



Sign-On / Sign -Off / Briefing

A pre-dive briefing will be conducted by a member of the Committee and announcements concerning the competition shall be made. Competitors at the sign-on should have their **Essential Safety Equipment** available for inspection. 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.

All Competitors must:

- Sign and acknowledge the current **Disclaimer Form** the terms of which can be reviewed here: <https://tweedgoldcoastfreedivers.com.au/disclaimer>
- If under the age of 18 must have the approval of their parents / guardians and Committee;
- Sign-on before the event starts and pay the nominated fees;
- For competitions held in NSW waters possess a current NSW Fishing Licence;
- Load all their gear into the boat prior to the briefing, unless a safety gear inspection has been announced;
- Ask the skipper to brief them on all the safety equipment, EPIRB, First Aid kit and buoyancy vests located on the vessel;
- Sign-off at the end of each competition.

Full rules can be reviewed on the club website.

The **Open Spearfishing Championship** is conducted as a Pairs only format. Pairs Competitions will either be run as:

- (1) Traditional Pairs or True Pairs; and
- (2) Open Boat Event or Swim-off Event.

The **Notice of Competition** prior to any comp will have details of the event format.

Traditional Pairs

- Two divers of similar capability team up and nominate to compete together as a Traditional Pair.
- **Each diver has their own Compliant Float**, rigline and other Essential Safety Equipment.
- There is a maximum length of 30m on rig-lines.
- Both divers must practice **'one up-one down'**.
- 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!**

True Pairs

- Two divers of similar capability team up and nominate to compete together as a True Pair.
- True Pairs are to use the same Essential Safety Equipment as for Traditional Pairs Format but **each diver in a True Pair shares a Compliant Float**.
- The True-Pair tows one Compliant Float with the following set up:
 - two rig-lines are attached to the float; one is 4 metres long and the other is a maximum of 30 metres long;
 - One diver attaches the long line to his gun or person and is allowed to dive and spearfish;
 - The other diver holds onto the short line, remains on the surface and tows the float;
 - Divers alternate between the short and long rig lines between dives;
 - Both divers must always remain within 30 metres of the float whilst on the surface.
- 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.
- The two divers can swap duties of spearing or towing to suit themselves.

Essential Safety Equipment:

Competitors for spearfishing must have the following **Essential Safety Equipment** at all times during the competition:

Compliant Float i.e. minimum size of 7 litres; coloured Red, Yellow or Orange; fitted with an International "Code Flag Alpha"; self-righting, **Whistle and signaling mirror* | Orange plastic safety sheet* | Sheathed diver's knife**
Weight belt fitted with quick release buckle | Cover to spear points [* available at sign-on – whistle and mirror \$5.00 each]

OPEN SPEARFISHING COMPETITION

CATEGORY	REQUIREMENTS
Club Champion Pair*	Awarded to the Club Champion Pair – two divers who have paired up during the Open Spearfishing Championship. Any division / Any gender / Any age combination.
"A" Grade Division	Competitors must nominate to compete in either "A" Grade or "B" Grade for the year. "A" Grade diver with the highest personal total combined percentage points over four quarters.
"B" Grade Division & Runner-Up	"B" Grade diver with the highest personal total combined percentage points over four quarters. Additional species allowed as per the scoresheet.
Women's Division*	Female diver in either division with the highest personal total combined percentage points.
Junior's Division	For competitors aged under 18. Additional species allowed as per the scoresheet.
Master's Division*	For competitors in either division aged 45 or older.
Pelagic Competition	Pelagic species only as per the scoresheet. Diver in either division with the highest total combined points over four quarters of Pairs competition.
Team Competition	Four divers nominate to compete as a Team throughout the year. Any grade / Any gender / Any age combination 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). Members of a nominated Team need not dive together or compete in the same Pair(s).

* *Please note: additional "B" Grade and Junior Species are not eligible when calculating these categories*