

2026 CMAS WORLD CUP UNDERWATER  
PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO  
MADEIRA



**CMAS**

22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026



Secretaria Regional de Turismo, Ambiente e Cultura  
Direção Regional do Turismo

2026  
**CMAS WORLD CUP**  
**UNDERWATER**  
 PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

**MADEIRA ISLANDS**

**22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**JUNE**  
 2026

ORGANIZATION:



INSTITUTIONAL:





# 2026 CMAS WORLD CUP UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO MADEIRA

1.	INTRODUCTION	4
2.	PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY	4
3.	COMPETITION PROCEDURES	5
4.	PHOTOS & VIDEOS	6
5.	PROCEDURES REGARDING MEMORY CARDS	8
6.	USE OF CAMERAS DURING THE WORLD CUP	9
7.	ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS	9
8.	TECHNICAL DELEGATE, ITOS AND JURY	10
9.	PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT	10
10.	ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES	11
11.	ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE	12
12.	GENERAL PROGRAM	12
13.	INSCRIPTION ON THE EVENT	14
14.	PRICES	15
15.	SAFETY AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION	16
16.	CONTACT DETAILS	17



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. These Specific Rules apply to the 2026 CMAS World Cup Underwater Photography and Video, which will be held in Madeira Island, Portugal, from Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026, a seven (7) days event.
- 1.2. The event is organized by the Local Organization Committee (LOC), which is supervised by the CMAS Sports Committee and the CMAS Visual Commission.
- 1.3. The Portuguese Underwater Activities Federation (FPAS) and the Regional Swimming Association of Madeira (ANM) constitute the Local Organizing Committee (LOC).
- 1.4. The rules VERSION 2025/1 General Rules of Underwater Photo CAT B Events, will be applied.
- 1.5. In case of difference in interpretation of the Specific Rules, the CMAS Underwater Photography and Video, General Rules, Championships, CMAS Championships Organization Procedures & Obligations, and other CMAS Rules will be applied by order of importance.

## 2. PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY

- 2.1. **National Federations** and **Clubs** can participate in the event.
- 2.2. Teams can be formed with a (1) photographer/videographer, and (1) assistant/model.
- 2.3. World Cup Registration:
  - 2.3.1. The CMAS registrations have to made in CMAS Portal (<https://portal.cmas.org/>) no later than **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026.**
  - 2.3.2. The LOC registration (Hotels and Logistic fees), have to made directly with the LOC (Conditions in clause 11.0)



### 3. COMPETITION PROCEDURES

3.1. CMAS and the LOC will hold a detailed briefing about the competition during the Technical Meeting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 at the Hotel Vila Galé Santa Cruz.

3.2. The following people will take part in the Technical Meeting:

- 3.2.1. The President of the Portuguese Federation of Underwater Activities or his representative.
- 3.2.2. The Chairman of the Local Organizing Commission
- 3.2.3. The Safety and Emergency Director
- 3.2.4. CMAS Technical Delegate.
- 3.2.5. The Director of the CMAS Visual Commission.
- 3.2.6. Team Captains and competitors for photo and video.
- 3.2.7. Chief of International Technical Officials.
- 3.2.8. The Presidents of the jury, for photo and video.

3.3. The following subjects will be covered in the Technical Meeting:

- 3.3.1. Dividing the teams among the competition zones by drawing.
- 3.3.2. Boat distribution of the participants.
- 3.3.3. Information about the timetable and transport.
- 3.3.4. Safety measures.
- 3.3.5. Organization of the dives.
- 3.3.6. Technical matters.
- 3.3.7. Handling of the photos and videos.
- 3.3.8. Details of the Control Committee and the Jury System.
- 3.3.9. Guidelines for protocol and medal ceremony.

3.4. In water competition will be held on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup>, Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> in Madeira Island, 2026. The Technical Delegate retains the right to change the competition order (and eventually competition zones) and the dive times according to the prevailing weather and marine conditions. It is advised for the competitors to take the shots (photo) and film, on the first day of the competition for all the categories. Should the other competition days be cancelled, they will have images for all the categories.

3.5. There are four (4) competition dive sites that are included in the World Cup. Detailed information about the four (4) dive sites will be given at the technical meeting.



### 3.6. Competition Zones:

#### 3.6.1. Main competition zones – Madeira Island:

1. Baixa da Cruz - GPS: 32°42'55"N, 16°45'21"W
2. Garajau - GPS: 32°38'12"N, 16°51'13"W
3. Baixa das Moreias - GPS: 32°38'03"N, 16°56'19"W
4. Corveta Afonso Cerqueira (Wreck)- GPS: 32°39'03"N, 17°00'25"W

#### 3.6.2. Reserve Zones:

1. Blue Hole – GPS: 32°38'37"N, 16°49'29"W
2. Pitanga – GPS: 32°40'36"N, 16°47'53"W

3.7. The submitted photos and videos will be judged by the jury.

## 4. PHOTOS & VIDEOS

4.1. The procedures for the selection of photos are executed according to the CMAS Underwater Photography – General Rules Championships.

4.2. The categories for the photo competition are:

- 4.2.1. Wide Angle with OR without model
- 4.2.2. Close-Up
- 4.2.3. Fish
- 4.2.4. Creative

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4.3. The categories for the mobile device's competition are:

- 4.3.1. Wide Angle with OR without model
- 4.3.2. Close-Up
- 4.3.3. Fish
- 4.3.4. Creative

4.4. The categories for the video competition are two categories, as follows:

- 4.4.1. Theme Movie – Diving and Environment
- 4.4.2. 60-seconds

4.5. The Control Committee will control the images received in the TOP 10 in each category.

4.6. The background or foreground image can only be used once in all photos. If the same background or foreground is used more than once, the photo submitted to the following category will be disqualified.

4.7. Use of the FX or DX function of the cameras before taking the photo is allowed in all categories.

4.8. The participant must make sure that he/she cancels the copyright function and any metadata of the camera, so that the images sent to the jury cannot recognize the image by the file names or metadata.

4.9. At the beginning and the end of all competition dives, each day, the participants must take a "control photo" with the judge clearly visible in the frame.

4.10. In the mobile devices category, except Creative, it is expected to capture the underwater world beauty as it is.



## 5. PROCEDURES REGARDING MEMORY CARDS

The following procedures apply to all competition days:

- 5.1. The competitors ride together with their cameras from the hotel Vila Galé Santa Cruz until the late Clube designated area, just in front of the Marina.
- 5.2. In the designated area, under the direct supervision of a Visual Technical Official, they will:
  - 5.2.1. Change the date and time.
  - 5.2.2. Check that there is only one memory card in each camera.
  - 5.2.3. Format the cards.
  - 5.2.4. Seal/close the cameras.
  - 5.2.5. Take the first shot.
- 5.3. After the camera housing is sealed/closed, it can't be opened anymore. It is not permitted to change the configuration, perform repairs, etc. without the direct supervision of a judge. The camera settings, batteries, and lenses are changed during the competition dives under the supervision of judges.
- 5.4. Athletes will take their cameras to their assigned boats when the LOC instructs them.
- 5.5. Athletes must make a control image (photo) in the boat, immediately after leaving the water.
- 5.6. If necessary, change the lens or battery between dives or during the dive, this may only be done at a specially designated place, under the direct supervision of one of the visual international technical officials and without breaking the seal. If the camera needs to be opened to disassemble the lens or replace the battery, the seal can only be broken at this time. Should the seal need to be broken, this may only be done under the direct supervision of a visual international technical officials. The visual international technical officials reseal the camera housing with a new seal.
- 5.7. After the two (2) dives of the day, the camera housing is opened in a specially designated place under the visual international technical official's direct supervision. The memory card is delivered to the judge.



- 5.8. Once back at the late Club, the organization will copy the files on the memory cards to the server. The memory cards are returned to the competitors (see the schedule of the program).

## 6. USE OF CAMERAS DURING THE WORLD CUP

- 6.1. Athletes can use more than one camera during the competition, except mobile devices. All the cameras must be sealed, as described in Article 5.
- 6.2. Athletes can use more than one mobile devices during the competition. All the cameras must be sealed, as described in Article 5
- 6.3. There is no limit of photos taken in each competition.
- 6.4. It is not permitted to erase photos at any time.

## 7. ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS

- 7.1. As a complement to the CMAS Underwater Photography and Video rules, several sanctions can be applied to certain infractions. These sanctions, like attitudes and behaviours, will be evaluated by the Technical Delegate using the formal submission of protest:
  - 7.1.1. Not taking the control images before and after each dive: the correspondent dive images will not be accepted.
  - 7.1.2. Not making the safety stop to avoid exceeding the ninety minutes (90 mins) of the dive: the images of the dive are not accepted.
  - 7.1.3. Breathing air of the dive buddy or the safety tank on the boat's cable: the dive is disqualified.
- 7.2. Manipulate the fauna/flora during dive: The competitor is disqualified or even disqualified of the World Cup if the handling is considered very serious. Additionally, before the dive, the athletes diving equipment can be inspected at any time to check that no captured specimen is being carried previously or have some kind of equipment to capture sea life. In case of detecting this kind of circumstance, the team will be disqualified from the Championship.



- 7.3. Manipulation of the diving computer (falsification of the immersion data carried out, remove it during the dive to not register the maximum depth or change with the buddy computer) or not present it at the exit of the dive: disqualification of the Championship.
- 7.4. Losing the diving buddy more than 10 minutes: Immersion is disqualified.
- 7.5. The assistant/model photographer or film, the team is disqualified.
- 7.6. Manipulating the camera out of the water or at the surface without a judge's supervision: the immersion is disqualified. It is mandatory to notify the judge to manipulate the camera for any reason.
- 7.7. As explained in General Rules, submerging artificial objects only allowed for Creative Category, these objects must be declared before the dive (because of size concerns they must be declared before the travels) and at the end of the dive to the Technical Delegate.

## 8. TECHNICAL DELEGATE, ITOs AND JURY

- 8.1. Role of the Technical Delegate is defined at CMAS Championships Organization Procedures & Obligations (BOD 205) and CMAS Underwater Photography and Video (VERSION 2025/1 General Rules of Underwater Photo Championships).
- 8.2. Jury report to the President of the Jury (photo/video);
- 8.3. The Head of the ITOs reports to the Technical Delegate.
- 8.4. ITOS report to the Head ITOs.

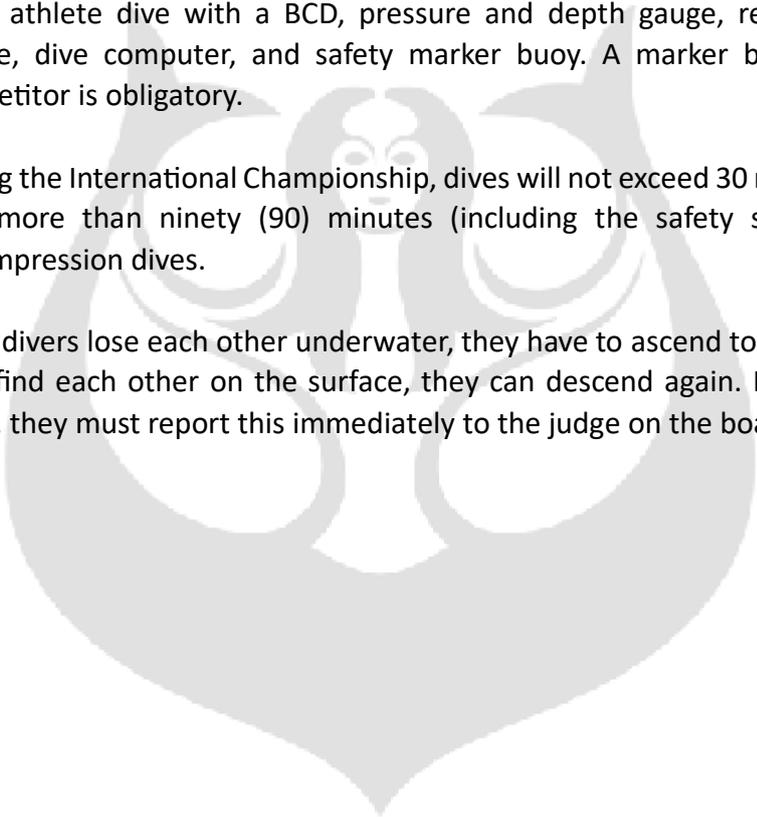
## 9. PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

- 9.1. The protection of the environment is regulated by governmental law. The majority of dive points are located in protected marine areas.
- 9.2. The 2026 CMAS World Cup Underwater Photography and Video will also take place in Natural Reserves.
- 9.3. It is strictly forbidden to feed, remove, cut or transport, collect, kill animals, plants or other forms of life and cause damage to the environment in general.



## 10. ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES

- 10.1. Every competitor as a certified diver needs to know diving skills, techniques, and safety procedures, diving with the buddy, ascent speed, and bottom times without decompression and air management.
- 10.2. Every athlete dive with a BCD, pressure and depth gauge, regulator, alternative air source, dive computer, and safety marker buoy. A marker buoy (sausage) to each competitor is obligatory.
- 10.3. During the International Championship, dives will not exceed 30 meters of depth, cannot dive more than ninety (90) minutes (including the safety stop), and will not do decompression dives.
- 10.4. If the divers lose each other underwater, they have to ascend to the surface. Only when they find each other on the surface, they can descend again. If they do not see each other, they must report this immediately to the judge on the boat or the organization.



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## 11. ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

- 11.1. In addition to the positions defined in 8.0, the LOC is responsible for determining the Championship organizational structure, which must nominate the Championship Director, Safety Director, and Logistic Director's minimum positions and roles.
- 11.2. The LOC can define an infinite number of staff positions and roles (all important and fundamental roles of the LOC Staff will be declared during the Technical Meeting).
- 11.3. All positions and roles created by the LOC, described in 9, as Boat Captains, Volunteers, Health Workers, Transport, Dive Operators, etc., report to the Championship Director.

## 12. GENERAL PROGRAM

<b>DAY 1 - Registration and opening</b>	<b>Monday 22nd June 2026</b>
16h00-18h00 – Accreditation – late Clube Santa Cruz 19h00 – Technical meeting	
<b>DAY 2 - Competition Day 1</b>	<b>Tuesday 23rd June 2026</b>
07h00 – Breakfast in the Hotel Vila Galé Santa Cruz 08h00 – Control Cameras/mobile devices in late Clube Santa Cruz 09h00 – Departure to the competition zones 09h30 – 1st Dive 13h00 - Lunch 14h30 - Departure to the competition zones 15h30 – 2nd Dive 18h00 – Deliver memory cards to the organisation 18h30 – Back to hotel 19h30 – Return memory cards to the participants	



DAY 3 - Competition Day 2	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
<p>07h00 – Breakfast in the Hotel Vila Galé Santa Cruz 08h00 – Control Cameras/mobile devices in late Clube Santa Cruz 09h00 – Departure to the competition zones 09h30 – 1st Dive 13h00 - Lunch 14h30 - Departure to the competition zones 15h30 – 2nd Dive 18h00 – Deliver memory cards to the organisation 18h30 – Back to hotel 19h30 – Return memory cards to the participants</p>	
DAY 4 - Competition Day 3	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
<p>07h00 – Breakfast in the Hotel Vila Galé Santa Cruz 08h00 – Control Cameras/mobile devices in late Clube Santa Cruz 09h00 – Departure to the competition zones 09h30 – 1st Dive 13h00 - Lunch 14h30 - Departure to the competition zones 15h30 – 2nd Dive 18h00 – Deliver memory cards to the organisation 18h30 – Back to hotel 19h30 – Return memory cards to the participants</p> <p>Video: Videos teams will be editing in the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the competition</p>	
DAY 5 - Jury	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
<p>08h00 – Breakfast in the Hotel Vila Galé Santa Cruz 08h30 – Free day for participantes 09h00 – Judging photos and videos</p>	
DAY 6 – Medal Ceremony and Closing Ceremony	Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2026



08h00 - Breakfast in the Hotel Vila Galé Santa Cruz  
18h00 – Award Ceremony – 2026 CMAS World Cup Underwater Photo & Video  
19h30 – Dinner - V Madeira Underwater Open

DAY 7 - Departure

Sunday 28th June 2026

08h00 - Breakfast in the Hotel Vila Galé Santa Cruz  
12h00 – Checkout – Hotel  
13h00 – Return home

The schedules are provisional. They may vary according to the number of participants and the weather conditions. The organization will update the program on the official WhatsApp group and notice board next to the CMAS office at the hotel.

A detailed program will be distributed to all during registration.

### 13. INSCRIPTION ON THE EVENT

Event prices per person include:

- 6 nights' accommodation at Hotel Vila Galé Santa Cruz, in double and/or single room.
- Half pension (breakfast, dinner).
- Lunch in the 3 competition days.
- Transfers from airport to hotel and from hotel to airport.
- All the transfers necessities during the event.
- All the dives in the competition days.
- Tanks and weights.
- Nitrox and/or Air for all competitors. For Nitrox you need to be certified Nitrox diver.



## 14. PRICES

14.1. The participation fees are:

	PARTICIPATION FEE IN DOUBLE ROOM	PARTICIPATION FEE IN SINGLE ROOM
COMPETITORS	450€ / per person	590€ / per person
NON-COMPETITORS <sup>(2)</sup>	390€ / per person	----

(2) - Dives not included

Other services, like extra night, several activities, dives, are mandatory to be booked by mail:  
[geral@anatacaodamadeira.pt](mailto:geral@anatacaodamadeira.pt)

14.2. The reservation is confirmed once LOC has received the payment. All payment must be received by ANM no later than **May 1st, 2026**.

14.3. For bank transfers, account details are:

Beneficiary	Federação Portuguesa de Actividades Subaquáticas
Beneficiary account	PT50 0035 2174 0001 2188 8309 6
Beneficiary Bank	Caixa Geral de Depositos - CGD
Swift code	CGDIPTPL
Mandatory Description	"2026 CMAS World Cup" – "Name"/"Country"



## 15. SAFETY AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION

### 15.1. Safety on Land:

- Ambulance medicalized and prepared for evacuation.
- A doctor specialised in hyperbaric medicine will be on standby at the hospital.
- General medicine doctor.
- Health personnel and auxiliary nursing.
- Communication: Channel Distress frequency 16 VHF.
- Other channels will be provided for communication on the technical meeting, Mobile phones.
- Diving zones will be allocated to International Championship divers only.

### 15.2. Safety on Sea:

- Oxygen equipment onboard on all the boats of the competition.
- Communication: Channel Distress frequency 16 VHF.
- Other channels will be provided for communication.

### 15.3. Evacuation to Hospital:

- Hyperbaric assistance – evacuation to Madeira Hospital to hyperbaric chamber - Hospital Dr. Nélio Mendonça.
- Medical assistance – depending on the injury can be evacuated for Madeira Hospital or to the nearest Health Centre

### 15.4. Telephones of interest:

- Emergency call: 112
- Police: +351 291 980 010
- Firemen: +351 291 982 115



Secretaria Regional  
de Turismo, Ambiente e Cultura  
Direção Regional do Turismo

## 16. CONTACT DETAILS

16.1. For General Contacts and comments:

[secretaria@fpas.pt](mailto:secretaria@fpas.pt) and [geral@anatacaodamadeira.pt](mailto:geral@anatacaodamadeira.pt)

16.2. For more information about the 2026 CMAS World Cup Underwater Photo & Video or other information, please contact:

[secretaria@fpas.pt](mailto:secretaria@fpas.pt) and [geral@anatacaodamadeira.pt](mailto:geral@anatacaodamadeira.pt)



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