Confédération Mondiale des Activités Subaquatiques
World Underwater Federation

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

CMAS GENERAL RULES
World Championships

VERSION 2018/1
General Rules of Underwater Photo Championships / BOD 203. June 2018
1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1. These General Rules, specifically relating to Sea Underwater photography, complete and specify the procedures and obligations applicable to all CMAS World Championships.

1.2. The championships will take place in a single event spread over a period of 4 days, divided as follows:

1.2.1. One day for practice

1.2.2. Two days of competition

1.2.3. One day for judging

1.3. **Host Federation**

1.3.1. The right to organize the championship will be granted to the Hosting Federation only after receipt, by CMAS, of the correctly completed application form required, (Appendix 1 of specific procedures and obligations applicable to all CMAS World Championships including all its enclosures (1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and appendix 1.4 specific to sea underwater photography). This form has to be returned to CMAS HQ at least two years before the year of the competition for a world championship.

1.3.2. The CMAS Board of Directors will choose the hosting country if possible before the date of the preceding World Championships in order to be announced officially during those championships.

1.3.3. The publication of the event in the CMAS Website calendar confirms receipt of the duly signed contract (Appendix 5 of specific procedures and obligations applicable to all CMAS World Championships) including its appendix specific to sea underwater photography signed by the President of the Hosting Federation. This signature and registration fee payment is the guarantee that the Hosting Federation fulfils all its obligations.

1.4. **Specific Rules**

The Host Federation will have to send CMAS the Specific Rules for the competition no later than 12 months before the starting date of the competition. These rules will have to list in detail all announcements and important information concerning the championship, as required by the General Rules and by the contract. The Specific Rules of the championship can only be published after the control of the Director of the Visual Commission and the approval of the BOD.

2. **PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY**

2.1. All member Federations affiliated to CMAS with or without vote and from any committee affiliated) can propose a team. They have to return no later than 8 months before the competition the entry form for the championship (Enclosure A) to CMAS with a copy to the organizing Federation.

2.2. Each Federation or Association can propose maximum a total team of 5 persons including 2 photographers, 2 assistants and one captain. The names of participants should be finalized at the latest 3 months before the competition and enclosure A should be resend to CMAS with copy to the organizing federation if some names were added or modified compare to previous sending.

2.3. The registration fee for participating federations should be sent to CMAS by sending Appendix 6 of specific procedures and obligations applicable to all CMAS World Championships in the delay defined on it.

2.4. Personal entry forms (Enclosure B), have to be received by CMAS at the latest 3 months before the date of the competition with a copy sent to the hosting Federation.

2.5. Photographers and assistants should be at least 16 years old at the date of the beginning of the championship. They must have mandatory the nationality of the country.

2.6. All photographers and assistants must have a CMAS ** (2 star) diver certification as a minimum and must be in good health (enclosure B). Competitors must prove their health condition with a written (in English, French or Spanish) and signed doctor’s report.

2.7. The CMAS Technical Delegate will check certificates and documents, on the practice day before the competition. Competitors must present;

- Photo ID that shows the photo, name, age and the nationality of the competitor (passport, drivers license etc.)
- Divers Insurance

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• An up to date medical certification (written in English, French or Spanish) obtained from a doctor which indicates that there is no health obstacle for the competitor to dive.
• Enclosure B

2.8. All those who do not comply with this article 2 will not be allowed to compete.
2.9. It is obligatory to use SCUBA equipment, divers without scuba (i.e. free divers etc.) will not be allowed to enter the Championship.
2.10. If one competitor, for unexpected circumstances, can not participate to the competition, the National Federation or Association may replace him by sending to CMAS and the Hosting Federation Enclosure A duly signed by the federation president, indicating his agreement on the above change. This must be received not later than 10 days before the competition.

3. PHOTO JURY

3.1. Role
To establish the placing of all photographers.

3.2. Composition
The Jury is composed of 7 (seven) members. One President and six members.

3.3. The Jury will be appointed by the Visual Commission from the Grand Jury List that is generated by the Visual Commission and approved by BOD at least 6 months before the competition date. The Grand Jury list will be announced on the Specific Rules site of the competition. Jury members do not necessarily need to belong to a CMAS member federation, but they will have to be qualified and recognized in the field of digital underwater photography.

3.4. Presence
The Photo Jury President should be present during the whole championship, however only the Technical Delegate can rule to whatever alteration in rules and/or remote judging system.

3.5. Preliminary Selection Committee
3.5.1. The President of the Jury, The Technical Delegate and The Director of Visual Commission will form the Preliminary Selection Committee.
3.5.2. This committee will check amongst the submitted photos (by the competitors) if they belong to the correct category, if the competitor abided the rules of the competition (i.e. did not manipulate the underwater environment, did not destroy the flora/fauna etc.).

3.6. If in case of finding a situation, the Preliminary Selection Committee will contact and send a text message to the team captain (or the competitor if there is no team captain) of the photograph in question. (if a photo is submitted in a wrong category than that photo will be disqualified but the team captain will only be informed).

3.7. The team captain must attend to a closed session with the Preliminary Selection Committee in 30 minutes. If he does not attend, the photo or the competitor will be disqualified according to the seriousness of the mistakes.

3.8. In the closed meeting with the Committee the photo in question will be discussed by the captain (or the photographer) and the decision about the photo/photographer will be done in private and the decision is FINA.

3.9. Keeping anonymity
3.9.1. The members of the jury are not allowed to be in contact in anyway with the National Teams, until their work is done.
3.9.2. If there are contacts, the National Team will be disqualified.
3.9.3. The Jury Members will not be held responsible for the votes they have given, and Competitors cannot contact the jury, technical delegate or CMAS representatives after the event about the subject. Contacting may result in disqualification from the finished event or a ban from the future CMAS events.
3.9.4. The Jury members have to sign a paper that they accept the General Rules, the Specific Rules and a Confidentiality agreement with CMAS.

3.10. Functioning,
3.10.1. After the preliminary session the photos will be placed in a presentation to be send via internet to the judges of the competition. The judging will be made online remotely, only the President of the Jury will be on site to vote.
3.10.2. In the presentation the photo numbers/sequence/code will be changed in each category to keep the anonymity of the photographer.
3.10.3. The Voting will be done in this order; Fish Category, Macro Category, Theme Category, Wide Angle Category, Wide Angle with a Model Category.

3.10.4. The votes of the jury will be collected by the Technical Delegate and the highest and the lowest points are eliminated and the sum of the remaining votes will form the point of the Photo. Jury is free to vote between 0 and 100 (included) points. After the collection of the votes the rankings will be reviled from the highest points to the lowest one. If in case of an equal points situation in the top 16 ranking, the Judges will be contacted again only for those pictures that has the same points (in case all the judges are not reachable, the received votes will be enough to calculate the ranking). Re-voting will identify which photo will have a higher standing than the other. If in case, mentioned photos still have the same points the President of the Jury’s decision is final.

3.10.5. After the voting the names of the photographers will be added.

3.10.6. The top 15 of each category will be rated according to the following system;
25 Points 1 ranking, 20 Points 2 ranking, 16 Points 3 ranking, 13 Points 4 ranking, 11 Points 5 ranking, 10 Points 6 ranking, 9 Points 7 ranking, 8 Points 8 ranking, 07 Points 9 ranking, 6 Points 10 ranking, 5 Points 11 ranking, 4 Points 12 ranking, 3 Points 13 ranking, 2 Points 14 ranking, 1 Points 15 ranking, 0 Points for ranking 16 to the end.

3.10.7. Those votes will be for ranking from 1 to 15, independently of votes from concurrent no.16.

3.10.8. Rank 1, Rank 2 and Rank 3 of each category will be awarded (1st Place Gold Medal, 2nd Place Silver Medal, 3rd Place Bronze Medal) with a medal

3.10.9. Winner of each five categories will be named as the “World Champion in (Fish or Theme, or Close Up, or Wide Angle, or Wide Angle with a Model) category” the corresponding category i.e. World Champion in Fish Category etc.

3.10.10. Points gathered at individual categories (starting from 1st to 15th ranking) will be added for each competitor. The collected points of the competitors from the same Nation will also be combined to tell the grand points of that Nation.

3.10.11. The Nation with the highest combined points (if the combined points are equal on the top three than the Preliminary Selection Committee’s decision will be Final) will be awarded with the “Unofficial Championship Trophy”. This trophy will be given by the hosting federation. However, this standing or trophy will not be included in CMAS official results.

3.10.12. The shape and dimensions of this trophy will be approved by Visual Commission at least two months before the competition.

4. CMAS Technical Delegate

4.1. Role
Organize and run the “Technical Meeting”, control the hosting federation’s handling the Championship, be in charge of the registration, card formatting, photo delivery and jury presentations, examine complaints put forward and deliberate on them no later than one hour following receipt.

4.2. Appointment
CMAS Technical Delegate is appointed by CMAS BOD under proposal of the Visual Commission.

4.3. Working Procedure of Complaints
A complaint can be put forward if and only if;
4.3.1. It is lodged by the team captain (or by the photographer if the team has no captain),
4.3.2. It is written in French, English or Spanish,
4.3.3. It is made within 15 min. after the announcement of the results and accompanied by a deposit of 100 € (one hundred Euros) which will be returned immediately if the complaint is declared valid or if the claim is withdrawn within 45 minutes following the the announcement of the claim.

4.4. Appeal
There is no appeal against the decisions taken by the CMAS Technical Delegate, except for new events.

4.5. The decision will have to be communicated in writing to the complainant immediately after the end of the meeting.

5. TECHNICAL MEETING
5.1. A meeting should be organized the evening before the practice day, this meeting should include the following participants:

5.1.1. The head of the Hosting Organization Committee,
5.1.2. Persons in charge appointed by the Hosting Federation (diving, boats, doctors.),
5.1.3. CMAS Technical Delegate,
5.1.4. The Director of the CMAS Visual Commission,
5.1.5. Team captains and competitors,
5.1.6. The President of the Jury.

5.2. Purpose of the meeting

5.2.1. Allocate, by draw, a number to each photographer in order to use throughout the competition. The draw will have to be held under the direction of the CMAS Technical Delegate and the Director of CMAS Visual Commission.

5.2.2. The distribution of the teams on the boats and allocation by draw of the rotation of the boats on dive sites. The draw will have to be held under the direction of the CMAS Technical Delegate and the Director of CMAS Visual Commission.

5.2.3. Announce all the information concerning;

5.2.3.1. Technical matters.
5.2.3.2. Time schedules and means of transport.
5.2.3.3. Safety measures.
5.2.3.4. The organization of the dives and handling of the photos.
5.2.3.5. The different photo categories to be judged.
5.2.3.6. The details of Preliminary Selection process and the Jury System.
5.2.3.7. Guide-lines for protocol, medal ceremony.

6. ORGANISATION OF DIVING COMPETITIONS

6.1. Each national team will be allocated to boats equipped with all the equipment and safety material specified in the relevant laws of the host national country. Boats must remain at the dive site whilst any competitor is in the water. Boats will only be filled around ¾ of full capacity in order to accommodate the competitors comfortably.

6.2. Any changes to the schedules will be approved by the CMAS Technical Delegate and displayed daily to competitors on dedicated notice board.

6.3. The maximum time of possible diving at each dive site is 90 minutes. At the end of the prescribed time, the team must be back on the boat with safety stops completed. 2 dives should be planned per day for the 2 competition days.

6.4. Each photographer and assistant will be given at least 2 cylinders per competition day.

6.5. The hosting federation will announce 4 diving sites + 2 alternative dive sites (bad weather alternative) for the competition in the specific rules. All competitors should dive in same 4 diving places chosen in the draw.

6.6. If the first or the second day of the competition can not begin because of bad weather conditions than the photos taken during the other session will be valid. Also any competition that has begun but has been interrupted, because of unexpected circumstances, can be considered valid only under decision of CMAS Technical Delegate.

6.7. Only the CMAS Technical Delegate is entitled to decide the interruption of the competition.

6.8. To avoid any contention during the competition, the team captain (if one exists) will not dive during the two or more days of the competition, his function being to assist his team on the surface.

6.9. Photographers without an assistant will not dive in pairs. Two photographers can not be buddies to each other. If a photographer needs a buddy the local federation must supply the buddy for this competitor at its cost.

6.10. In case of any unexpected circumstances (for example the assistant being unable to dive) confirmed by the official doctor, the captain can play the role of assistant for a photographer. Article 6.9 will apply if it is not the case.

6.11. Teams and their entourage are not allowed to bring Mobile Phones, Tablets, External Hard Drives or Computers to the dive centre or to the competition boats. Finding a device is subject to immediate disqualification.
7. **SPECIFIC RULE**

7.1. It includes the competition schedule and participation costs for photographers, assistants, captains and any possible accompanying staff (lodging, board, dives, local transports) as well as any possible extra charges (for instance additional night).

7.2. It defines the ambient conditions associated with this competition (e.g.: average temperature of the water, visibility, etc.) and the 6 diving sites described at Article 6.5.

7.3. It details the name, address, telephone / fax and e-mail of the contact person, for any request of information.

7.4. It establishes the digital cards to be brought by the candidates according to the camera to be used.

7.5. It details the 5 categories for the individual classification.

7.5.1. Fish (Fish photo only involving nice attitudes of these creatures) (ex: turtles, octopus, starfish, mammal etc. are not accepted) Details of a fish are permitted if it is possible to define the fish onto its species/name and its biotope.

7.5.2. Photo with a theme as main subject (Each championship will have a subject or theme which is representative of the location of the competition. The theme/subject will change for each championship and will be defined by the Visual Commission).

7.5.3. Close-up photo without a theme (Macro or close-up photo of all subjects except the theme of the championship as the main subject. Details of a fish or of the theme are not accepted.

7.5.4. Wide angle without diver (a wide angle photo without any diver showing the beauty of the natural underwater environment including fauna and flora. The theme can not be used in this category as the main subject.

7.5.5. Wide angle with diver (a wide angle photo including diver who is the assistant). The theme can not be used in this category as the main subject. A free diver can not be used in this category. (see article 2.9.)

8. **PHOTOS**

8.1. The competition will be done with digital cameras. Cameras with radio interfaces like WLAN or Bluetooth are allowed in the competition however, their WLAN and Bluetooth function must be turned off at all times. It is not permitted to use multiple cameras underwater. Further cameras can be taken along with on the boat. The memory card can be inserted into other cameras only in front of Staff of Organizing Committee.

8.2. The min. resolution of the images are:

- 3000 x 2000 pix at a picture size of 3:2
- 2800 x 2100 pix at a picture size of 4:3
- 3100 x 1750 pix at a picture size of 16:9

8.3. The images have to be saved in best quality with least compression.

8.4. Only original images without any manipulation outside the camera are allowed in the competition.

8.5. All submitted images must be in the .JPEG-File format The competitor is allowed to record the images in .RAW format for his/her own archival purposes. However, if the photographer is cropping the .JPEG images it is mandatory for him/her to shoot .RAW images as well because all the .RAW images of the cropped .JPEG’s must be submitted.

8.6. The maximum number of photos that can be shot during a competition day will be announced (not less than 250 photos per day) by the Technical Delegate at the Technical Meeting.

8.7. It is forbidden to erase photos. Erasing a photo is punished by excluding the photos of that dive from the competition.

8.8. Photographers can use any type of memory card, he/she likes to use. The hosting federation has to use card readers for all kinds of possible memory cards. However, if the Federation does not have the required card reader for a specific card than the competitor must provide the needed card reader.

8.9. Even if it is possible to use more than a single memory card in a camera, it is not allowed to use more than one card. Hence one of the card slots has to be empty.

8.10. Every competition day the CMAS Technical Delegate has to control;
8.10.1. The formatting of the marked memory cards in the participant’s camera
8.10.2. The closing of the underwater housing with a seal.

The Capitan or a controller of the boat is responsible of the cameras. If in case of an immediate opening of the housing one of the above must be present during the cleaning and drying. The Capitan or the controller will report the situation to the Technical Delegate.

8.11. Submission to the competition. Under the supervision of CMAS Technical Delegate;
8.11.1. In the end of the competition day the underwater housing is to be opened under control of the CMAS Technical Delegate. The storages has to be given to the Host Federation’s operator who has to copy all the .JPEG images (and original .RAW images of the cropped photos – if the competitor can not identify the cropped image than all the .RAW images can be downloaded) from the memory card to an external storage (e.g. computer, notebook, external hard disc etc.) The folder of the copied images will be renamed with the number of the participant.

8.11.2. The photographer gets back his memory card, to search for the images he likes to submit to the competition. At the agreed time while submitting the image, he/she has to declare the image number to the Host Federation’s operator.
8.11.3. The Host Federation’s operator opens the submitted images on the computer, the photographer confirms the selection. (Rotation and flip of the images is accepted).
8.11.4. For ranking or voting the jury uses only these images. This makes sure, that the images are not manipulated after submission.

8.12. Manipulation of images
8.12.1. All digital manipulations “in camera” including multiple exposure, double exposure, active D lighting, sharpness, saturation, colour balance (whatever the camera software allows) etc. will be allowed before and after the shot is taken but when the competitor is still under the water.
8.12.2. However, cropping will be limited to %20 of the area. The competitor must declare at the time of submission that the image was cropped and must present and declare the source photo/photos. Photographer must deliver and load to jury computer the .RAW version of the cropped photos at the time of image (card) transfer every day.
8.12.3. A competitor can not use the same foreground in more than one image (multiple exposure, double exposure or regular photos). If the jury realizes the use of the same foreground or background of the same competitor, the image in the following category will be disqualified. If the fact was not discovered during the voting the votes will be erased after the final results are announced.

8.13. Additional usage of digital images
8.13.1. After the choice of images by the participant, all other images have to be deleted on the external storage of the Hosting Federation. Both the Technical Delegate and the Director of Visual Commission will keep all the photos (also those deleted by Hosting Federation) and the votes of the competition for archival purposes.
8.13.2. Photos, submitted to the Photo Jury will be property of CMAS and will be used freely without payment but under the name of the photographer for promotional activities of CMAS or affiliated associations or National Federations.

9. DISQUALIFICATIONS
9.1. The following are absolutely forbidden throughout the championship and will result in disqualifications;
9.1.1. Any unfair action.
9.1.2. Any action contrary to the rules.
9.1.3. Any form of deterioration or pollution of the environment.
9.1.4. Submitting of cards or images exposed by other participants or jury members.
9.1.5. Submitting of cards or images not exposed while diving during the official competition time.
9.1.7. Using dead creatures or moving live animals.
9.1.8. Using photography of other photos or slides.
9.1.9. using an underwater scooter or anything similar.

9.2. Infringements provided for in § 9.1 will have to be judged by the CMAS Technical Delegate.

9.3. Some of the reasons for Images of that dive will be disqualified;
   9.3.1. If the competitor issues a cropped image without declaring and naming the source photos at the time of submission.
   9.3.2. If the competitor does not complete the dive and reach the boat in 90 min.
   9.3.3. If the competitor does a decompression dive.
   9.3.4. If the competitor dives under 30 meters.
   9.3.5. If the competitor loses decompression dive more than 10 minutes.
   9.3.6. If underwater life is manipulated without destroying the fauna/flora.

9.4. Some of the reasons for the competitor will be disqualified;
   9.4.1. The environment is harmed in any way,
   9.4.2. Bringing a Mobile Phone, Tablet or Computer to the dive centre and to the boat,
   9.4.3. If unfair and improper action against others is proved etc.

9.5. If a person is disqualified (photographer, assistant) he/she cannot be replaced by another person.

10. SAFETY MEASURES
   10.1. The entry form submitted and signed by each participant ensures that all team members have no physical impediments to diving and that they are familiar with the procedures and regulations governing scuba diving.
   10.2. Competitors are responsible for their own safety during the competition events and must observe and act when necessary the safety norms for underwater scuba-diving. Their very participation in the World Championships is a pledge of their familiarity with safety rules and procedures. All photographers and assistants are obliged to wear a stab jacket and use a regulator with pressure gauge and should have an alternative air source (such as an octopus, regulator on jacket or pony bottle). The photographer in addition must dive with a diving sausage. All assistants should be suitably qualified in order that the buddy team of photographer and assistant will comply with the CMAS diving rules.
   10.3. All participants must have a dive computer.
   10.4. The Hosting Federation will have to guarantee necessary assistance to provide proficient management of the competition and will have to provide the necessary information on emergency aid and any competent local emergency services.
   10.5. As a minimum requirement the organizers will provide a high speed emergency boat with radio telephone or walkie-talkie and oxygen supplies aboard will be available at the competition locations and will be used exclusively for this purpose.
   10.6. A doctor specialized in diving will be present at the competition site.
   10.7. Each competition boat will have on board; a spare dive tank, an emergency first aid kit and a working condition oxygen tank for safety reasons.

11. RESPONSIBILITIES
    Photographers will be responsible for equipment they are given during the Championship as well as for their personal equipment and accessories allowed in the competition.

12. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT
    12.1. Competitors and/or assistants should not touch or move any creatures underwater. They have to avoid any manipulation or destruction of the fauna and flora throughout the competition including the practice day.
    12.2. Photographers and assistants may be controlled/observed during the practice day and the competition days.
    12.3. In the case of destruction of the fauna or flora by a competitor and/or an assistant, where the destruction is duly confirmed by the CMAS Technical Delegate the competitor and/or the assistant will be excluded from the competition.

13. PHOTO AND VIDEO REPORTERS
13.1. Photographing and filming photographers during the competition is only allowed with the authorization of the organizing federation.

13.2. Competitors may wish to refuse to be photographed or filmed, they will have to submit enclosure C to hosting federation before the draw is held (article 5). If the enclosure is not submitted, it will be considered that the team has no objection to being photographed or filmed at any time.

13.3. The enclosure (C) will have to be distributed by the Hosting Federation to all participating teams before the meeting mentioned in article 5.

14. FINAL PLACING

14.1. For each championship, the CMAS Visual Commission may establish the categories on which the judgment will be done; the maximum number of categories will not exceed 5.

14.2. The first three photographers and their buddies with the highest score in all the categories will be awarded with the gold, silver and bronze medal.

14.3. Besides medals the Organizing Federation will honour the Country with the most points with a "Unofficial Championship Trophy" as described in 3.10.10, 3.10.11, 3.10.12

14.4. There is no appeal against the decisions taken by the Photo Jury.

14.5. Competitors are obliged to attend the Prize Award Ceremony. Competitors who fail to attend the ceremony will no longer be entitled to their prizes.

14.6. Competitors should bring their national flag and their national anthem in digital format for the ceremonies.

14.7. Besides medals and the “Unofficial Championship Trophy” the organizing Federation can honour other people, buddies and team captains in the placing with different cups and awards (i.e. first 3 for the 2 combined wide angle categories, for the 2 combined close-up categories, etc.) but these prizes should be;

14.7.1. approved at least two months before the championship by the Director of CMAS Visual Commission.

14.7.2. these prices cannot be given to the winners during the official medal ceremony which is strictly limited to the medal awards.

14.7.3. these prices will not be included in CMAS official results.

14.8. The Hosting Federation must give each competitor a certificate of participation to the CMAS World Championship.