



**UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY
and VIDEOGRAPHY**

CMAS GENERAL RULES
World, Zone and Continental Cups

VERSION 2025/1
General Rules of Underwater Photo and Video
World, Zone, and Continental Cups



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. These General Rules, specifically relating to Sea Underwater photography and videography, complete and specify the procedures and obligations applicable to all CMAS World, Zone, and Continental Cups.
- 1.2. World, Zone, and Continental Cup will take place in a single event spread over four to six days, divided as follows:
 - 1.2.1. Opening Day - Ceremony and Technical Meeting
 - 1.2.2. One day for practice (Optional)
 - 1.2.3. Two days of competition
 - 1.2.4. One day for judging and collection of votes (Optional)
 - 1.2.5. One day for medals and closing ceremonyTwo optional days are recommended for a high-standard event (Cup) but it is up to the LOC to decide if they want to organize a four (minimum duration), five or six-day event.

1.3. Local Organisation Committee (LOC)

- 1.3.1. The right to organize the World, Zone, and Continental Cups will be granted to the LOC only after the receipt, by CMAS, of the correctly completed application form required, (Appendix 1 of specific procedures and obligations applicable to all CMAS World, Zone, and Continental Cup events including all its enclosures. This form has to be returned to CMAS HQ before 30th June the year before the World, Zone, and Continental Cup.
- 1.3.2. The publication of the event in the CMAS Website calendar confirms receipt of the duly signed contract, related Appendixes procedures, and obligations applicable to all CMAS World, Zone, and Continental Cups including its appendix specific to underwater photography signed by the President of the LOC. This signature and registration fee payment is the guarantee that the LOC fulfills all its obligations.

1.4. Specific Rules

- Local Organisation Committee will have to send the CMAS Visual Commission the Specific Rules for the competition no later than six months before the starting date of the World, Zone, and Continental Cups. These rules will have to list in detail all announcements and important information concerning World, Zone, and Continental Cups, as required by the General Rules and by the Contract. The Specific Rules of the World, Zone, and Continental Cups can only be published after the control of the Director of the Visual Commission. Additional clarification of Specific Rules can be published with the approval of the Director of the Visual Commission if necessary. Specific Rules must be translated into three official languages of CMAS by the LOC.
- 1.5. Clubs, Teams, and individuals can participate in the event. They must return their application no later than the indicated date on the Specific Rules of the Cup with related enclosures.
 - 1.6. Registration of the competitors and the payments of the CMAS fees by participant (the amount is voted each year by the CMAS BOD), will be done through the CMAS portal:
<http://portal.cmas.org>
 - 1.7. Teams will be formed as below;
 - 1.8. **For the Photo Competition** Team of 2 people including 1 photographer, 1 assistant.
 - 1.9. **For the Video Competition** Team of 2 people including 1 videographer, 1 assistant
 - 1.10. Teams can include a team captain by registering the Capitan and paying the relevant fees through the CMAS portal.
 - 1.11. The names of participants should be finalized according to the deadlines of the specific rules of the World, Zone, and Continental Cup. It is obligatory to resend the relevant Enclosure if announced team member names are changed or new names are added to a previous application.
 - 1.12. Personal entry forms, have to be received by the organizers according to the deadlines of the Specific Rules.
 - 1.13. ALL photographers/videographers and assistants must have a CMAS ** (2-star) or equivalent diver certification as a minimum. Competitors, buddies, and captains must declare his/her certificates at the time of application. **Competitors, buddies, or captains will not be allowed to participate in the World, Zone, and Continental Cups without a proper driver's license.**
 - 1.14. Competitors 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.
 - 1.15. CMAS Technical Delegate will check certificates and documents, on the registration day before the World, Zone, and Continental Cup. Competitors must present;
 - A photo ID that shows the photo, name, age, and nationality of the competitor (passport, driver's license, etc.)
 - Divers Insurance

- An up-to-date medical certification (written in English, French, or Spanish) obtained from a doctor indicates that there is no health obstacle for the competitor to dive.
- Participation Form (Enclosure B)
- A signed statement of each athlete stating that the athlete (competitor, buddy, and team captain) has understood the rules of the World, Zone, and Continental Cup (general rules and specific rules) and the rules of SCUBA diving up to his/her certification level. Therefore he/she is taking part in this World, Zone, and Continental Cup with his/her own will and being aware of the dangers of the sport. He/she also acknowledges that in case of an accident or contracting an infectious disease neither the athlete nor his representatives can hold the local organization committee, CMAS, CMAS Visual Commission or its members, technical delegate, and/or CMAS responsible in any way. Expenses that may occur during the treatment are solely the athlete's responsibility and can't be reflected in the bodies mentioned above.

1.16. All those who do not comply with Article 2 will not be allowed to compete.

1.17. It is obligatory to use scuba equipment, divers without scuba (i.e. free divers, etc.) will not be allowed to enter the World, Zone, and Continental Cups.

1.18. If one competitor, due to unexpected circumstances, can not participate in the World, Zone, and Continental Cup, he/she may be replaced (by sending to CMAS and the LOC Enclosure A duly signed by the authorities, indicating his agreement on the above change). This form must be received no later than ten days before the beginning of the World, Zone, and Continental Cup.

2. PHOTO JURY

2.1. Role

To establish the placement of all photographers.

2.2. Composition

The Jury is composed of a minimum of three people. One President and two members. (It is allowed to increase the number of jury to seven people including the president)

2.3. Visual Commission will appoint the jury. Jury members do not necessarily need to belong to a CMAS member federation. However, jury members will have to be qualified and recognized in the field of digital underwater photography.

2.4. Presence

The jury President can be present during the whole World, Zone, and Continental Cup, however, only the technical delegate can rule to whatever alteration in rules and/or remote judging system.

2.5. Control Committee

2.5.1. The President of the Jury, Technical Delegate, and Director of the Visual Commission (or his/her representative) will form the Control Committee.

2.5.2. This Committee can check the photos after the Jury Vote received amongst the top 15 photos (by the competitors) if they belong to the correct category and if the competitor abided by the rules of the competition (i.e. did not manipulate the underwater environment, did not destroy the flora/fauna, etc.).

2.6. In the case of finding a situation, the LOC will contact and send a text message to the team captain (or the competitor if there is no team captain) for the photograph in question. (if a photo is submitted in the wrong category then that photo will be disqualified, the team captain will only be informed).

2.7. The team captain must attend a closed session with the Control Committee in 15 minutes. If he/she does not attend, the photo or the competitor will be disqualified according to the seriousness of the mistakes.

2.8. When a photo is disqualified the following photo in the ranking will be added to the top 15 list.

2.9. In a 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 taken in private and the decision is FINAL.

2.10. Keeping anonymity

2.10.1. The members of the jury are not allowed to be in contact in any way with the teams until their work is done.

2.10.2. If there are contacts, the Team will be disqualified.

2.10.3. 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 matter. Contacting may result in disqualification from the finished event or a ban from future CMAS events.

2.10.4. Jury members have to sign a document accepting the General Rules, the Specific Rules, and a Confidentiality agreement with CMAS.

2.11. Functioning,

- 2.11.1. After the submission, the photos will be sent via the Internet to the judges of the World, Zone, and Continental Cup. Judging will be performed online remotely; only the president of the jury will be on-site to vote.
- 2.11.2. Before sending the photos, the photo numbers/sequence/code will be changed in each category to keep the anonymity of the photographer.
- 2.11.3. Voting will be done in this order; Fish Category, Close-Up Category, Theme Category, Wide Angle Category, Wide Angle with a Model Category, Creative Category, and Smart Device Category.
- 2.11.4. 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 combined score of the photo. 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 ones. If in case of equal scores in the top 16 rankings president of the jury will be contacted again (if the president is not reachable her/his previous marks will be enough to set a ranking) only for those pictures that have the same points. The president of the jury's decision is final.
- 2.11.5. If pre-selected judges are not reachable during the time of the vote, the Director of Visual Commission can include spare names to the jury. Only under the condition that the spare jury members are not reachable, the President and members of the visual commission can act as spare jury members. For this purpose, members of the visual commission will be pre-nominated as spare jury members, and their turn to vote will be determined by a draw before the voting begins.
- 2.11.6. Article 3.11.4 will be applied no matter how many judges judged the photos.
- 2.11.7. After the voting, the names of the photographers will be added to the photos.
- 2.11.8. 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 Point 15 ranking, 0 Points for ranking 16 to the end.
- 2.11.9. 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.
- 2.11.10. The winner of each seven categories will be named the "Underwater Photography Competition Name (Fish or Theme or Close Up, or Wide-Angle, or Wide Angle with a Model, or Creative, or Smart Device) category Gold Medal Winner", i.e. CMAS Underwater Photography World CUP in Fish Category Gold Medal Winner etc.

3. VIDEO JURY

3.1. Role

To establish the placement of all videographers.

3.2. Composition

The Jury is composed of a minimum of three people. One President and two members. (It is allowed to increase the number of jury to seven people including the president)

3.3. Visual Commission will appoint the jury. 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 can be present during the whole World, Zone, and Continental Cup, however, only the Technical Delegate can rule to whatever alteration in rules and/or remote judging system.

3.5. Control Committee

3.5.1. The President of the Jury, Technical Delegate, and Director of the Visual Commission (or his/her representative) will form the Control Committee.

3.5.2. This Committee will check amongst the medal-winning videos (by the competitors) to see if the competitor abides the rules of the competition (i.e. did not manipulate the underwater environment, did not destroy the flora/fauna, etc.).

3.6. If in the case of finding a situation, the LOC 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 was submitted to the wrong category, then it will be disqualified, and the team captain will only be informed.

3.7. The team captain must attend a closed session with the Control Committee within 15 minutes. If

he/she 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 taken in private and the decision is FINAL.

3.9. When a video is disqualified the following video in ranking will move up in ranking.

3.10. Keeping anonymity

3.10.1. Members of the jury are not allowed to be in contact in any way with the Teams until their work is done.

3.10.2. If there are contacts, the Team will be disqualified.

3.10.3. 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 matter. Contacting may result in disqualification from the finished event or a ban from future CMAS events.

3.10.4. Jury members have to sign a document accepting the General Rules, the Specific Rules, and a Confidentiality agreement with CMAS.

3.11. Functioning,

3.11.1. After submission, the videos will be sent to the judges of the World, Zone, and Continental Cup online. Judging will be performed online remotely, and only the President of the Jury can be on-site to vote.

3.11.2. Before submission, the video numbers/sequence/code will be changed in each category to keep the anonymity of the videographer.

3.11.3. All categories will be judged according to the quality of the work, the technique used, and the entertaining value of the video (amusing, dramatic, wow effect, etc.).

3.11.4. Judges are expected to score according to the;

- Story: Here, the videographers are expected to impress the judges with underwater filming ideas and the marine richness of the competition area. The theme, plot, message, etc. are important.
- Flora and Fauna: For all categories, the amount of the species filmed is important. Integrating them into the script and the movie will be valued as well.
- Technique: Sharpness, the look of the images, camera work, etc. are very important for all three categories. For categories other than the Video Clip category videographer is also expected to integrate post-production techniques into the movie.
- Overall Impression and Artistic Merit: Effect on the viewer/audience.

3.11.5. The technical delegate will collect the votes of the jury, and the highest and the lowest points are eliminated, and the sum of the remaining votes will form the score of the video. The jury is free to vote between 0 and 100 (included) points. After the collection of the scores, the rankings will be revealed from the highest score to the lowest one. If in cases of equal scores in the top 16 rankings, the president of the Jury will be contacted again (if the president is not reachable her/his previous marks will be enough to set a ranking) only for those videos that have the same points. The president of the jury's decision is final.

3.11.6. If pre-selected judges are not reachable during the time of the vote, the Director of Visual Commission can include spare names to the jury. Only under the condition that the spare jury members are not reachable, members of the visual commission can act as spare jury members. For this purpose president and members of the visual commission will be pre-nominated as spare jury members and their turn of voting will be determined by a draw before the voting begins.

3.11.7. Article 4.11.5 will be applied no matter how many judges the judging is done.

3.11.8. After the voting, the names of the videographers will be added to the video files.

3.11.9. The top 15 videos 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, 7 Points 9 ranking, 6 Points 10 ranking, 5 Points 11 ranking, 4 Points 12 ranking, 3 Points 13 ranking, 2 Points 14 ranking, 1 Point 15 ranking, 0 Points for ranking 16 to the end.

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

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

3.11.12. The winner will be named the "Underwater Video Competition Name gold medal winner". (ie. CMAS Underwater Video World CUP Movie, Documentary Movie, or 60 Second Video Category Gold Medal Winner").

4. CMAS Technical Delegate

Role and responsibilities of the CMAS Technical Delegate is clearly defined at the “CMAS Procedures and Obligations”.

5. TECHNICAL MEETING

Technical meeting details are clearly described AT “CMAS Procedures and Obligations”.

6. ORGANISATION OF DIVING COMPETITIONS

- 6.1. Each team will be allocated to boats equipped with all the equipment and safety materials specified in the relevant laws of the hosting country. Boats must remain at the dive site while any competitor is in the water. Boats will only be filled at around 3/4 of full capacity to accommodate the competitors comfortably.
- 6.2. Maximum and minimum tank pressures will be announced at the technical meeting. At the beginning of each dive having more pressure than the announced limit will be considered an unfair action and will result in immediate disqualification from the World, Zone, and Continental Cup. Tank pressures will not be more than 220 bars at the beginning of the dive and will not be less than 20 bars at the end of the dive. Having less pressure (at the end of the dive) than the announced limit will result in the disqualification of that dive. Since the local laws will determine tank pressure limits, these limits stated above can be altered by the LOC provided that they don't extend the limits stated above.
- 6.3. Any changes to the announced schedules will be approved by the CMAS Technical Delegate and displayed daily to competitors on a dedicated notice board or digital platform used to communicate with the competitors.
- 6.4. The maximum time of possible diving at each dive site is 90 minutes. At the end of the prescribed time, the team must be next to the boat with safety stops completed. Two dives should be planned per day for the two competition days.
- 6.5. Each competitor and assistant will be given at least two cylinders per competition day.
- 6.6. Nitrox dives are allowed only if the LOC can supply Nitrox to all the competitors and if the competitors have the relevant Nitrox certificate (which must be declared at the registration).
- 6.7. The tank capacity of the scuba tanks provided must be the same or equal for all the competitors.
- 6.8. The LOC will announce four diving sites + 2 alternative dive sites (bad weather alternatives) for the World, Zone, and Continental Cups in the specific rules. All competitors should dive in turns at the same four diving locations chosen in the draw.
- 6.9. If the first or the second day of the World, Zone, and Continental Cup can not begin because of bad weather conditions then the photos/videos taken during the other sessions will be valid. Also, any competition that has already started but has been interrupted, because of unexpected circumstances, can be considered valid only under the decision of the CMAS Technical Delegate.
- 6.10. To avoid any contention during the World, Zone, and Continental Cups, the team captain (if one exists) will not dive during the days of the competition, his/her function is to assist his/her team on the surface.
- 6.11. Competitors without an assistant will not dive in pairs. Two competitors can not be buddies with each other. Since solo dives are not allowed, the LOC must supply a buddy for a competitor without a buddy at its cost. However, the local diver is only responsible for the safety of the competitor, he/she can't be a model and/or act as a dive guide to find the location of photo/video subjects in any way and can not receive a medal. Working against this rule is a reason for disqualification from that dive.
- 6.12. 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 photographer/videographer. Article 7.11 will not apply in this case.
- 6.13. Teams and their entourage are not allowed to bring devices with data transfer functions (e.g. WLAN, Bluetooth, Mobile Phones, Tablets, External Hard Drives, Smart Devices, or Computers) or storage functions to the dive center or the competition boats for reasons other than described in the foto and video categories. Finding a device or a permitted device not in “Flight Mode” is subject to immediate disqualification.

7. SPECIFIC RULE

- 7.1. It includes the competition schedule and participation costs for competitors, assistants, captains, and any possible accompanying staff (lodging, board, dives, local transports) as well as any possible extra charges (i.e. additional nights).
- 7.2. It defines the ambient conditions associated with this competition (e.g., the average temperature of the water, visibility, etc.) and the six diving sites described in Article 7.8.
- 7.3. It details the name, address, telephone, and e-mail of the contact person, for any request for information.
- 7.4. It defines the digital cards to be brought by the candidates according to the camera to be used.
- 7.5. It defines the Local Government's and LOC's requirement of test results and hygiene standards to prevent contagious diseases.
- 7.6. Shooting interval and the location of the land take.
- 7.7. Timetable for delivering and editing videos.
- 7.8. Location of the editing room

PHOTO

- 7.9. It details the seven categories for individual classification. These categories are:
 - **Fish Category** (Fish photo only involving attitudes of these creatures) (ex: turtles, octopus, starfish, mammals, 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. Photos of this category can't have a model posing in this picture however due to the conditions of the dive site and lens used if other diver/divers are visible in the frame it is not a reason for disqualification. Multiple exposure or image overlay photos are not allowed in this category. Cropping is not allowed in this category.
 - **Photo with a theme Category** as the main subject (Each World, Zone, and Continental Cup will have a subject or theme). The theme/subject will change for each Cup and will be defined by the Visual Commission). Photos of this category can't have a model posing in this picture however due to the conditions of the dive site and lens used if other diver/divers are visible in the frame it is not a reason for disqualification. Cropping is not allowed in this category.
 - **Close-up photo Category** without a theme (Macro or close-up photo of all subjects except the theme of the Cup as the main subject. Details of a fish or the theme are not accepted. Photos of this category can't have a model posing in this picture however due to the conditions of the dive site and lens used if other diver/divers are visible in the frame it is not a reason for disqualification. Multiple exposure or image overlay photos are not allowed in this category. Cropping is not allowed in this category.
 - **Wide-angle without diver Category** (a wide-angle photo without any diver/model 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. Photos of this category can't have a model posing in this picture. If other diver/divers are visible in the frame, it is a reason for the disqualification of the photo. Multiple exposure or image overlay photos are not allowed in this category. Cropping is not allowed in this category.
 - **Wide-angle with a diver Category** (a wide-angle photo including a diver who is the assistant). The theme can not be used in this category as the main subject. A freediver can not be used in this category. (see article 2.14.). Due to the conditions of the dive site and the lens used if other diver/divers are visible in the frame (other than the assistant posing), it is not a reason for disqualification. Multiple exposure or image overlay photos are not allowed in this category. Cropping is not allowed in this category.
 - **Creative Category** This category has no boundaries provided that the photographer does not contradict general/specific rules (i.e. using a freediver, etc.). Photographs are expected to be original, creative, and artistic. Cropping, image overlay, and artificial objects are allowed in this category.
 - **Smart Device Category** this category has no boundaries provided that the photographer does not contradict general/specific rules (i.e. using a freediver, etc.). Photographs can only be taken with smart devices (ie mobile phones, tablets). Cropping and image overlay are allowed in this category. Photographers can use the full power of their devices with their apps. However, they are expected to present the beauty of the underwater, animal behavior, etc. This is not the "creative category".

The "artificial" object is defined as Decorative materials that are not a part of diving or photography/videography equipment that may not harm the environment or others in any way.

The use of artificial objects needs to be approved before the competition dives by the technical delegate, as the size of the object may not be suitable for the operation. Light sources (strobe, flashlight, etc.) are considered photo/video equipment, whereas reflected light from these devices on glitter paper, etc., is considered an artificial object.

VIDEO

7.10. It defines the three categories and details of video shooting and editing which are;

- **Creative Movie Category:** The video submitted to the Movie Category can have a maximum length of 4 minutes (included) and a minimum of 2 minutes. Videos less than 2 minutes or longer than 4 minutes will be disqualified. The proportion of non-underwater images and animations, including the title and closing credits, will not be more than 30%. The land image will prevail in combining underwater and non-underwater images in the same shoot. Delivering a video out of this percentage will result in the disqualification of the video. There is no limit to the Video team's imagination; we invite filmmakers to explore the underwater world from an artistic and experimental perspective. Participants will create a unique visual experience by using artistic visuals, creative lighting effects, and detailed shots of marine life. The aim is to combine underwater imagery with an unconventional narrative to offer the audience a new perspective. Filmmakers are encouraged to create emotional and intellectual narratives using non-traditional techniques. For example: Abstract Compositions, Creative Editing, and Music Selection (instrumental, non-verbal music). Participants can include artificial objects (as described above), audio files (music, voice-over, sound effects), animations, effects, infographics, titles, and fixed images in his/her project. The sound effects, visual effects, voice-over, animation, and music must be free from copyright.
- **Theme Movie Category:** The video submitted to the Theme Movie Category can have a maximum length of 4 minutes (included) and a minimum of 2 minutes. Videos less than 2 minutes or longer than 4 minutes will be disqualified. The proportion of land-takes including the title and the closing credits, will not be more than %40. The land image will prevail in the combination of underwater and non-underwater images in the same shoot. Delivering a video out of this percentage will result in the disqualification of the video. Animations and artificial objects are not allowed in this category. Participants can include audio files (music, voice-overs, sound effects) titles, and fixed images in his/her project. The sound effects, visual effects, voice-over, and music must be free from copyright. LOC will select a theme for this category, the movie created in this category must be set about this theme.
- **60-Second Video Category:** The video submitted to this category can have a minimum length of 55 seconds and a maximum of 60 seconds (included). Videos less than 55 seconds and longer than 60 seconds will be disqualified. The 60-second video must have three parts: fish, macro, and wide-angle. These parts must follow each other (i.e., the video can start with fish followed by a wide angle. However, although fish can be seen in the following scene, that section must be macro), and the line-up of these three categories is up to the videographer. In this category, parts of fish can not be used for the macro section. Each part can be filmed with a combination of different video files. Participants can use music and original sound (only) from their video files. However, visual effects, titles, images, opening or closing credits, text, and artificial objects are not allowed. Editing allowed in this category is cutting and pasting a single video file one after the other, color correction, and adding audio files mentioned above. Land takes, or half-and-half shots, are not allowed in this category.

8. PHOTO RULES

8.1. The World, Zone, and Continental Cup will be done with digital cameras and smart devices.

Cameras and smart devices with data transfer functions (like WLAN or Bluetooth) are allowed in the World, Zone, and Continental Cup. However, their WLAN and Bluetooth functions must be turned off and their flight mode must be "on" at all times. It is permitted to take a master camera and a second smart device underwater. However, both devices must be carried with the photographer at all times. Further cameras can be taken along with the boat. Memory cards can be switched between cameras only in front of the staff of the Organizing Committee.

8.2. All photo formats are allowed provided that the minimum resolution of the long side of the image is min.3000 pix.

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

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

8.5. All submitted images must be in. JPEG file format competitors are allowed to record the images .RAW format for archival purposes.

- 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 Cup.
- 8.8. Photographers can use any type of memory card, he/she likes to use. The LOC has to use card readers for all kinds of possible memory cards. However, if the LOC does not have the required card reader for a specific card, then the competitor must provide the card reader needed.
- 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. Only one card slot can be loaded with a memory card.
- 8.10. Smart/mobile Devices will be treated as memory cards, and their storage area will be observed by the Technical Delegate. However, these devices will not be formatted before each competition day.
- 8.11. On every competition day, the CMAS Technical Delegate will control the;
 - 8.11.1. Formatting of the marked memory cards in the participant's camera
 - 8.11.2. Closing of the underwater housing with a seal.

The boat 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 boat captain or the controller will report the situation to the Technical Delegate.
- 8.12. Submission to the Competition. Under the supervision of the CMAS Technical Delegate;
 - 8.12.1. At the end of the competition day, the underwater housing is to be opened under the control of the CMAS Technical Delegate. The storage has to be given to the LOC's operator who has to copy all the .JPEG images from the memory card to external storage (e.g. computer, notebook, external hard disc, etc.) The folder of the copied images will be renamed with the number of participants.
 - 8.12.2. The competitor gets back his/her memory card, to search for the images he/she likes to submit to the Cup. At the agreed time while submitting the image, he/she has to declare the image number to the host LOC's operator.
 - 8.12.3. The host LOC's operator opens the submitted images on the computer, and the photographer confirms the selection. (Rotation and flip of the images are accepted).
 - 8.12.4. For ranking or voting, the jury uses only these images. This makes sure that the images are not manipulated before submission.
 - 8.12.5. Although there are seven available categories, organizers may decide to use fewer categories (minimum is three categories). If seven categories are used photographers can only submit photos to five categories (compete in five categories only).
 - 8.12.6. If a competitor is competing in five categories, at a minimum one of these categories is obligatory to be Wide-angle (or wide-angle with model) and one Smart Device Category.
 - 8.12.7. If a competitor is competing in less than five categories, at a minimum one of these categories is obligatory to be a Wide-angle (or wide-angle with model) category.
 - 8.12.8. The photographer will decide in which category he/she is going to compete (from the announced categories in the specific rules) at the time of the submission of the images.
 - 8.12.9. Smart Devices can only be used in the Smart Device Category (use of smart devices for other categories is a reason for disqualification of that category photo). Photos taken with cameras other than a Smart Device will be disqualified in the Smart Device Category.
- 8.13. **Manipulation of images**
 - 8.13.1. All digital manipulations "in camera" including multiple exposures, double exposure, active D lighting, sharpness, saturation, color balance (whatever the devices' software allows), etc. will be allowed before and after the shot is taken but when the competitor is still under the water.
 - 8.13.2. Photos can be edited underwater while holding the mooring line. However, the photographer should be under the water breathing from his tank at all times (except for changing the cameras, lenses, etc.) he/she can't stay on the surface (or use a snorkel) while editing.
 - 8.13.3. Mooring lines are also used by other competitors for safety stops. Photographers who are editing photos on the line cannot disturb other divers who are completing their safety stops. Disturbing other competitors on purpose may result in the disqualification of one or both of the teams.
 - 8.13.4. Cropping of the images is not allowed in all the categories except for the Creative and Smart Device Category.
 - 8.13.5. In half-and-half images, a relevant part of the image should be under the water.
 - 8.13.6. A competitor can not use the same foreground in more than one image (multiple exposure, double exposure, or regular photos). If the Control Committee 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 control, the votes would be erased after the final results were announced.

8.14. Additional usage of digital images

- 8.14.1. After the submission of the photos by the participant, all other photos has to be deleted from the external storage of the hosting LOC. The Director of the Visual Commission will keep all the photos (also those deleted by the LOC) and the votes of the World, Zone, and Continental Cup for archival purposes.
- 8.14.2. Videos, submitted to the Photo Jury will be the 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 and LOC.
- 8.14.3. Use of the images without a written agreement is an infringement of copyright and is punishable by law.
- 8.14.4. Photos shot on the practice day and the days of competition can't be published or shared on social media channels. Sharing these videos edited or unedited before the end of the closing ceremony is a reason for disqualification from the World, Zone, and Continental Cup.

9. VIDEO RULES

- 9.1. The competition will be done with digital cameras and smart devices. Cameras and smart devices with data transfer functions (e.g.WLAN or Bluetooth) are allowed in the competition. However, their data transfer functions must be turned off and Flight Mode must be “on” at all times. It is permitted to take a master camera and a second device (like a smartphone or an action cam) underwater. However, both devices must be carried with the photographer at all times. Further cameras can be taken along with the boat. The memory card can be inserted into other cameras only in front of the judges of the organizing committee.
- 9.2. The videographer can use any memory card he/she likes to use. The hosting LOC has to use card readers for all kinds of possible memory cards. However, if the LOC does not have the required card reader for a specific card, then the competitor must provide the needed card reader.
- 9.3. 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. Only one card slot can be loaded with a memory card.
- 9.4. Mobile Devices will be treated as memory cards, and their storage area will be observed by the Technical Delegate. However, these devices will not be formatted before each competition day.
- 9.5. Any artificial low-voltage light or other accessory is allowed to be used for filming.
- 9.6. Digital cameras, smart devices, and accessories that are admitted must be neither polluting nor dangerous.
- 9.7. It is compulsory to record the infographics and fixed images during the days of competition.
- 9.8. Every competition day the CMAS Technical Delegate has to control;
 - 9.8.1. Formatting of the marked memory cards in the participant's camera or mobile device.
 - 9.8.2. Closing of the underwater housing with a seal.

The boat 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 boat captain or the controller will report the situation to the Technical Delegate.
- 9.9. Submission to the Competition. Under the supervision of the CMAS Technical Delegate;
 - 9.9.1. At the end of the competition day, the underwater housing is to be opened under the control of the CMAS Technical Delegate. The storage must be given to the LOC 's operator who has to copy all the video. The folder of the copied images will be renamed with the number of participants.
 - 9.9.2. The videographer gets back his memory card to edit at the announced time by the organization committee.
 - 9.9.3. Once the participants receive the cards, hard disks integrated camera, etc., he/she can begin respectively to continue the post-production of the video in the hours determined by the organization.
 - 9.9.4. While delivering the video at the announced time the host LOC's operator opens the submitted video on the computer, and the videographer confirms the selection.
 - 9.9.5. For ranking or voting, the jury uses the edited video; however, delivered videos will be kept for proof purposes.
 - 9.9.6. Although there are three available categories organizers may decide to use fewer categories (minimum is two categories)., videographers can only submit videos to two categories (compete in two categories only).
 - 9.9.7. The videographer will decide in which category he/she is going to compete (from the announced categories in the specific rules) at the time of the submission of the videos.

9.10. Filming and Editing

- 9.10.1. 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. It is the responsibility of the competitor to make sure that the Technical Delegate controls the camera, and his/her formatted card and changes the date before the immersion. Having a previously taken image on a memory card is a reason for disqualification. For mobile devices, this rule applies as; video storage of the device will be observed and the beginning of the competition dive will be marked by the technical delegate.
- 9.10.2. At the beginning and the end of both immersions, the participants must film a "control take" with the judge visible in the video.
- 9.10.3. For the non-underwater takes (land takes), the participants can have unlimited time to film. It will be allowed during the training day and the days of the World, Zone, and Continental Cup. 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 for the underwater takes. Mentioned cards will be formatted, and marked, and a control take will be arranged before the training day.
- 9.10.4. If the same mobile device is to be used on the land takes then the device must be controlled and marked after the technical meeting by the technical delegate.
- 9.10.5. 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.
- 9.10.6. Post-production can only be done at the designated area that the organization committee has announced and only by the videographer and/or the assistant diver (captains can not edit). Team members must work in turns (only one person can edit) simultaneous editing is not allowed. Editing done by others but not the team members or two athletes editing at the same time will be punished by the disqualification of the team.
- 9.10.7. The 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.
- 9.10.8. On the second day of the competition, the editing room will remain open all day until the preannounced video submission time. Competitors can edit their videos at any time during that day but their editing interval can not be more than 5 hours and must finish before the announced time.
- 9.10.9. The organization will designate an edit room where the participants will leave their post-production equipment from the first day of the World, Zone, and Continental Cup (training day). This room will be open during the days of the World, Zone, and Continental Cup 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 HDD or memory cards, is strictly forbidden.
- 9.10.10. Competitors will work with their editing equipment; the lack of such equipment is not the responsibility of either CMAS or the LOC.
- 9.10.11. The local organization team will set a deadline time after the 5 hours on the second competition day as a limit to upload and/or deliver the videos.
- 9.10.12. The maximum resolution for the video submission is Full High Definition (1920x1080 pixel) quality. Higher resolutions will not be accepted and will be disqualified.
- 9.11. The use of opening (or closing/end) titles that can identify the team or its nationality is forbidden for all video categories. Also, the use of subtitles in the videos is not allowed.
- 9.12. Finished films must be exported to a digital video file (like MP4) and loaded onto a USB stick.
- 9.13. The 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.

9.14. Additional usage of digital images

- 9.14.1. After the submission of the video by the participant, all other video has to be deleted from the external storage of the hosting LOC. The Director of the Visual Commission will keep all the videos (also those deleted by the LOC) and the votes of the World, Zone, and Continental Cup for archival purposes.
- 9.14.2. 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 and LOC.
- 9.14.3. Use of the images without a written agreement is an infringement of copyright and is punishable by law.

9.14.4. Videos shot on the practice day and the days of competition can't be published or shared on social media channels. Sharing these videos edited or unedited before the end of the closing ceremony is a reason for disqualification from the World, Zone, and Continental Cup.

10. DISQUALIFICATIONS

- 10.1.** The following are forbidden throughout the World, Zone, and Continental Cup and will result in disqualifications;
- 10.1.1. Unfair, unethical action.
 - 10.1.2. Actions contrary to the rules.
 - 10.1.3. Unethical behavior against others (competitors, officials, organizers, volunteers, public, etc.).
 - 10.1.4. Any form of deterioration or pollution of the environment.
 - 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 photos of other photos, slides, etc.
 - 10.1.9. Using photographs or video shot by other people.
 - 10.1.10. Using an underwater scooter or similar devices.
 - 10.1.11. Action against general rules of safety or SCUBA diving in general.
 - 10.1.12. Attracting animals by food, scent, chum, etc.
 - 10.1.13. 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 - % a 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 jury will not judge the video.
- 10.2.** Some of the reasons for a single image or images of that dive will be disqualified;
- 10.2.1. If the competitor issues a cropped image in categories other than Creative and Smart Device Category. (photo only)
 - 10.2.2. If the competitor does not complete the dive and reach the boat in 90 min.
 - 10.2.3. If the competitor does a decompression dive.
 - 10.2.4. If the competitor dives under 30 meters.
 - 10.2.5. If the competitor loses the dive buddy for more than 10 minutes.
 - 10.2.6. If underwater life is manipulated without destroying the fauna/flora.
 - 10.2.7. If the competitor ends the dive with less air than announced.
- 10.3.** Some of the reasons for the competitor will be disqualified;
- 10.3.1. The environment is harmed in any way,
 - 10.3.2. Bringing a smart device to the dive center and the boat to be used as a communication, data transfer, or storage device other than the use described in the photo and video categories and/or not in flight mode.
 - 10.3.3. If unfair and improper action against others is proved etc.
 - 10.3.4. Refusing to comply with the health and hygiene rules set by the local organizing committee.
- 10.4.** A video is disqualified if an edited video does not match the criteria indicated by the rules (i.e. Non-underwater take is more than %30 of the video)
- 10.5.** If a person is disqualified (competitor, assistant) he/she cannot be replaced by another person.
- 10.6.** Infractions provided for Article 11 will have to be judged by the CMAS Technical Delegate.

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 safety during the competition events and must observe and act when necessary according to the safety norms of scuba diving. Their participation in the World, Zone, and Continental Cup is a pledge of their familiarity with safety rules and procedures. Athletes are obliged to wear BCDs and use a regulator with a pressure gauge and should have a second working regulator (an octopus). Both photographers and assistants must comply with the CMAS diving rules.
- 11.3.** All participants must have a dive computer and a surface marking buoy (safety sausage)

- 11.4. The LOC will have to guarantee necessary assistance to provide proficient management of the Cup 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 an ambulance, rescue divers, and a high-speed emergency boat with a radio, mobile phone, or walkie-talkie will be available at the competition locations and will be used exclusively for this purpose.
- 11.6. A doctor who specializes in diving will be present at the competition site.
- 11.7. Each competition boat will have onboard; a spare dive tank, an emergency first aid kit, and a working condition oxygen tank for safety reasons.
- 11.8. Participants are required to follow local and international rules of hygiene. They must be aware that failure or refusal to comply with the Hygiene Requirements against contagious diseases enforced by the local authorities may result in disqualification from the competition. Competitors must eagerly provide test results or related documentation required by the local authorities/government.

12. RESPONSIBILITIES

Competitors will be responsible for the equipment they are given during the up as well as for their equipment and accessories allowed in the Cup.

13. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

- 13.1. Competitors and/or assistants should not touch or move creatures underwater. They have to avoid any manipulation or destruction of the fauna and flora throughout the competition, including the practice day. Teams or their supporters can not feed the animals in any way.
- 13.2. Competitors and their equipment may be controlled/observed during the practice day and the competition days both above and underwater.
- 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. FINAL PLACING

- 14.1. The first three photographers and their buddies with the highest score in all the categories will be awarded the gold, silver, and bronze medals.
- 14.2. LOC can give a Trophy for the following: Youngest Competitor (if one exists), Best Model, Fairplay, Organizer's Pick
- 14.3. There is no appeal against the decisions taken by the Photo and Video Jury.
- 14.4. Competitors are obliged to attend the Prize Award Ceremony. Competitors who fail to attend the ceremony will no longer be entitled to their prizes.
- 14.5. Competitors should bring two national flags (one for the awards ceremony and one for organizational purposes) and their national anthem in digital format for the ceremonies.
- 14.6. Besides medals mentioned above, the LOC can honor 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 for a photo, best camera, etc. for video) but these prizes should be;
 - 14.6.1. approved at least two months before the World, Zone, and Continental Cup by the Director of CMAS Visual Commission.
 - 14.6.2. These prizes cannot be given to the winners during the official medal ceremony which is strictly limited to the CMAS medals.
 - 14.6.3. These awards/medals will not be included in CMAS official results.
- 14.7. The LOC must give each competitor a certificate of participation in the CMAS Event.
- 14.8. The World, Zone, and Continental Cup will be Organized with a previously announced schedule. This schedule may fluctuate as things develop.
- 14.9. Final standings and medals are only valid when they are approved by the CMAS Technical Delegate and CMAS. Valid standings will be announced on the CMAS website no more than ten working days after the World, Zone, and Continental Cup.