

Confédération Mondiale des Activités Subaquatiques  
World Underwater Federation



# **UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY**

## **CMAS INTERNATIONAL RULES World Championships**

**VERSION 2012/0**

General Rules of Underwater Photo Championships / BOD 22. June 2012

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. These General Rules, specifically relating to Sea U/W photography, complete and specify the procedures and obligations applicable to all CMAS World and Continental 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. Hosting Federation
  - 1.3.1. The right to organise 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 and Continental 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 or Continental 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 specify procedures and obligations applicable to all CMAS World and Continental 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 Hosting 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.

## 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 organising 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 finalised at the latest 3 months before the competition and enclosure A should be resend to CMAS with copy to the organising 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 and Continental Championships in the delay define 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).
- 2.7. The CMAS Delegate will check certificates and documents, the day before the competition
- 2.8. All those who do not comply with this article 2 will not be allowed to compete.
- 2.9. 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. PHOTO JURY

- 3.1. **Role**  
To establish the placing of all photographers.
- 3.2. **Composition**  
This jury is composed of 7 (seven) members, all of them from different nationality:
  - 3.2.1. the President of the Jury
  - 3.2.2. 3 members appointed by the organising federation
  - 3.2.3. 3 members appointed by CMASThey do not necessarily need to belong to a CMAS member federation, but they will have to be qualified and recognised in the field of digital underwater photography.
- 3.3. **Appointment**  
The jury members will be appointed by CMAS Board of Directors as follow:
  - 3.3.1 The Visual Commission appoints the President and 3 members of the jury
  - 3.3.2 The Hosting Federation will appoint the remaining three members

The names of the jury members proposed by the organising country and by the Visual Commission will have to be submitted to CMAS Board of Directors at least 12 months before the date of the competition.

### 3.4. **Presence**

The Photo Jury President should be present during the whole championship.

The six jury members are required as a minimum to be present from the evening before the judging day of competition until the next day. (2 nights / 3 days).

Excepting the public judgement session, persons allowed to attend the work of the jury will be :

3.4.1 7 judges

3.4.2 The International Judge

3.4.3 Automatic judging system

3.4.4 Volunteers necessary for the presentation .

During the private session of the jury, nobody is authorised, excepting the 7 official judges of the competition, to speak during the discussion about votes or the evaluation of judges.

Only CMAS is authorised through his official delegate to include whatever alteration in these rules and/or automatic judging system.

Once private sessions achieved, no alteration can be made to ranking or votes. The president of the jury will declare the work finished.

### 3.5. **Functioning**

3.5.1. The jury will meet in private session and its mission will be

3.5.1.1 To choose by vote the 10 best photos in each category.

3.5.1.2 To prepare an electronic ranking for photos not evaluated among the best 10, ranking that will go from the 11<sup>th</sup> till the last one and to be recorded.

3.5.1.3 Rankings.

3.5.2. During the public session

3.5.2.1 Show of the best 10 photos of each category, shown in an aleatory way through informative way and without any reference to their order during the private session

3.5.2.2 Besides the photos, on the screen the vote of each judge will be shown, these being represented by the national flag of their country.

3.5.2.3 After the voting the names of the photographers will be added

3.5.3. The highest and the lowest vote will be eliminated and the average is on the remaining 5 together with the temporary overall ranking

3.5.4. Those votes will be for ranking from 1 to 10, independently of votes from concurrent no.11.

3.5.5. Rank 1 to rank 3 of each category will be awarded.

The top ten photographs of each category will be rated according to a bonus–score–system (Fibonacci–sequence) for the examination of the CMAS Underwater Photography World Champion.

That means: Place 10/1 point, 9/1 point, 8/2 points, 7/3 points, 6/5 points, 5/8 points, 4/13 points, 3/21 points, 2/34 points, 1/ 55 points.

### 3.6 **Keeping anonymity**

3.6.1 The members of the jury are not allowed to keep contact in any way with the National Teams, until their work is done. The jury members have to sign a paper, that they accept the General and the Specific Rules.

3.6.2 If there are contacts, the National Team will be disqualified.

## 4. **CMAS Judge Delegate**

### 4.1. **Role**

Examine complaints put forward and deliberate on them no later than one hour following receipt

### 4.2. **Appointment**

CMAS International Judge is appointed by CMAS under proposal of the Visual Commission. He chairs by right as president of the international judges.

### 4.3. **Presence**

The judge delegate to be required to be from a not participating country.

### 4.4. **Working procedure:**

A complaint can be put forward if and only if

4.4.1 it is lodged by the team captain or by the photographer, if the team has no captain

4.4.2 it is written in French, English or Spanish

4.4.3 it is accompanied by a deposit of 100 € (one hundred Euro ) which will be returned immediately if the complaint is declared valid by the International Judge Delegate.

### 4.5

Appeal

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

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

## 5. MEETING WITH ORGANISATION

- 5.1. A meeting should be organised the evening before the practice day, this meeting should include the following participants:
- 5.1.1 The head of the Hosting Organisation Committee
  - 5.1.2 Persons in charge appointed by the Hosting Federation ( diving, boats, doctor,...)
  - 5.1.3 CMAS Judge delegate
  - 5.1.4 CMAS delegate
  - 5.1.5 The president of the Visual Commission
  - 5.1.6 Team captains and competitors
- 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 International Judge and the CMAS Delegate.
  - 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 International Judge and the CMAS Delegate.
  - 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 organisation of the dives and handling of the photos
    - 5.2.3.5. The different photo categories to be judged
    - 5.2.3.6. 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  $\frac{3}{4}$  of full capacity in order to accommodate the competitors comfortably.
- 6.2. Any changes to the programme will be approved by the CMAS International Judge 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 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. The capacity
- 6.5. (12 litres) and pressure (minimum 180 bars) will be similar for all competitors. Rebreather diving is allowed if all equipments are available for all participants.
- 6.6. All competitors should dive in similar diving places chosen in a draw. The Host Federation or Association should have scheduled an alternative protected diving area in case of bad weather.
- 6.7. Any competition that has begun but has been interrupted, because of unexpected circumstances, can be considered valid only under decision of CMAS Judge Delegate.
- 6.8. Only the CMAS Judge Delegate is entitled to decide the interruption of the competition.
- 6.9. 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.
- 6.10. Photographers without an assistant will dive in pairs, but in case they don't find a buddy, the organising committee will make the choice.
- 6.11. 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 who has no more. Article 6.9 will apply if it is not the case.

## 7. SPECIFIC RULE

- 7.1. This rule includes the competition programme 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 define the ambient conditions associated with this competition ( e.g.: average temperature of the water, visibility, etc.
- 7.3. It details the name, address, telephone / fax and e-mail of the contact person, for any request for 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. Close-up photo with a theme as main subject ( Macro or close-up photo of a theme. 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.
- 7.5.5. Wide angle with diver ( a wide angle photo including diver who may be the assistant, coloured lights and half-half pictures are allowed in this category.

## 8. PHOTOS

- 8.1. The competition will be done with digital cameras. The photographer can use any type of camera he likes to use. Cameras with radio interfaces like WLAN or Bluetooth are not allowed in the competition. It is not permitted to use multiple cameras under water. 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 px at a picture size of 3:2
  - 2800 x 2100 px at a picture size of 4:3
  - 3100 x 1750 px at a picture size of 16:9
- 8.3 The images have to be saved in best quality with less compression
- 8.4 Only original images without any manipulation outside the camera are allowed in the competition. All images have to be in the JPEG-File format. If the camera has the possibility to save images as a RAW + JPEG file, the participant is allowed to use the RAW-file format, if the integrated JPEG- file is a separate file and not only part of the RAW-file.
- 8.5 The photographers can use any type of memory cards, he likes to use. They should have a capacity for a minimum of 100 images in best quality. The hosting federation has to use card readers for every kind of possible memory cards. If it is possible to use more than a single memory card in a camera, it is allowed to use only one storage the other card slot has to be empty.
- 8.6 In the beginning of all days of the competition the CMAS Judge Delegate has to control:
  - 8.6.1 The formatting of the marked memory cards in the participant´s camera
  - 8.6.2 The closing of the underwater housing with a signet.If it is necessary to open the housing quickly (without control of an international judge) in case of accident (e.g. leak in the housing) all images taken till this time are not allowed to be used in the competition.

The participant has to format the memory card again under the eyes of an international judge.
- 8.7 Every day of the competition (2 dives) the photographer has the opportunity to take 100 images. Images over 100 will not be considered by the jury. It is allowed to erase images during the competition time (i.e. under water).
- 8.8 Submission to the competition.

In the end of the competition day the underwater housing are to be opened under control of a CMAS Judge Delegate. The storages has to be given to the CMAS Judge Delegate.

The judge has to copy the first 100 images 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.

The photographer gets back his memory card, to search for the images he likes to submit to the competition. At the agreed time he just has to tell the image number to the CMAS Judge Delegate.

The CMAS Judge Delegate opens the submitted images on the computer, the photographer confirms the selection.

For ranking or voting the jury uses only these images, they have copied after the competition day to their external storages. This makes sure, that the images will not be manipulated.
- 8.9 Manipulation of images  
The improvement of images during the time of the shot done by the firmware of the camera ( such as sharpness, contrast and saturation) are no manipulation of images.  
Additional improvements of images done after the time of shot, are manipulations which will be punished with disqualification.
- 8.10 Additional usage of digital images  
After the choice of images by the participant, all other images have to be deleted on the external storage of the Hosting Federation. Only images for the competition have to remain on this storage.  
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 promotion activities of the CMAS or affiliated associations or Federal Nations.

## 9 DISQUALIFICATIONS

- 9.1 The following behaviours are absolutely forbidden during all the competition or practice and will result in Immediate disqualification :
  - 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 exposed by other participants or jury members.
  - 9.1.5 submitting of cards not exposed while diving during the official competition time.
  - 9.1.6 manipulation of images
  - 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 Judge Delegate.
- 9.3 A person disqualified ( photographer, assistant ) 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 as and 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. The photographer in addition should have an alternative air source (such as an octopus, regulator on jacket or pony bottle ) and a scuba tuba or a 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 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.
- 10.4 As a minimum requirement the organisers 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.
- 10.5 A doctor specialised in diving will be present at the competition site.
- 10.6 Each competition boat will have on board a spare dive tank and an emergency box with an oxygen tank equipped for safety reasons. Any use of these tanks may lead to the CMAS International Judge applying sanctions as it sees fit.

## **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 The competitors and/or assistant should not touch or move any creatures underwater. They have to avoid any manipulation or destruction of the fauna and flora during all the competition including the practice day.
- 12.2 Photographers and assistants may be controlled during the practice day and the competitions 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 Judge Delegate the competitor and/or the assistant may be excluded.

## **13 PHOTO AND VIDEO REPORTERS**

- 13.1 Photographing and filming photographers during the competition is only allowed with the authorisation of the organising federation.
- 13.2 Competitors may wish to refuse to be photographed or filmed will have to submit enclosure C to CMAS International Judge 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 This enclosure (C) will have to be distributed by the CMAS Judge Delegate to all participating teams before the meeting mentioned in article 5.

## **14 FINAL PLACING**

- 14.1 For each championship, the CMAS Visual Commission will establish the categories on which the judgment will be done; their maximum number will be of 5.
- 14.2 An individual classification for the World Championship will be established by adding up points given by the jury obtained by each competitor in each of the five categories, with the rule of bonus-system- see 3.5.5 ( fish, close-up with a theme, close-up without a theme, wide angle without diver, wide angle with diver). Only the placing of the first 10 (ten) photographers individual and in each category will be made public. Other photographers can ask for their classification from the CMAS International Judge.
- 14.3 The first three photographers with the highest bonus-score in all categories will be awarded with the gold, silver and bronze medal.
- 14.4 The photographer with the highest bonus-score (see 3.5.5) in all categories becomes the CMAS World Champion.
- 14.5 There is no appeal against the decisions taken by the Photo Jury.
- 14.6 Competitors are obliged to attend the Prize Award Ceremony. Competitors who fail to attend it will no longer be entitled to be awarded their prizes. Competitors should bring their national flag and a cassette of their national anthem for the ceremonies.
- 14.7 Besides medals, the organising Federation can honour other persons 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,... ) but

these prizes

14.7.1 should be agreed before by the CMAS Judge Delegate

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

14.7.3 will not be included in CMAS official results.

**14.8** The Photo Jury can only make one special award for a particularly remarkable photo.

**14.9** The Organising Federation will give each competitor a certificate of participation to the CMAS Championship out of the official medal award ceremony.