



**UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY  
and VIDEOGRAPHY**

**CMAS GENERAL RULES  
World/Continental Championships**

**VERSION 2025/1**

General Rules of Underwater Photo and Video Championships BOD 234

## **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 and Continental Championships.
- 1.2. Championships will take place in a single event spread over six days, divided as follows:
  - 1.2.1. Opening day - Ceremony and Technical Meeting
  - 1.2.2. One day for practice
  - 1.2.3. Two days of competition
  - 1.2.4. One day for judging and collection of votes
  - 1.2.5. One day for medals and closing ceremony

### **1.3. Host Federation**

- 1.3.1. The right to organize the Championship will be granted to the Hosting Federation 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 Championships including all its enclosures. This form has to be returned to CMAS HQ at least two years before the year of the Championship.
- 1.3.2. CMAS Board of Directors will choose the hosting country if possible before the date of the preceding World/Continental Championships 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, related Appendixes procedures, and obligations applicable to all CMAS World/Continental Championships including its appendix specific to underwater photography signed by the President of the Hosting Federation. This signature and registration fee payment is the guarantee that the Hosting Federation fulfills all its obligations.

### **1.4. Specific Rules**

Host Federation will have to send CMAS the Specific Rules for the competition no later than six months before the starting date of the Championship. These rules will have to detail all announcements and important information concerning the Championship, as required by the General Rules and the Contract. The Specific Rules of the Championship 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. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) must translate specific Rules into three official CMAS languages.

## **2. PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY**

All member Federations affiliated with CMAS can propose a team. Before the announced closing date, federations must apply and register their athletes for the championship through the CMAS Portal.

- 2.1. Each Federation or Association can propose;
  - 2.1.1. **For the Photo Competition** maximum of a total team of 5 people including 2 photographers, 2 assistants, and one captain.
  - 2.1.2. **For the Video Competition** maximum of a total team of 5 people including 2 videographers, 2 assistants, and one captain.
- 2.2. The names of participants should be finalized three months before the Championship. If announced team member names are changed, or new names are added to a previous application, it is obligatory to register the new athlete on the CMAS Portal and cancel the previous one's application. A notification must be sent to CMAS about the change.
- 2.3. If federations nominate one captain for both teams for the Championship he/she must choose between the teams as he/she will only be admitted to either one of the boats during the Championship.
- 2.4. Federations must pay the annual fees in full to CMAS before applying to the championship.
- 2.5. Sports License fees must be paid to CMAS to register an athlete for the competition.
- 2.6. Photographers and assistants should be at least 16 years old at the date of the beginning of the Championship. They must have the nationality of the country they represent. If in case the competitor does not have a dive buddy please refer to article 7.12 below.
- 2.7. All photographers and assistants must have a CMAS \*\* (2-star) diver certification as a minimum. Competitors, buddies, and captains must declare his/her CMAS Certificate through

their federations at the time of application. **Competitors, buddies, or captains will not be allowed to participate in the Championship without a proper CMAS license.**

- 2.8. Competitors must be in good health and prove their health condition with a written (in English, French, or Spanish) and signed doctor's report.
- 2.9. CMAS Technical Delegate will check certificates and documents, on the registration day before the Championship. Competitors must present;
  - CMAS 2 Star divers licence
  - 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.
  - Attached signed statement of each athlete stating that the athlete (competitor, buddy, and team captain) has understood the rules of the Championship (general rules and specific rules) and rules of SCUBA diving up to his/her certification level. Therefore he/she is taking part in this Championship 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.
  - Note that CMAS Sports Licences will be obtained electronically through the CMAS Portal (ADEL certification process must already be completed as well as other CMAS requirements). Please check <https://adel.wada-ama.org/learn> for further information on ADEL licences.
- 2.10. All those who do not comply with this Article 2 will not be allowed to compete.
- 2.11. It is obligatory to use scuba equipment, divers without scuba (i.e. free divers, etc.) will not be allowed to enter the Championship.

### **3. PHOTO JURY**

#### **3.1. Role**

To establish the placement of all photographers.

#### **3.2. Composition**

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

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

#### **3.4. Presence**

The jury President has to be present during the whole Championship. However, only the technical delegate can rule to whatever alteration in rules and/or remote judging system.

#### **3.5. 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 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 follows the rules of the competition (i.e. did not manipulate the underwater environment, did not destroy the flora/fauna, etc.).

3.6. In the case of finding a situation, the Local Federation 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 that photo will be disqualified, the team captain will only be informed).

3.7. 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.

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

3.9. 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.

### **3.10. Keeping anonymity**

- 3.10.1. The members of the jury are not allowed to be in contact in any way with the national teams until their work is done.
- 3.10.2. If there are contacts, the National Team will be disqualified.
- 3.10.3. Jury members will not be held responsible for the votes they have given, federations or 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 the submission, the photos will be sent via the internet to the judges of the Championship. Judging will be performed online remotely; only the president of the jury will be on-site to vote.
- 3.11.2. Before sending the photos, the photo numbers/sequence/code will be changed in each category to keep the anonymity of the photographer.
- 3.11.3. 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.
- 3.11.4. The Technical Delegate will collect votes from the jury, and the sum of the votes will form the combined score of the photo. The jury will mark the photograph they like best with 1 point (their winner receives 1 point) and give two points to their second best, and this will continue until the last photograph in that category. The jury cannot give the same points twice in each category (ie. cannot have two winners – two second positions, two third positions, etc. - in a single category). After sorting the votes, the rankings will be revealed from the highest standing to the lowest ones by the least points gathered as the winner of the category and the highest point as the last of that category. If there are 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 pictures that have the same points. The president of the jury's decision is final.
- 3.11.5. 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. For this purpose, members of the visual commission who do not have a national team competing in the championship can be pre-nominated as spare jury members, and their turn to vote will be determined by a draw before the voting begins.
- 3.11.6. Article 3.11.4 will be applied no matter how many judges judged the photos.
- 3.11.7. After the voting, the names of the photographers will be added to the photos.
- 3.11.8. 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.
- 3.11.9. 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.
- 3.11.10. The winner of each seven categories will be named the "Underwater Photography World/Continent Champion in (Fish or Theme or Close Up, or Wide-Angle, or Wide Angle with a Model, or Creative, or Smart Device) category" the corresponding category, i.e. CMAS World Champion in Fish Category, etc.
- 3.11.11. Points gathered at individual categories (starting from 1st to 15th ranking) will be added for each competitor. The collected score of the competitors from the same nation will also be combined to tell the grand score of that nation.
- 3.11.12. The nation with the highest combined score (if the combined scores are equal on the top three then the Control Committee's decision will be final) will be awarded the "Unofficial Photography Championship Trophy". Hosting Federation will present this trophy. However, this standing or trophy will not be included in CMAS official results.
- 3.11.13. The shape and dimensions of this trophy will be approved by the Director of Visual Commission at least two months before the beginning of the Championship.

## **4. VIDEO JURY**

### **4.1. Role**

To establish the placement of all videographers.

#### 4.2. **Composition**

The Jury is composed of min. 7 (seven) people. One President and six members.

4.3. Visual Commission will appoint the jury. Jury members do not necessarily need to belong to a CMAS member federation, but they need to be qualified and recognized in the field of digital underwater videography.

#### 4.4. **Presence**

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

#### 4.5. **Control Committee**

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

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

4.6. If in the case of finding a situation, the Local Federation 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, it will be disqualified, and the team captain will only be informed.

4.7. 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.

4.8. 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.

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

#### 4.10. **Keeping anonymity**

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

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

4.10.3. Jury Members will not be held responsible for the votes they have given, and federations or 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.

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

#### 4.11. **Functioning,**

4.11.1. After submission, the videos will be sent to the judges of the Championship online.

Judging will be performed online remotely, and only the President of the Jury will be on-site to vote.

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

4.11.3. All three 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.).

4.11.4. 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.

4.11.5. Technical Delegate will collect votes from the jury, and the sum of the votes will form the combined score of the video. The jury will mark the video they like best with 1 point (their winner receives 1 point) and give two points to their second best, and this will continue until the last video in that category. The jury cannot give the same points twice in each category (ie. cannot have two winners -two second positions, two third positions, etc.- in a single category). After sorting the votes, the rankings will be revealed from the highest standing to the lowest ones by the least points gathered as the winner of the category and the highest point as the last of that category. If there are 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.

- 4.11.6. 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. For this purpose, members of the visual commission who do not have a national team competing in the championship can be pre-nominated as spare jury members, and their turn to vote will be determined by a draw before the voting begins.
- 4.11.7. Article 4.11.5 will be applied no matter how many judges judge the videos
- 4.11.8. After the voting, the names of the videographers will be added to the video files.
- 4.11.9. 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.
- 4.11.10. Those votes will be for ranking from 1 to 15.
- 4.11.11. 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.
- 4.11.12. The winner will be named the "Underwater Video World/Continent Champion". (ie. World Champion in Creative Movie, Theme Movie, or 60 Second Video Category).
- 4.11.13. The collected scores of the competitors from the same nation will also be combined to tell the grand score of that nation.
- 4.11.14. The nation with the highest combined score (if the combined scores are equal on the top three then the Control Committee's decision will be final) will be awarded the "Unofficial Video Championship Trophy". The hosting federation will give this trophy. However, this standing or trophy will not be included in CMAS official results.
- 4.11.15. The shape and dimensions of this trophy will be approved by the Director of Visual Commission at least two months before the beginning of the Championship.

## **5. CMAS Technical Delegate**

### **5.1. Role**

Organize and run the "Technical Meeting" and control the hosting federations' handling of the Championship. Being in charge of the registration, card formatting, photo/video delivery, and jury presentations, controlling the collected jury points, examining complaints made and deliberating on them.

### **5.2. Appointment**

CMAS BOD appoints a CMAS Technical Delegate under the proposal of the Visual Commission.

### **5.3. Working Procedure for Complaints**

A complaint can be put forward if and only if;

- 5.3.1. It is lodged by the team captain (or by the photographer/videographer if the team has no captain),
- 5.3.2. It is written in French, English, or Spanish,
- 5.3.3. It is made within 15 min. after the announcement of the results and accompanied by a deposit of 100 (one hundred) Euros which will be returned immediately if the complaint is declared valid or if the claim is withdrawn within 45 minutes following the announcement of the claim.

### **5.4. Appeal**

There is no appeal against the decisions taken by the CMAS Technical Delegate, except for new events. The decision about the complaint will have to be communicated in 6 Hours and in writing, immediately after the end of the meeting.

## **6. TECHNICAL MEETING**

- 6.1. A meeting should be organized the evening before the practice day, and this meeting should include the following participants:
  - 6.1.1. The head of the Hosting Organization Committee,
  - 6.1.2. Persons in charge appointed by the Hosting Federation (diving boats, doctors),
  - 6.1.3. CMAS Technical Delegate,
  - 6.1.4. The Director of the CMAS Visual Commission,
  - 6.1.5. Team captains and competitors,
  - 6.1.6. The President of the Jury.

## 6.2. Purpose of the meeting

- 6.2.1. Although details of the Championship will be explained at this meeting, competitors are expected to have read and know the General and Specific rules of the Championship as well as CMAS rules.
- 6.2.2. Informing the competitors about the distribution of the teams on the boats and allocation (by draw) of the rotation of the boats on dive sites. The draw will have to be held under the direction of the CMAS Technical Delegate.
- 6.2.3. Announce all the information concerning;
  - 6.2.3.1. Technical matters.
  - 6.2.3.2. Time schedules and means of transport.
  - 6.2.3.3. Safety measures.
  - 6.2.3.4. Organization of the dives and handling of the photos.
  - 6.2.3.5. Different categories to be judged.
  - 6.2.3.6. Details of the Control Committee and the Jury System.
  - 6.2.3.7. Guidelines for protocol, medal ceremony.

## 7. ORGANIZATION OF DIVING COMPETITIONS

- 7.1. Each national 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 when the competitors are in the water. Boats will only be filled at around 3/4 of full capacity to accommodate the competitors comfortably.
- 7.2. 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 Championship. 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 local federation provided that they don't extend the limits stated above.
- 7.3. 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.
- 7.4. 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.
- 7.5. Each competitor and assistant will be given at least two cylinders per competition day.
- 7.6. Nitrox dives are allowed only if the local federation can supply Nitrox to all the competitors and if the competitors have the relevant Nitrox certificate (which must be declared at the registration).
- 7.7. The tank capacity of the scuba tanks provided must be the same or equal for all the competitors.
- 7.8. The hosting federation will announce four diving sites + 2 alternative dive sites (bad weather alternatives) for the championship in the specific rules. All competitors should dive in turns at the same four diving locations chosen in the draw.
- 7.9. If the first or the second day of the Championship 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. Practice day dives are not considered competition day dives.
- 7.10. Only the CMAS Technical Delegate is entitled to decide the interruption of the Championship.
- 7.11. To avoid any contention during the Championship, 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.
- 7.12. 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 local federation 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.
- 7.13. 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.

7.14. 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.

## 8. SPECIFIC RULE

- 8.1. 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).
- 8.2. 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.
- 8.3. It details the name, address, telephone, and e-mail of the contact person, for any request for information.
- 8.4. It defines the digital cards to be brought by the candidates according to the camera to be used.
- 8.5. It defines the Local Government's and Local Federation's requirement of test results and hygiene standards to prevent contagious diseases.
- 8.6. Shooting interval and the location of the land take.
- 8.7. Timetable for delivering and editing videos.
- 8.8. Location of the editing room

### PHOTO

- 8.9. 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 Championship will have a subject or theme). The theme/subject will change for each Championship 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 Championship 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

8.10. 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.

## 9. PHOTO RULES

9.1. The Championship 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 Championship. 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.

- 9.2. All photo formats are allowed provided that the minimum resolution of the long side of the image is min.3000 pix.
- 9.3. The images have to be saved in the best quality with the least compression.
- 9.4. Only original images without any manipulation outside the camera are allowed in the Championship.
- 9.5. All submitted images must be in .JPEG file format competitors are allowed to record the images.RAW format for archival purposes.
- 9.6. 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.
- 9.7. It is forbidden to erase photos. Erasing a photo is punished by excluding the photos of that dive from the Championship.
- 9.8. Photographers can use any type of memory card, he/she likes to use. The hosting federation has to use card readers for all kinds of possible memory cards. However, if the local federation does not have the required card reader for a specific card, then the competitor must provide the card reader needed.
- 9.9. 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.
- 9.10. 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.
- 9.11. On every competition day, the CMAS Technical Delegate will control the;
  - 9.11.1. Formatting of the marked memory cards in the participant's camera,
  - 9.11.2. 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.
- 9.12. Submission to the Competition. Under the supervision of the CMAS Technical Delegate;
  - 9.12.1. 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 host federation'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.
  - 9.12.2. The competitor gets back his/her memory card, to search for the images he/she likes to submit to the Championship. At the agreed time while submitting the image, he/she has to declare the image number to the host federation's operator.
  - 9.12.3. The host federation's operator opens the submitted images on the computer, and the photographer confirms the selection. (Rotation and flip of the images are accepted).
  - 9.12.4. For ranking or voting, the jury uses only these images. This makes sure that the images are not manipulated before submission.
  - 9.12.5. Although there are seven available categories, photographers can only submit photos to five categories (compete in five categories only).
  - 9.12.6. 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.
  - 9.12.7. 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.
  - 9.12.8. The photographer will decide in which category he/she is going to compete at the time of the submission of the images.
  - 9.12.9. 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.
- 9.13. **Manipulation of images**
  - 9.13.1. 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.
  - 9.13.2. 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.
  - 9.13.3. 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.

- 9.13.4. Cropping of the images is not allowed in all the categories except for the Creative and Smart Device Category.
- 9.13.5. In half-and-half images, a relevant part of the image should be under the water.
- 9.13.6. 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.

## **10. VIDEO RULES**

- 10.1. 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.
- 10.2. The videographer can use any memory card he/she likes to use. The hosting federation has to use card readers for all kinds of possible memory cards. However, if the local federation does not have the required card reader for a specific card, then the competitor must provide the needed card reader.
- 10.3. 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.
- 10.4. 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.
- 10.5. Any artificial low-voltage light or other accessory is allowed to be used for filming.
- 10.6. Digital cameras, smart devices, and accessories that are admitted must be neither polluting nor dangerous.
- 10.7. It is compulsory to record the infographics and fixed images during the days of the competition.
- 10.8. It is allowed to start land shooting after the registration until the end of the announced date and time (by the LOC).
- 10.9. Every competition day the CMAS Technical Delegate has to control;
  - 10.9.1. Formatting of the marked memory cards in the participant's camera or mobile device.
  - 10.9.2. 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 boat judge will report the situation to the Technical Delegate.
- 10.10. Submission to the Competition. Under the supervision of the CMAS Technical Delegate;
  - 10.10.1. 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 Host Federation's operator who has to copy all the video. The folder of the copied images will be renamed with the number of participants.
  - 10.10.2. The videographer receives his memory card to edit at the announced time by the organization committee.
  - 10.10.3. 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.
  - 10.10.4. While delivering the video at the announced time the host federation's operator opens the submitted video on the computer, and the videographer confirms the selection.
  - 10.10.5. For ranking or voting, the jury uses the edited video; however, delivered videos will be kept for proof purposes.
  - 10.10.6. Although there are three available categories, videographers can only submit videos to two categories (compete in two categories only).
  - 10.10.7. Out of these two categories, one category is obligatory to be a Movie (Creative Movie or Theme Movie) category. The videographer will decide in which category he/she is going to compete at the time of the submission of the videos.
  - 10.10.8. Video teams can submit one photograph shot by a smart device to the **Smart Device Photo** category.

## 10.11. Filming and Editing

- 10.11.1. 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.
- 10.11.2. At the beginning and the end of both immersions, the participants must film a "control take" with the judge visible in the video.
- 10.11.3. 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 Championship. For non-underwater takes it is not allowed to film in pools, swimming pools, or underwater of any kind. The memory card for the non-underwater takes will be different from the cards for the underwater takes. Mentioned cards will be formatted, and marked, and a control take will be arranged before the training day.
- 10.11.4. 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.
- 10.11.5. 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.
- 10.11.6. 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.
- 10.11.7. 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.
- 10.11.8. 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.
- 10.11.9. The organization will designate an edit room where the participants will leave their post-production equipment from the first day of the Championship (training day). This room will be open during the days of the Championship 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.
- 10.11.10. Competitors will work with their editing equipment; the lack of such equipment is not the responsibility of either CMAS or the hosting federation.
- 10.11.11. 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.
- 10.11.12. The maximum resolution for the video submission is Full High Definition (1920x1080 pixel) quality. Higher resolutions will not be accepted and will be disqualified.
- 10.12. 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.
- 10.13. Finished films must be exported to a digital video file (like MP4) and loaded onto a USB stick.
- 10.14. 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 and his/her National Federation.
- 10.15. **The use of AI**  
Competitors can use AI-generated sound, sound effects, narration, and music.

### **AI-Generated Music**

AI-generated music is only allowed if obtained from copyright-free sources or royalty-free music generators. Competitors can only use music explicitly labeled as free for commercial use or without copyright, as AI tools trained on copyrighted material might unintentionally reproduce copyrighted music elements.

### **AI-Generated Voice-Overs**

Conditional Allowance: AI-generated voice-overs are allowed only by proof that the tool used is approved for copyright-free or royalty-free use.

**Approval and Attribution Requirements:** Competitors must provide documentation to verify that the AI voice-over is from a copyright-free source. Avoid recognizable celebrity voices or copyrighted characters, as AI tools sometimes mimic these voices and could lead to copyright issues.

Competitors can use AI-generated images or videos (AI-created underwater photos and videos are not allowed) only in the Creative Movie Category. The used material's source and beginning and ending seconds in the movie must be declared at the time of submission of the videos.

**Source Verification** Competitors must provide documentation or a source link confirming that the sound, images, and videos were generated through a tool or library offering copyright-free or royalty-free content.

#### **10.16. Additional usage of digital images**

- 10.16.1. After the submission of the video by the participant, all other video has to be deleted from the external storage of the hosting federation. The Director of the Visual Commission will keep all the videos (also those deleted by the Hosting Federation) and the votes of the Championship for archival purposes.
- 10.16.2. 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.
- 10.16.3. Use of the images without a written agreement is an infringement of copyright and punishable by law.
- 10.16.4. 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 Championship.

### **11. USAGE OF IMAGES**

- 11.1.1. Hosting federation must delete all the photos and videos from their systems. The Director of the Visual Commission will keep all the photos and videos (also those deleted by the Hosting Federation) and the votes of the Championship for archival purposes.
- 11.1.2. Photos and Videos submitted to the Jury will be the property of CMAS and will be used freely without payment but under the name of the photographer/videographer for promotional activities of CMAS.
- 11.1.3. Use of the images by third parties without a written agreement is an infringement of copyright and is punishable by law.
- 11.1.4. Photos and 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 Championship

### **12. DISQUALIFICATIONS**

- 12.1. The following are forbidden throughout the Championship and will result in disqualifications;
  - 12.1.1. Unfair, unethical action.
  - 12.1.2. Actions contrary to the rules.
  - 12.1.3. Unethical behavior against others (competitors, officials, organizers, volunteers, public, etc.).
  - 12.1.4. Any form of deterioration or pollution of the environment.
  - 12.1.5. Submitting cards or images not exposed while diving during the official competition time.
  - 12.1.6. Erasing/deleting of images.
  - 12.1.7. Using dead creatures or moving live animals.
  - 12.1.8. Using photos of other photos, slides, etc.
  - 12.1.9. Using photographs or video shot by other people.
  - 12.1.10. Using an underwater scooter or similar devices.
  - 12.1.11. Action against general rules of safety or SCUBA diving in general.
  - 12.1.12. Attracting animals by food, scent, chum, etc.
  - 12.1.13. If the video is not delivered at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup>. 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.

- 12.2. Some of the reasons for a single image or images of that dive will be disqualified;
- 12.2.1. If the competitor issues a cropped image in categories other than Creative and Smart Device Category. (photo only)
  - 12.2.2. If the competitor does not complete the dive and reach the boat in 90 min.
  - 12.2.3. If the competitor does a decompression dive.
  - 12.2.4. If the competitor dives under 30 meters.
  - 12.2.5. If the competitor loses the dive buddy for more than 10 minutes.
  - 12.2.6. If underwater life is manipulated without destroying the fauna/flora.
  - 12.2.7. If the competitor ends the dive with less air than announced.
- 12.3. Some of the reasons for the competitor will be disqualified;
- 12.3.1. The environment is harmed in any way,
  - 12.3.2. 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.
  - 12.3.3. If unfair and improper action against others is proved etc.
  - 12.3.4. Refusing to comply with the health and hygiene rules set by the local organizing committee.
- 12.4. 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)
- 12.5. If a person is disqualified (competitor, assistant) he/she cannot be replaced by another person.
- 12.6. Infringements provided for Article 11 will have to be judged by the CMAS Technical Delegate.

### **13. SAFETY MEASURES**

- 13.1. 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.
- 13.2. 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/Continental Championships 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.
- 13.3. All participants must have a dive computer and a surface marking buoy (safety sausage)
- 13.4. The Hosting Federation will have to guarantee necessary assistance to provide proficient management of the Championship and will have to provide the necessary information on emergency aid and any competent local emergency services.
- 13.5. 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.
- 13.6. A doctor who specializes in diving will be present at the competition site.
- 13.7. Each competition boat will have onboard; a spare dive tank, an emergency first aid kit, and a working condition oxygen tank for safety reasons.
- 13.8. 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 Federation may result in disqualification from the competition. Competitors must eagerly provide test results or related documentation required by the Local Federation/Government.

### **14. RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

### **15. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

- 15.1. 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.
- 15.2. Competitors and their equipment may be controlled/observed during the practice day and the competition days both above and underwater.

- 15.3. 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.

## **16. PHOTO AND VIDEO REPORTERS**

- 16.1. Photographing and filming competitors during the competition is only allowed with the authorization of the organizing federation.
- 16.2. Competitors may wish to refuse to be photographed or filmed. They will have to submit enclosure C to the hosting federation before the draw is held (article 5). If the enclosure is not submitted, it will be considered that the team has no objection to being photographed or filmed at any time.
- 16.3. The enclosure (C) will have to be distributed by the Hosting Federation to all participating teams before the meeting mentioned in Article 7.

## **17. FINAL PLACING**

- 17.1. The first three photographers and their buddies with the highest score in all the categories will be awarded the gold, silver, and bronze medals.
- 17.2. Besides the medals, the Organizing Federation will honor the Countries with the most points with an "Unofficial Championship Trophy" as described in 3.11.12.,3.11.13, 4.11.12, 4.11.13
- 17.3. The local Federation is obliged to give a Trophy for the following: Youngest Competitor (if one exists), Best Model, Fairplay, and Organizer's Pick.
- 17.4. There is no appeal against the decisions taken by the Photo and Video Jury.
- 17.5. Competitors are obliged to attend the Prize Award Ceremony. Competitors who fail to attend the ceremony will no longer be entitled to their prizes.
- 17.6. 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.
- 17.7. Besides medals and the trophies mentioned above, the organizing Federation 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;
- 17.7.1. approved at least two months before the Championship by the Director of CMAS Visual Commission.
- 17.7.2. These prizes cannot be given to the winners during the official medal ceremony which is strictly limited to the CMAS medals.
- 17.7.3. These awards/medals will not be included in CMAS official results.
- 17.8. The Hosting Federation must give each competitor a certificate of participation in the CMAS World/Continental Championship.
- 17.9. The Championship will be Organized with a previously announced schedule. This schedule may fluctuate as things develop.
- 17.10. 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 Championship.