division aged 45 or older. Diver with the highest personal total combined percentage points over four quarters of the Open Spearfishing Championship.
<b>Pelagic Competition &amp; Runner-Up</b>	Pelagic species only as per the scoresheet. Diver in either division with the highest total combined points over four quarters of the Open Spearfishing Championship.
<b>Team Competition</b>	Team Event. Four divers nominate to compete as a Team throughout the year. Any grade / Any gender / Any age combination



OTHER CATEGORIES	REQUIREMENTS
<b>Biggest Fish Competition</b>	These are ongoing competitions where competitors dive in their own time and submit their catches to the Spearfishing Committee. Participants are still required to dive in pairs and follow the AUF's Code of Practice (COP) including carrying the minimum safety equipment requirements.
<b>Fish of the Month</b>	
<b>Most Meritorious Fish</b>	Awarded annually in Open, Female and Junior Categories; decided by the Spearfishing Committee
<b>Novelty Pelagic Competition</b>	In the event there have been four rounds of the Open Spearfishing Championship conducted in any given quarter a Novelty Pelagic Competition may be held. The competition is to capture either a nominated pelagic fish (eg Spanish Mackerel) or any eligible pelagic fish on the club scoresheet
<b>Lights Out Award</b>	Annual award decided by the Spearfishing Committee for a club member responsible for an escapade that was not ' <i>bright</i> '.

### 16) Open Spearfishing Championship

- a) In the Open Spearfishing Championship all competitors shall swim in Pairs Format. No diver shall be allowed to swim as an individual.
- b) Prior to each competition day two divers of similar capability team up and nominate to compete together as a Pair.
- c) The Open Spearfishing Championship will be conducted for the duration of the competition year (which commences 1 July each year).
- d) The competition year is broken up into 4 separate quarters.
- e) There will be a maximum of 4 competitions per quarter.
- f) For the Open Spearfishing Championship to be valid, a minimum two competitions must be held during the year for a duration of at least four hours.
- g) Competitors must nominate to compete in either "A" Grade or "B" Grade:
  - i) It is recommended that new divers who have limited spearfishing experience start in the "B" Grade Division for at least their first year of competition.
  - ii) If a "B" Grade Competitor wishes to compete in the "A" Grade Division, they must change divisions on their first competition for the year and will be required to remain in "A" Grade Division for the duration of the year.
  - iii) If a "B" Grade competitor wins his division for the year he will automatically be upgraded to "A" Grade Division for the following years competition.
  - iv) A Competitors nominated grade carries over to the next competition year. However, if a competitor doesn't appear to be in the correct grade they can be moved at the discretion of the Committee prior to the first competition for the year, having regard to Annexure B.
  - v) Should an "A" Grade Competitor wish to be relegated to "B" Grade Division they must formally make a request and provide a reason to the Committee at least 7 days before the start of the first Competition. The Committee will assess the request and provide a response prior to the start of the first Competition.
  - vi) For clarity, a "B" Grade diver cannot win "A" Grade Division.



### 17) Club Championship Pair

- a) Based on **Pairs Points** taken from the Open Spearfishing Championship.
- b) The Club Champion Pair is the Pair who accumulates the highest total combined percentage over the four quarters.
- c) Divers may nominate and compete in multiple Pairs during the competition year.
- d) In the case of an odd number of divers on a boat wishing to compete three divers can nominate to dive together.

*Example: 3 divers on a boat; two in the water diving as a pair and one taking their turn as boatie.*

- e) In the case of three divers nominating the various pairs combinations will be recorded for the purposes of the Open Spearfishing Championship.

*Example: Three divers nominate. The Pairs combinations arising from this will be recorded as:*

*Diver 1 and Diver 2*

*Diver 1 and Diver 3*

*Diver 2 and Diver 3*

- f) Additional "B" Grade and Junior Species are not eligible when calculating points for the Club Championship Pair.

### 18) "A" Grade Division

- a) Based on **Personal Points** taken from the Open Spearfishing Championship.
- b) "A" Grade diver with the highest "A" Grade combined percentage points over four quarters of Pairs competition.
- c) For clarity, a "B" Grade diver cannot win "A" Grade Division.

### 19) "B" Grade Division

- a) Based on **Personal Points** taken from the Open Spearfishing Championship.
- b) "B" Grade diver with the highest "B" Grade combined percentage points over four quarters of Pairs competition.
- c) Additional species are allowed for "B" Grade Division as per the Scoresheet.

### 20) Junior's Division

- a) Based on **Personal Points** taken from the Open Spearfishing Championship.
- b) Competitors in either "A" Grade or "B" Grade who are aged under 18 years before the start of the competition year are automatically entered into the Junior's Division for the year.
- c) Junior diver with the highest personal total combined percentage points over four quarters of the Open Spearfishing Championship.
- d) Additional species are allowed for Junior's Division as per the Scoresheet. Furthermore, Juniors are not required to meet the minimum weights on the scoresheet and are allowed to weight in fish from the scoresheet as long as they meet legal requirements for length.

### 21) Women's Division

- a) Based on **Personal Points** taken from the Open Spearfishing Championship.
- b) Female competitors in either "A" Grade or "B" Grade are automatically entered into the Women's Division for the year.





- c) Additional “B” Grade and Junior Species are not eligible when calculating Personal Points for the Women’s Division.
- d) Female diver with the highest combined percentage points over four quarters of the Open Spearfishing Championship.
- e) At least two female divers must participate in competitions during the competition year for the Women’s Division to be valid.

## 22) Master’s Division

- a) Based on **Personal Points** taken from the Open Spearfishing Championship.
- b) Competitors in either “A” Grade or “B” Grade who are aged over 45 years before the start of the competition year are automatically entered into the Master’s Division for the year.
- c) Additional “B” Grade and Junior Species are not eligible when calculating Personal Points for the Master’s Division.
- d) Diver with the highest combined percentage points over four quarters of the Open Spearfishing Championship.

## 23) Team Championship

- a) Based on **Team Points** taken from the Open Spearfishing Championship.
- b) Teams consisting of four divers can be nominated at the start of the season or during the competition year.
- c) To encourage more experienced divers to team up with less experienced divers when calculating Team Points each competitor’s Personal Points from their respective division will be used (i.e. “A” Grade, “B” Grade or Junior).
- d) Members of a nominated Team need not compete in the same Pair(s).
- e) Once a four-diver team is nominated no further changes of personnel can be made, meaning:
  - i) Any single diver can only be part of one team and cannot be part of consecutive teams;
  - ii) If a team has a member or members that cannot attend a comp there are no changes or substitutes of team members; however, those present may still contribute to Team Points; and
  - iii) If any member of a team decides to quit, that member cannot join other teams or a new team until the following season.

## 24) Pelagic Competition

- a) Based on **Pelagic Points** taken from the Open Spearfishing Championship.
- b) Pelagic Species not recorded on the Club’s Scoresheet will be considered at the Weighmasters discretion on the day of competition.
- c) Unless otherwise specified on the Club’s Scoresheet a Minimum Weight requirement of 1.0kg will apply to all pelagic species being sought for inclusion.
- d) While no pelagic fish taken outside of the Open Spearfishing Championship are eligible for inclusion in the pelagic competition they may be eligible for inclusion in the Biggest Fish Competition.

## 25) OTHER COMPETITIONS

- a) **Biggest Fish Competition**
  - i) Any current financial club member can nominate their biggest fish for the year (1 July to 30 June of the following year) in the following categories:
    - (1) Blue-Barred Parrotfish;
    - (2) Cobia;



- (3) Mangrove Jack;
  - (4) Jew Fish;
  - (5) Snapper;
  - (6) Yellowtail Kingfish;
  - (7) Spanish Mackerel;
  - (8) Blackspot Tuskfish;
  - (9) Green Jobfish; and
  - (10)Wahoo
- ii) Nominations must be received by the Spearfishing Committee at least one month prior to the Annual Club Presentation date or other date as notified by the Spearfishing Committee via email; whichever date is earlier.
  - iii) Participants are still required to dive in pairs and follow the AUF's Code of Practice (COP) including carrying the minimum safety equipment requirements.

### **Fish of the Month**

- iv) Fish of the Month is a bit of fun, merit-based award decided by the Spearfishing committee.
- v) Any current financial club member can nominate any other current financial club member (including themselves).
- vi) A club member can only win Fish of the Month once in the club comp calendar year (1 July to 30 June of the following year).
- vii) Nominations close 14 days following the end of the month you are nominating for.
- viii) Nominations can be submitted via Facebook on the financial members group page, email or messenger to a spearfishing committee member.
- ix) If a current Spearfishing committee member is up for nomination, they are excluded from the vote.
- x) Australian or International waters are welcome.
- xi) Submissions must be a clear photo of you and the fish. If the fish has not been properly weighed on scales it can still be submitted for consideration.
- xii) Participants are still required to dive in pairs and follow the AUF's Code of Practice (COP) including carrying the minimum safety equipment requirements.

### **b) Novelty Pelagic Competition**

- i) In the event there have been four rounds of the Open Spearfishing Championship conducted in any given quarter the Spearfishing Committee may schedule a Novelty Pelagic Competition.
- ii) The competition is to capture either a nominated pelagic fish (eg Spanish Mackerel) or any eligible pelagic fish on the club scoresheet (based on season and member feedback):
  - (1) The heaviest fish wins first place prize the day and second heaviest wins second place;
  - (2) Entry fee for a Novelty Pelagic Competition is \$20.00;
  - (3) 1<sup>st</sup> place wins 50% of entry fees collected; and
  - (4) 2<sup>nd</sup> place wins 25% of entry fees collected
- iii) If no eligible fish are presented at the weigh-in the cash prizes will be awarded via a random draw of divers who registered in the competition on the day. If no second place is awarded the cash prize will be awarded via a random draw of divers who registered in the competition on the day.

## 26) SCORING THE OPEN SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP

- a) The highest points score for each Category 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 (*with the exception of the Pelagic Competition – see below*).
- b) Each competition held during a quarter enables competitors in each Category to attain the highest points score and therefore be awarded a score of 100% in that Category.
- c) At the end of each quarter the highest recorded percentage in any one competition held during the quarter is recorded for each Category as the best result for that quarter; as such it is possible for multiple competitors / pairs to record the highest percentage of 100% in any one quarter in a particular Category.
- d) In the event of more than one competitor / pair achieving the maximum possible percentage (for example 400% for the year where there have been competitions in all four quarters) the first-place position in any particular Category will be awarded to the competitor / pair who achieved the overall highest percentage points from all competitions that competitor / pair participated in during the year.
- e) **Personal Points** calculation:
  - i) Each diver will weigh-in their own individual catch based on the following scoring system:
    - (1) Only one of each listed species to be weighed-in per competitor, with the exception of Merit Fish;
    - (2) 100 points per species;
    - (3) 10 points per kilogram of weight; with a maximum weight of any one fish of 15 kg;
    - (4) 50 bonus points for each species of Merit Fish (highlighted by # in the scoresheet); and
    - (5) A maximum of 2 Merit Fish of any one species

*Example: A competitor weighs in two Spanish Mackerel (Merit Fish) weighing 10 kilograms and 20 kilograms respectively*

Species points =	<u>100</u>
Weight points = 100 + 150 =	<u>250</u>
Merit points for species = 50 =	<u>50</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b><u>400 pts</u></b>
  - ii) Additional “B” Grade and Junior species as per the scoresheet are only relevant when calculating the scores for the “B” Grade Division and Junior Division respectively; and are ineligible when calculating the scores for most other divisions in the Open Spearfishing Championship, with the exception of Team Points.
- f) **Pairs Points** calculation:
  - i) Each Pair’s points score will be the sum of each diver’s Personal Points.
  - ii) Additional “B” Grade and Junior Species are not eligible when calculating Pairs Points.
- g) **Team Points** calculation:
  - i) Each Team’s points will be the sum of the Personal Points of each competitor in the team.
  - ii) Each competitor’s Personal Points from their respective division will be used, for example:
    - (1) “A” Grade Score is used if they are in “A” Grade Division;
    - (2) “B” Grade Score is used if they are in “B” Grade Division; and
    - (3) Junior Score is used if they are in Junior’s Division.
- h) **Pelagic Points** calculation:
  - i) The Pelagic Competition is primarily structured around the number of Pelagic Fish Species taken during the competition year.
  - ii) Only one fish of each Pelagic Fish Species will be taken into account at any time during the competition year.



- iii) The weight of any species can be upgraded at any scheduled competition date after the initial fish species has been weighed; the weight of any previous capture is disregarded.
- iv) Points to be awarded as follows:
  - (1) 100 Points for each species of Pelagic Fish captured;
  - (2) 10 Points per kilogram for each Pelagic Fish species captured; there is no 15kg cap on maximum weight.

Example:

*Comp 1 – competitor captures a 10kg Spanish Mackerel and receives 100 species points and 100 points for weight: total score after Comp 1 = 200*

*Comp 2 – competitor captures a 35kg Spanish Mackerel – has already received 100 species points for Comp 1 capture; disregarding 100 points for the previous capture's weight; plus 350 points for upgraded weight: total score after Comp 2 = 450*

- v) The winning Competitor will be the diver who accumulates the highest total points during the competition year.

## **27) FISH ELIGIBILITY, FISH MANAGEMENT and WEIGH-IN**

- a) At the end of the Competition the weigh-in will commence at a location near the boat ramp / meeting point (to be disclosed at the pre-dive briefing).
- b) 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.
- c) There will be only one Weighmaster per day of competition and all fish checked for their minimum weight.
- d) Fish will be checked on certified scales where possible or zero adjustable electronic scales.
- e) It is highly recommended, where feasible, all fish weights recorded for scientific and eligibility purposes.
- f) Each Competitor will be responsible for sorting their catch prior to presenting it to the Weighmaster. Once presented they may not be interfered with again by the Competitor.
- g) 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.
- h) The club's eligible fish species scoresheet is to be used as the standard for competition for the duration of the year.
- i) Any "other" fish species not recorded on the club's 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.
- j) Unless otherwise specified on the club's scoresheet the minimum weight requirement of 1.0kg will apply to any other pelagic species not recorded on the scoresheet that are being sought for inclusion on the diver's scoresheet.
- k) Unless otherwise specified on the club's scoresheet the minimum weight requirement of 0.5kg will apply for non-pelagic fish species that are being sought for inclusion on the diver's scoresheet.
- l) A Competitor may weigh only one fish from each eligible species and a maximum of two merit fish of any one merit species.
- m) Competitors are responsible for their own catch and must ensure they have the capacity and facilities to keep and transport their catch.





- n) All fish taken during the competition are for human consumption and competitors found treating fish inappropriately (e.g. dumping fish) will be disqualified.
- o) Any diver found to be discarding whole fish in any manner, shall be subject to disciplinary action with no exception.
- p) Where the authorities specify a minimum length for a species, the minimum weight specified for that species on the scoresheet shall reflect a reasonable margin above that size.
- q) Competitors may land their catch throughout the competition on their boat.

## 28) ELIGIBLE SPECIES AND PENALTIES

- a) A 100 point penalty may apply in each instance any Competitor's fish presented for weighing is:
  - i) An ineligible species; or
  - ii) Under minimum weight.
- b) The following species shall be ineligible for weigh-in at all events:

All Batfish, All catfish, Cod: Estuary, Barramundi, Black, Potato, Wirrah, Eastern Blue Devilfish, All Eels, All Flutemouth, All Garfish and Longtoms, groper (Queensland and Blue), Maori Wrasse, Paddletail, All Rays, All Sharks, Red Bass, Chinaman Fish, All Surgeon\*, Sergeant Baker, All Silver Drummer, All Sweetlips\*, Teatfish, Trumpetfish, All unicorns except Grey, All Spinefoot, All Angelfish, Remora, Mac Tuna, Crayfish, Squid.

*\* except as allowed on the Scoresheet for "B" Grade and Junior's Divisions*
- c) The Committee may penalize or disqualify any individual, pair or team who breaks either a safety or competition rule. However:
  - i) Any Competitor, pair or team who starts before the start signal will be disqualified for that day.
  - ii) Any Competitor, pair or team who returns to the Start / Finish area after the finish signal:
    - (1) between 10 and 15 minutes late are penalized 100 points;
    - (2) between 15 and 20 minutes late are penalized 200 points; or
    - (3) later than 20 minutes will be disqualified for that day.
  - iii) In any of the following circumstances a Competitor / Pair will not be penalized:
    - (1) The Competitor's boat breaking down;
    - (2) The Competitor assisting with towing or otherwise helping a broken-down boat; or
    - (3) The Competitor assisting another boat or person requiring emergency assistance. However, if a Competitor renders assistance to boats or persons outside the Competition, the assisting crew will have to verify such assistance was necessary and was the sole cause of their being late.
  - iv) Any Competitor, Pair or Team who infringes fisheries or marine park limits or regulations will be disqualified for that day and may face further disciplinary action.

## 29) PROTESTS AND DISPUTE COMMITTEE

- a) Any Competitor may lodge a protest at any event. A protest must be lodged in writing, signed by the presenter, countersigned by another member, and accompanied by a fee of \$50.00, which may be refunded at the discretion of the protest committee or in the event the protest is upheld.
- b) All protests must be lodged with a Committee member within one hour of the posting of provisional results.
- c) Should a Committee member receive a protest which cannot be amicably resolved, a protest committee will consider the matter.



- d) The protest committee shall consist of the Weighmaster and two members of the Committee.
- e) The protest committee shall use its discretion in issuing a penalty if disqualification is not desirable.
- f) Complaints where Competitors feel they have been discriminated against, harassed, bullied or there has been any other serious alleged breach of TGCFD policies the Complaints Handling Procedure Policy will be followed.
- g) All appeals will follow the Complaints Handling Procedure policy.

**END OF THE TGCFD SPEARFISHING RULES**



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**ANNEXURE A: SPEARFISHING COMPETITION OFFICIAL SCORESHEET**

SPECIES	Min wt	SPECIES	Min wt
Amberjack *	4.00	Mahi-Mahi # *	2.00
Amberjack – Highfin *	1.00	Morwong - Blue #	0.75
Boarfish	1.00	Mullet – Sea	0.75
Bonito – Australian *	0.50	Mulloway # *	4.00
Bonito – Leaping *	0.50	Parrot – Blue Barred #	1.00
Bream	0.50	Parrot - Ember/Meadow #	1.00
Cobia # *	4.00	Parrot - Long Nose #	1.00
Cod - Black Spotted	1.00	Parrot - Steephead #	1.00
Cod - Coral #	1.00	Parrot - Other #	1.00
Cod - Flowery	1.00	Perch - Moses #	0.75
Cod - Maori #	1.00	Perch - Onespot #	0.75
Cod - Peacock #	1.00	Perch - Pearl #	0.75
Cod - Purple #	1.00	Perch - Stripey #	0.75
Cod - Red Rock	0.50	Perch - Other	0.75
Dart *	0.50	Rainbow Runner *	1.00
Drummer - Black	1.00	Sailfish # *	10.00
Emperor - Grass #	1.00	Sampson Fish # *	4.00
Emperor - Red #	4.00	Snapper #	0.75
Emperor - Red Throat #	1.00	Tailor # *	0.75
Emperor - Spangled #	1.50	Tarwhine	0.50
Emperor - Other #	0.75	Teraglin #	0.50
Flathead - Dusky	0.75	Trevally - Big Eye *	0.75
Flathead - Other	0.75	Trevally - Blue Fin *	0.75
Fox Fish #	0.75	Trevally – Silver *	0.75
Fusilier - Red Belly *	0.50	Trevally – Golden *	1.00
Fusilier – Southern *	0.50	Trevally – Giant *	1.00
Goatfish – Black spot	0.50	Trevally – Other *	1.00
Goatfish - Gold Lined	0.50	Trout - Common #	1.00
Goatfish – Other	0.50	Trout - Coronation #	1.00
Jobfish - Green # *	1.00	Trout - Other #	1.00
Jobfish - Other # *	1.00	Tuskfish – Barred #	1.00
Kingfish Yellow Tail *	4.00	Tuskfish – Blackspot #	1.00
Leatherjacket - Deepbody	0.50	Tuskfish – Venus #	1.00
Leatherjacket - Yellowfin	0.50	Unicorn – Ringtail	1.00
Leatherjacket - Unicorn	0.50	Wahoo *	4.00
Leatherjacket - Other	0.50	Whiting	30cm
Luderick	0.50	Wrasse - Black	1.00
Mackerel Grey # *	2.00	Wrasse - Gold Spot #	1.00
Mackerel School *	1.00	Unlisted	1.00
Mackerel Shark *	2.00	Unlisted	1.00
Mackerel Spanish # *	4.00	B / JNR – Red Morwong 30 cm	1.00
Mackerel Spotted # *	2.00	B / JNR – Surgeon - Grey Sawtail	1.00
Mangrove Jack # *	1.00	B/ JNR – Sweetlips Netted 25 cm	1.00
Marlin # *	10.00	JNR – Sweetlips Other 25 cm	1.00

**Notes:** Standard Australian Underwater Federation scoring system is used, namely 100 points per species, 10 points per kilogram of weight; and max weight of any one fish of 15 kg. Only one of each listed species to be weighed-in per competitor, with the exception of Merit Fish.

Unlisted any species not listed will be decided by the Weighmaster for both eligibility and merit consideration

# indicates **Merit Fish**, 2 merit fish allowed; bonus 50 points per merit species

\* indicates fish is eligible for the **Pelagic Spearfishing Competition**

B indicates fish can only be weighed-in by **“B” Grade** divers.

JNR indicates fish can only be weighed-in by **Junior divers** (under 18) | Juniors are not required to meet the minimum weights on the scoresheet and are allowed to weigh-in fish from the scoresheet as long as they meet legal requirements for length.

**WEIGHMASTERS PLEASE NOTE:** (1) All fish presented for weighing must be recorded even if they are under the minimum competition weight or otherwise ineligible. (2) The 15kg limit on weight does not apply to Pelagic Spearfishing Competition so weighmaster to take full weight of all fish. (3) If there is a chance of a fish being misidentified clear photos should be taken and alternative identification sought from the TGCFD Records Officer who can also ask for advice from the Queensland Records Officer.

**Ineligible Species:** All Barracuda; All Batfish; All Catfish; Cod (Goldspot Estuary, Barramundi, Black, Potato, Wirrah, Eastern Blue Devilfish); All Eels; All Flutemouth; All Garfish and Longtoms; Groper (Queensland and Blue); Maori Wrasse; Paddletail; All Rays; All Sharks; Red Bass; Chinaman Fish; All Surgeon\*; Sergent Baker; All Silver Drummer; All Sweetlips\*; Teatfish; Trumpetfish; All unicorns (except Ringtail); All Spinefoot; All Angelfish; Remora; Mac Tuna; Crayfish; and Squid. \* *except as allowed on the Scoresheet for “B” Grade and Junior Divisions*



**ANNEXURE A: “A” GRADE OR “B” GRADE? | DIVER CHECKLIST**

The following checklist can be used by divers considering whether to nominate for “A” Grade or “B” Grade in club competitions.

For divers new to the club and competition spearfishing it is generally recommended they nominate for “B” Grade.

It can also be used by the Spearfishing Committee when determining whether a diver is in the correct grade (see Rule 16).

If you are uncertain about your answer choose ‘No’.

Name:

Date:

Criteria	Yes (score 1)	No (score 0)
Has the diver demonstrated past ability to capture ‘A’ Grade species within scheduled club spearfishing competitions (i.e. species beyond “B” Grade species such as saw-tail surgeon and morwong)?		
Does the diver generally possess past spearfishing competition experience of two years or more?		
Has the diver competed at past State, National and/or International spearfishing competitions?		
Has the diver demonstrated ability to accurately ‘stone’ or ‘bone’ their catch on a regular basis (i.e. gut shots not prevalent at weigh-ins)?		
Can the diver effectively hunt with reasonable bottom time in a depth of 15 metres?		
Has the diver demonstrated ability capturing ‘Big 10’ species in or out of club competitions (e.g. Blue-Barred Parrotfish; Cobia; Mangrove Jack; Jew Fish; Snapper; Yellowtail Kingfish; Spanish Mackerel; Blackspot Tuskfish; Green Jobfish; and Wahoo)?		
<b>Total score</b>		

Scoring:

A score of 3 or less = “B” Grade

A score of 4 or more = “A” Grade