1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. These General Rules, specifically relating to Underwater Videography, 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 and editing
   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. This form has to be returned to CMAS HQ at least two years before the application of 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 imaging signed by the President of the Hosting Federation. This signature and registration fee payment is the guarantee that the Hosting Federation fulfills 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 a 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 a maximum total team of 5 persons including 2 videographers, 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 resent to CMAS with a copy to the organizing federation if some names were added or modified compared to the 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. Videographers 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 they are representing.

2.6. All videographers and assistants must have a CMAS** (2star) 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
• 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.

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, cannot 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. VIDEO JURY

3.1. Role
To establish the placing of all videographers.

3.2. Composition
The Jury is composed of min. 5 (five) members. One President and four 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. 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 videography.

3.4. Presence
The Video 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 videos (by the competitors) to see 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 video in question. If the Video should be disqualified 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 video or the competitor will be disqualified according to the seriousness of the mistakes.

3.8. In the closed meeting with the Committee, the video in question will be discussed by the captain (or the videographer) and the decision about the video/videographer will be done in private and the decision is FINAL.

3.9. Keeping anonymity
3.9.1. The members of the jury are not allowed to be in contact in any way 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 videos will be placed in a presentation to be sent via the 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 video numbers/sequence/code will be changed in each category to keep the anonymity of the videographer.

3.10.3. The votes of the jury will be collected by the Technical Delegate, the total of the votes will form the points of the Video. The jury is free to vote between 0 and 100 (included) points. After the collection of the votes, the rankings will be revealed 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 videos that have 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 video will have a higher standing than the other. If in case, mentioned videos still have the same points the President of the Jury’s decision is final.

3.10.4. After the voting, the names of the videographers will be added.

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

3.10.6. Those votes will be for ranking from 1 to 15.

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

3.10.8. Winner will be named as the “World Champion”.

3.10.9. The collected points of the competitors from the same Nation will also be combined to tell the grand points of that Nation.

3.10.10. 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 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.

3.10.11. 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 of the Championship, be in charge of the registration, card formatting, video 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 the 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 videographer 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 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 a draw, a number to each videographer 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 a 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 videos.
   5.2.3.5. The different video aspects to be judged.
   5.2.3.6. The details of the Preliminary Selection process and the Jury System.
   5.2.3.7. Briefing for the non-underwater takes.
   5.2.3.8. Guidelines 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 a dedicated noticeboard.

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 videographer 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 cannot begin because of bad weather conditions than the videos shot 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 the 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/her function is limited only to assist his/her team on the surface.

6.9. Videographers without an assistant will not dive in pairs. Two videographers cannot be buddies with each other. If a videographer 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 is unable to dive) confirmed by the official doctor, the captain can play the role of assistant for a videographer.

6.11. Teams and their entourage are not allowed to bring Mobile Phones, Tablets, External Hard Drives or Computers to the dive center 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 videographer, assistants, captains and any possible accompanying staff (lodging, board, dives, local transports) as well as any possible extra charges (for instance additional night, assistant diver etc.).

7.2. It defines the ambient conditions associated with this competition (e.g.: the 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.

8. VIDEOS
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 videographer 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.
8.3. 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.
8.4. Any artificial low-voltage light or other accessory is allowed to use for filming.
8.5. Video cameras and accessories that are admitted must be neither polluting nor dangerous.
8.6. Assistants and team captains are not allowed to work with the video cameras.
8.7. It is compulsory to record the infographics and fixed images during the days of competition.
8.8. Every competition day the CMAS Technical Delegate has to control;
   8.8.1. The formatting of the marked memory cards in the participant’s camera
   8.8.2. The closing of the underwater housing with a seal.
   8.8.3. The captain or a controller of the boat is responsible for 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.
8.9. Submission to the competition. Under the supervision of CMAS Technical Delegate;
   8.9.1. At the end of the competition day, the underwater housing is to be opened under control of the CMAS Technical Delegate. The storages must be given to the Host Federation’s operator who has to copy all the video. The folder of the copied images will be renamed with the number of the participant.
   8.9.2. The videographer gets back his memory card to edit at the announced time by the organization committee.
   8.9.3. Once the participants received the cards, hard disks integrated camera, etc., can begin respectively to continue the post-production of the video in the hours determined by the organization.
   8.9.4. While delivering the video at the announced time the Host Federation’s operator opens the submitted video on the computer, the videographer confirms the selection.
   8.9.5. For ranking or voting, the jury uses the edited video, however, delivered video will be kept for proof purposes.

8.10. Filming and Editing
8.10.1. Before the first immersion, the Technical Delegate will make sure that all the memory cards and hard disks, etc., integrated into the camera, are blank.
8.10.2. At the beginning of the first immersion and at the end of the last one, the participants must film a “control take” with the judge in the video.
8.10.3. For the non-underwater takes (land takes), the participants can have unlimited time filming. It will be allowed during the training day and the days of competition only in the area of the championship. For non-underwater takes it is not allowed to film in pools, swimming pools or underwater of any kind. The memory card for the non-underwater takes will be different from the cards of the underwater takes. Mentioned cards will be formatted, marked and a control take will be arranged at the technical meeting before the practice day.
8.10.4. The non-underwater takes (land-takes) will be downloaded and verified by the organization in the editing room before being used and edited by the participants. The deadline for delivery to the organization of these takes will be during the first hour of the last day of editing.
8.10.5. The post-production can only be done at the designated area where the Organization Committee announced and only by the Videographer. Editing done by other people but not the competitor, will be punished by the disqualification of the team.

8.10.6. Organization Committee will announce the editing schedule, however, editing time on the first day amounts to 3 hours and on the second day to 5 hours.

8.10.7. The organization will designate a lounge room where the participants will leave their post-production equipment from the first day of competition (practice day). This room will be open during the days of competition according to a timetable determined by the organization. It will remain locked for the rest of the time. Bringing or removing editing equipment including laptops or storage units like external HD or memory cards is strictly forbidden.

8.10.8. Competitors will work with their own editing equipment; the lack of such equipment is not the responsibility of either CMAS or the Hosting Federation.

8.10.9. The organization will fix a deadline time after the 5 hours at the second competition day as a limit to upload and deliver the movie.

8.10.10. The film edited can have a maximum length of 4 minutes and a minimum of 2 minutes.

8.10.11. The edited and finished film must be exported to a digital video file (MP4) and loaded to a USB stick.

8.10.12. The proportion of non-underwater images will be no more than 20%. In the combination of underwater and non-underwater images in the same shoot, the underwater image will prevail.

8.10.13. The participants can include audio files, titles and fixed images (that is shot by him/her) in his/her project. However, the noise effects, visual effects, and music must be free from copyright.

8.10.14. Use of copyright-free files is the competitor’s responsibility, CMAS can/will not be held responsible for the mentioned files. If in case of a copyright restriction lawsuit, CMAS reserves the right to reflect the losses it faces to the competitor and his/her National Federation.

8.11. Additional usage of digital images

8.11.1. After the submission of the video by the participant, all other video has 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 videos (also those deleted by Hosting Federation) and the votes of the competition for archival purposes.

8.11.2. Videos, submitted to the Video Jury will be the property of CMAS and will be used freely without payment but under the name of the videographer for promotional activities of CMAS or affiliated associations or National Federations.

9. Judging

9.1.1. The jury members will use the same judging chart during evaluation.

9.1.2. The charts will have the following sections;

**Story:** Theme, narrative, plot, and message, etc. Here the videographers are expected to impress the judges with underwater filming ideas and the underwater richness of the competition area.

**Flora and Fauna:** Not only the amount of the species filmed are important but integrating them into the script and the movie will be valued as well.

**Technique:** Cross-fading, editing, sharpness, the look of the images, camera work, etc. Here the videographer is also expected to integrate post-production techniques to the movie.

**Overall Impression and Artistic Merit:** Effect to the viewer/audience. The impact produced by the video will be valued.

9.1.3. Each Section will be judged between 0-25 points (included)

9.1.4. Addition of each section will form the points received for that video/videographer.

10. Disqualifications
10.1. The following are absolutely forbidden throughout the championship and will result in disqualifications;
10.1.1. Any unfair action.
10.1.2. Any action contrary to the rules.
10.1.3. Any form of deterioration or pollution of the environment.
10.1.4. Submitting cards or images exposed by other participants or jury members.
10.1.5. Submitting cards or images not exposed while diving during the official competition time.
10.1.6. Erasing/deleting of images.
10.1.7. Using dead creatures or moving live animals.
10.1.8. Using photographs or video shot by other people.
10.1.9. Using an underwater scooter or anything similar.
10.1.10. If the video is not delivered at the end of the 5th. hour period on the second day of editing several penalties will be applied:
0-10 min. delay - %15 score deduction from the final score of the jury.
10 – 30 min. delay - %50 score deduction from the final score of the jury.
More than 30 min. delay will result in disqualification and the video will not be judged by the jury.
10.2. Infringements provided for in 10.1 will have to be judged by the CMAS Technical Delegate.
10.3. Some of the reasons for video disqualification are;
10.3.1. If the competitor does not complete the dive and reach the boat in 90 min.
10.3.2. If the competitor does a decompression dive.
10.3.3. If the competitor dives under 30 meters.
10.3.4. If the competitor loses dive buddy more than 10 minutes.
10.3.5. If underwater life is manipulated without destroying the fauna/flora.
10.4. Some of the reasons for the competitor will be disqualified;
10.4.1. The environment is harmed in any way,
10.4.2. Bringing a Mobile Phone, Tablet or Computer to the dive center and to the boat,
10.4.3. If unfair and improper action against others is proved etc.
10.4.4. If an edited video does not match the criteria indicated by the rules (ie. Non-underwater take is more than %20 of the video)
10.5. If a person is disqualified (videographer, assistant) he/she cannot be replaced by another person.

11. SAFETY MEASURES
11.1. 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.
11.2. 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 videographers 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 videographer, in addition, must dive with a diving sausage. All assistants should be suitably qualified in order that the buddy team of videographer and assistant will comply with the CMAS diving rules.
11.3. All participants must have a dive computer.
11.4. 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.
11.5. 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.
11.6. A doctor specialized in diving will be present at the competition site.
11.7. A fully equipped ambulance will be available at the competition during the competition.
11.8. Each competition boat will have on board; a spare dive tank, an emergency first aid box and a working condition oxygen tank for safety reasons.
12. RESPONSIBILITIES
The Videographer will be responsible for equipment they are given during the Championship as well as for their personal equipment and accessories allowed in the competition.

13. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT
13.1. 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.
13.2. Videographer and assistants may be controlled/observed during the practice day and the competition days.
13.3. 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.

14. PHOTO AND VIDEO REPORTERS
14.1. Photographing and filming videographers during the competition is only allowed with the authorization of the organizing federation.
14.2. 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.
14.3. The enclosure (C) will have to be distributed by the Hosting Federation to all participating teams before the technical meeting mentioned in article 5.

15. FINAL PLACING
15.1. The first three videographers and their buddies with the highest score will be awarded the gold, silver and bronze medal.
15.2. Besides medals, the Organizing Federation will honor the Country with the most points with “Unofficial Championship Trophy” as described in 3.10.10.,3.10.11.
15.3. There is no appeal against the decisions taken by the Video Jury.
15.4. Competitors are obliged to attend the Prize Award Ceremony. Competitors who fail to attend the ceremony will no longer be entitled to their prizes.
15.5. Competitors should bring their national flag and their national anthem in digital format for the ceremonies.
15.6. Besides medals and the “Unofficial Championship Trophy”, the organizing Federation can honor other people, buddies and team captains in the placing with different cups and awards (i.e. best theme video etc.) but these prizes should be;
15.6.1. approved at least two months before the championship by the Director of CMAS Visual Commission.
15.6.2. these awards cannot be given to the winners during the official medal ceremony which is strictly limited to the medal awards.
15.6.3. these awards will not be included in CMAS official results.
15.7. The Hosting Federation must give each competitor a certificate of participation to the CMAS World Championship.