



## **Australian Underwater Federation Queensland Inc.**

### **Rules & By-Laws**

# **SPEARFISHING COMMISSION**

**Also known as "A Section Rules of Competition and Selection"**

#### **CHANGING THESE RULES & BY-LAWS**

1. These SPEARFISHING COMMISSION RULES & BY-LAWS may be changed by a motion which gains a simple majority at a general meeting of the Spearfishing Commission.
2. Only the delegates of financial clubs of the Spearfishing Commission shall be eligible to vote.
3. The vote of each such club shall be calculated as 1 vote for every 5 individual members of the AUF who are financial members of that club, up to a maximum of 10 votes per club. Individual members can only be counted in one club.
4. In the case of an equality of votes the motion, matter or resolution shall be determined to retain the status quo.
5. Any club delegate to the Commission may veto the change if prior notice of at least 4 weeks of the proposed change was not given to the Clubs

#### **STRUCTURE OF THE SPEARFISHING COMMISSION**

6. The Spearfishing Commission shall consist of the Spearfishing Commissioner, or the Commissioner's appointee, and one delegate from each financial AUFQ Spearfishing Club.
7. The Spearfishing Commissioner is elected at the AUFQ AGM, becomes a member of the AUFQ Executive, and must maintain AUF membership.
8. Club delegates must be currently financial AUF members, and may be changed at any time by written or email notification by the Club.
9. All protests shall be dealt with by the Spearfishing Commission Protest Committee. The Protest Committee is chaired by the Spearfishing Commissioner or his delegate, and consists of a representative from each Club involved in the Competition. If the Competitor who protests is the only representative from his Club, then he is to nominate a substitute to represent his Club on the Protest Committee. (See 58 - 61)
10. The Protest Committee can also be used to rule on emergent problems or questions at a competition.

#### **COMPETITIONS**

11. All financial Spearfishing Commission Clubs shall be eligible to take a turn to host the State Titles.
12. All Clubs shall be notified at the AGM regarding the holding of the following State Titles.
13. Applications by Clubs desirous of hosting the State Titles shall be made to the Spearfishing Commissioner at or prior to the AUFQ AGM.

14. The Club hosting the State Titles must comply with the relevant sections of these Rules & By-Laws.
15. The details of the State Titles and other interclub competitions must be notified to the Spearfishing Commissioner six weeks prior, and the other Clubs at least four weeks prior to the competition.
16. A nomination fee (capitation fee) of \$5 per competitor (\$10 per pair) shall be set on all interclub competitions, and the host Club shall send this to the AUFQ to become part of the Spearfishing Commission finances.

### **PRIZES**

17. No cash prizes shall be awarded for any event requiring AUFQ approval.
18. For a State Titles event, gold, silver and bronze medals will be presented for each section where the numbers of competitors permit.

### **PERPETUAL TROPHIES**

19. To be eligible for nomination for Perpetual Awards, the relevant deed or deeds shall have occurred in the previous calendar year. Any deed occurring after that time shall be considered for the next calendar year.
20. Nominations for these Perpetual Awards shall comply with the relevant sections of these Rules and By-Laws.
21. All nominations for Perpetual Awards may come from an individual member, a Club or the Records Officer. They must be received before, or at, the AUFQ AGM.
22. The State Records Officer shall be the only receiver of nominations for Perpetual Awards.
23. Perpetual awards are decided by Club votes at the AUFQ AGM.
24. The Records Officer shall be responsible for the records pertaining to the holders of the Perpetual Awards.
25. Perpetual trophies will remain in the possession of AUFQ at all times. An individual trophy will be given to those receiving the Award.
26. The Perpetual Awards are: Skindiver of the Year, Sportsperson of the Year, Junior Sportsperson of the Year (The Cloughy Shield), Senior Most Meritorious Fish Speared Annually, Lady Most Meritorious fish Speared Annually, Junior Most Meritorious Fish Speared Annually (junior being <18).
27. Only financial members of financial AUFQ Clubs are eligible to win Perpetual Awards. The one exception is Skindiver of the Year which is a service award.

### **RECORDS**

28. The State Records Officer shall be responsible for the recording of all records and the issuing of all certificates.
29. Fish weight records (spearfishing records) will be accepted from financial AUFQ Club members and financial out-of-state AUF Club members provided the fish are speared in the Australian Fishing Zone off Queensland and south to Hastings Point in NSW.
30. All applications shall be made on the appropriate AUF claim form and shall contain the following information:
  - Scientific name and common name of the fish.
  - Name, address, phone, email and Club of applicant.
  - Weight, girth & length of fish.
  - Date & locality of catch.
  - Type of equipment used.
  - Signature of applicant and witness to catch.
  - Name, signature and address of Weight Recorder.
  - Name, signature and address of Witness to Weighing.
  - Details of scales used.
  - Clear photo of the fish permitting identification.
  - Age if a junior (>18.)
31. Eligible Species:  
Species of the sub-class Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes) are eligible with the following exceptions:
  - Order Syngnathiformes - Pipefish and allies, excluding the families Aulostomidae (Trumpetfishes) and Fistulariidae (Flutemouths)
  - Order Tetraodontiformes - Toadfish, Boxfish, Sunfish and allies, excluding the families Monacanthidae (Leatherjackets) and Balistidae (Triggerfishes)
32. To be eligible for a Queensland Spearfishing Record a fish must not be protected under State or Federal Government regulations at the location where captured.
33. Fish must have a minimum weight of 500 grams. (Historical records weighing less than 500 grams have been retained for the sake of completeness.)

34. All fish under 2 kg in weight must exceed the previous record by 50 grams, and fish over 2 kg must exceed the previous record by 100 grams. In the event of a claim at least equalling, but not exceeding, the record by the required amount, a tied record will be ruled.
35. All claims should be made within 12 months of capture. If the form cannot be fully completed an accompanying letter of explanation should state clearly the reason, or reasons, for the incomplete form. At the discretion of the Records Officer, in the case of minor omissions, the record claim may be accepted.
36. Fish taken with the aid of SCUBA, or any breathing aid other than a snorkel, shall be ineligible for record purposes.
37. Incorrect identification of the fish may render the application ineligible.
38. At no time is it the responsibility of the Records Officer to prove the identity of any fish.
39. The catch must be made in accordance with the Spearfishing Commission Rules of Competition where applicable.
40. All fish must be weighed on scales meeting the requirements as set out for AUF National Records.
41. Assisted captures are not eligible for records. The list below is a guide to assist the interpretation of "assisted capture". It does not cover all possible situations.

**Acceptable action.**

- Showing location of a fish.
- Burleying for another spearfisher or group.
- Chasing sharks away from another spearfisher's speared fish.
- Accepting an unloaded gun from another spearfisher to use to place a second shot.
- Accepting a rig line from another spearfisher and attaching the rig line yourself to your rig during the act of playing a fish.
- The boat following as you swim after your float.
- The boat locating your float and giving you directions.
- Helping lift the subdued fish into the boat.
- Retrieving a stuck spear once the other spearfisher has removed his fish from the line.
- Placing your fish in another spearfisher's fish float (with permission.)

**Level of assistance rendering record claim ineligible.**

- Loading the speargun for another spearfisher.
- Accepting a loaded speargun from another spearfisher to use to place a second shot.
- Placing a second shot in another spearfisher's fish.
- Helping pull the fish up or holding the other spearfisher's float before the fish has been subdued.
- Another spearfisher attaching a rig line to your rig line during the act of playing a fish.
- The boat picking you up and taking you over to your fish float.
- Picking up the rig line and pulling the other spearfisher's fish up to the boat.
- Getting into or holding onto the boat and playing the fish from there.
- Retrieving a stuck spear for another spearfisher while the fish is still on the line.
- "Sledding" is where one diver swims another diver down under the surface towards the bottom. The second diver then continues further down under his own effort. This allows divers to go deeper than they usually would be capable of diving on their own. Muscular power has been given by another person and therefore is considered assisting in the capture of the fish.
- A diver, after shooting a fish, is assisted to the surface by another diver, This is considered assisting in the capture of the fish.

42. Acceptable True Pairs record claims: Information for those diving in True Pairs, with both persons attached to one float simultaneously via separate float lines. In some situations the capture is still regarded as unassisted. The guidelines below do not cover all possible situations. (Also read in conjunction with 33 above.)

**Acceptable action by the second diver.**

- Handing an unloaded gun to the other attached diver for a second shot.
- Be attached to the float via a second floatline, but not handle the other attached diver's floatline.
- Swim attached to the floatline to maintain visual contact with the other attached diver.
- Assist with placing the fish into a boat or float following it being subdued by the first diver.

**Level of assistance rendering record claim ineligible.**

- Handing a loaded gun to the other attached diver.
- Placing a second shot into the other diver's fish.
- Hold or help pull up the other diver's floatline.
- Swim attached to the floatline in a manner where it gives muscular pull against a speared fish.
- Handling the fish, equipment or floatline between the float and the first diver while the fish has not been subdued.

### **STATE SPEARFISHING TEAM**

43. Only financial members of financial AUFQ Clubs may choose or be chosen to compete as members of the Queensland State Team at the Australian National Spearfishing Championships each year. This includes those members who reside outside Queensland but normally identify as a member of an AUFQ Club.
44. There is no maximum number in a State Team. All those complying with 43 above\_will form the Queensland State Team unless they request otherwise.
45. Members of the Queensland State Spearfishing Team are bound under the direction of the Team Manager.

### **TEAM MANAGER**

46. The Spearfishing Commissioner may act as the Queensland Spearfishing Team Manager if attending the National Titles.
47. Otherwise the Spearfishing Commissioner shall call for nominations for the position of AUFQ Team Manager at least 2 months before the event. The Spearfishing Commissioner shall then select the AUFQ Team Manager and notify those concerned at least 6 weeks before the event.
48. The AUFQ Team Manager will also be responsible for Film Fishing and Team nominations.
49. The decisions of the AUFQ Team Manager relating to Competitions and camp discipline shall be abided by at all times.

### **NEMROD SPEARFISHING CUP**

50. This is a trophy with the aim of promoting inter-club competition in Queensland. It now consists of a final based on the scores from one of the heats/days at the State Titles (usually the second heat/day.)
51. Nemrod Teams consist of the two highest scoring Club Pairs from each AUFQ Club.
52. This differs from the Club Teams Competition in that the combinations of Club Pairs are not nominated before the competition.
53. Both members of the Club Pair must be financial members of the same AUFQ Club.

### **GENERAL RULES OF COMPETITION**

54. Rules of Competition for all Spearfishing and Filmfishing events shall be divided into two sections. These sections shall be termed "the "A" Section and the "B" Section.
55. The "A" Section Rules shall cover all standing rules of Competition to which all clubs are bound when conducting the State Titles and other Competitions on behalf of the Commission.
56. The "B" Section Rules shall cover the local Rules of Competition and may be varied by the committee preparing the events. However, the Spearfishing Commission shall have the right to vary the "B" Section Rules as and when it sees fit.
57. The "B" Section Rules shall not contravene the "A" Section Rules.
58. Protests prior to events being held shall be lodged with the Spearfishing Commissioner no later than one week prior to the commencement of competition.
59. Rules of Competition shall be circulated to all Clubs not less than two months prior to the opening date of the State Titles or other Competitions.
60. Protests during or post Competition may be lodged by any Competitor or recognized official. All protests must be in writing, countersigned by an official, and lodged within an hour of the of the finish of the competition, weigh-in, or return to shore if in small boats.
61. All protests shall be dealt with by the Spearfishing Commission Protest Committee. (See 9 & 10)
62. All competitors must be financial members of the AUF or the relevant sporting body in their respective country. They will be able to take part in any Competition provided they also agree to comply with these Rules and Regulations (however rules 25 and 27 shall also apply to the trophies contested at the State Titles).
63. It is the responsibility of the Competitor to prove they are financial. A current AUF card shall constitute such proof.
64. Competitors shall nominate one financial AUFQ Club. Some Competitors are financial members of more than one Club, but all Competitors must nominate only one financial AUFQ Club for the entirety of the event, and this will be used in the calculation of Club Teams, Club Pairs and Nemrod Cup scores.
65. Any Club Teams, Club Pairs and Nemrod Cup Teams must be composed entirely of members that have nominated from the one Club.
66. Competitors must be financial members of the financial AUFQ club they nominate.

67. Commencing in 2017 the State Spearfishing Titles shall be contested in the True Pair format with the following competition categories: (Note Rule 72 applies to all categories below.)

CATEGORY	REQUIREMENTS	TROPHIES
<b>SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP OF QLD</b>	Open category Any age, sex, club combination	<i>Cilento Championship shield &amp; runner-up trophy</i>
<b>VETERAN SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP OF QLD</b>	45 years or older pair Any sex, club combination	<i>Veterans' shield</i>
<b>LADIES SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP OF QLD</b>	All female pair Any age, club combination	<i>Ladies' shield</i>
<b>JUNIOR SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP OF QLD</b>	15-17 years of age pair Any sex, club combination	<i>Monty Young Memorial Shield</i>
<b>SUB-JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP OF QLD (adult/child)</b>	<15 paired with an adult (>17) The adult is permitted to load guns and spear fish, with the resultant score still being called Sub-Junior	<i>Aimrite Shield</i>
<b>CLUB PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP OF QLD</b>	Same club pairs (rules 64 & 65) <u>Nomination required</u> Any age, sex combination	<i>Pairs trophy</i>
<b>CLUB TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP OF QLD</b>	2 x same club pairs <u>Nomination required</u> Any age, sex combination	<i>The Dolphin Club of Townsville shield</i>
<b>NEMROD CUP</b>	Top 2 same club pairs <u>Nomination not required</u> Any age, sex combination	<i>Nemrod Cup</i>

*N.B. A pair may win both their age category and the open category, and a pair of ladies may also win the ladies category. Intermediate, Senior and Master divisions are no longer contested separately.*

## **"A" SECTION RULES OF SPEARFISHING COMPETITION**

### **(Specific to True Pairs)**

68. A True Pair shall tow a single float with two tethers attached. The longer tether shall be no longer than 30m and the shorter tether shall be no longer than 4m.
69. Neither diver (or observer) may leave the immediate vicinity of their float.
70. At least one diver of the True Pair (or the observer) must remain on the surface at all times.
71. A True Pair shall at all times operate in such a manner that each diver (or observer) shall actively monitor their partner.
72. A diver in any category may compete alone provided they are accompanied by an observer. This may be an advantage in qualifying for Ladies, Veterans or Juniors. An observer must tow a separate float and may carry a speargun. The observer may provide the gun or other equipment to the competitor but can provide no other assistance. No diver at the State Titles shall be permitted to swim alone.

### **(In general)**

73. Competitors must tow a float in all events. Such floats must have a positive buoyancy of 7kg or more and be coloured yellow, orange or red. It must clearly display a Flag "A" at least 200mm above the surface of the water.
74. There is no maximum size on personal floats, but the competitor must not use the float to aid swimming by lying on, or otherwise lifting the body out of the water, or partially out of the water.
75. Each competitor must carry a knife.
76. Each competitor or pair must carry both a whistle and an orange sheet of plastic as a distress signal (minimum 1.0 X 0.5m.).

*Major revision 5/8/2017*

77. Each competitor or True Pair must carry at least one of the following; a signal mirror, flare, or emergency laser signalling device. In addition, the competitor may also carry a personal EPIRB. The competitor is responsible for the registration and deployment of the EPIRB if carried.
78. A torch may not be used, but may be carried as a safety precaution.
79. Handheld GPS or similar devices are prohibited with the exception of safety devices that incorporate a GPS function provided they cannot be used as a navigational aid.
80. A Shark Shield or other such device may be used.
81. A powerhead may be carried, but the Competitor must ensure it does not endanger other people, and that it is only used for protection against sharks. It is the Competitor's responsibility to see that the powerhead and its use complies with any Government legislation.
82. Competitors shall not load their guns out of water.
83. Competitors shall not carry loaded spearguns on floats.
84. Spearheads, when not in use, shall be sheathed in an adequate manner.
85. Competitors will dispose of all fish refuse in a clean and tidy manner.
86. When not diving under the True Pairs format, it is highly recommended that competitors dive within visual and communication distance from another competitor as a safety precaution. No assistance is permitted other than to keep sharks away.
87. All competitors must sign on at the commencement of each competition and sign off at the conclusion of each competition.
88. There are two systems which can be used for those late back:
  - (a) Competitors who have not reached the designated finish point by the conclusion of the competition will be disqualified (default).
  - (b) Competitors who reach the designated sign off point less than 5 minutes late are penalised 100 points. Those between 5 and 10 minutes late are penalised 200 points. Those who are later than 10 minutes are disqualified (alternative to be adopted before competition).
89. Fish, which are not in the hands of Competition Officials, must be with the Competitor at sign-off or shall be disqualified from Weigh-in.
90. It is the responsibility of the Competitor or the Competitor's agent to be present when the Competitor's fish are weighed.
91. In any Competition not conducted from shore, the Host Club shall arrange water transport for all Competitors.
92. In the event of a tie, the position shall be decided by a count back system on the basis of species first and weight second.
93. Eligible species:  
Species of the sub-class Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes) are eligible with the following exceptions:
  - Order sygnathiformes - Pipefishes and allies, excluding the families Aulostomidae (Trumpetfishes) and Fistulariidae (Flutemouths)
  - Order Tetraodontiformes - Toadfish, Boxfish, Sunfish and allies, excluding families Monacanthidae (Leatherjackets) and Balistidae (Triggerfishes)
  - Others specified in the "B" Section Rules (set by the Host Club.)
94. Fish that are protected under State or Federal Government regulations at the location of the Competition are ineligible.
95. The scoring system shall be 100 points per specie, and 10 points per kg of fish weighed to a maximum of 250 points per any one fish (being 100 points for the specie and 150 points for weight.)
96. Only one of each species shall be taken into account when compiling individual or True Pair scores.
97. The Host Club's score sheet shall be used provided it does not contravene the "A" Section Rules.
98. The Host Club shall provide a receptacle of water at the weigh-in point so that foreign matter can be removed from fish before weighing.
99. A duplicate of the Competitor's score sheet , or viewing of the original score sheet, will be available to the Competitor 30 minutes after the conclusion of the weigh-in.
100. All fish must be captured by the Competitor using spear, speargun or similar device.
101. The use of spearguns fired by the discharge of compressed gases is forbidden (compressed air guns are okay provided the gas is not released on firing.) The use of powerheads, poisons, electricity and torches for the taking of fish are also forbidden.
102. No breathing aid, other than a snorkel, shall be permitted.
103. Competitors must be immersed in the water at the time of spearing the fish.
104. Fish speared in traps, nets or on lines are ineligible.
105. All fish shall remain the property and responsibility of the Competitor. At the Host Club's discretion the Host Club may accept donations of fish to the Host Club or for charity.
106. Officials may be appointed as required.
107. All Competitions shall be a minimum of 4 hours duration.

108. The Time Keeper's decision as to starting and finishing times shall be final.
109. General area limits shall be defined by the Host Club on the nomination form, and definite area limits shall be defined no sooner than 12 hours before the commencement of the Competition.
110. Mobile safety boats, if used, will not accept fish, and should they assist any Competitor, the Competitor will be disqualified.
111. Fish drop-off boats, if used, may be anchored at points designated at the official briefing. It is intended the drop-off boat should remain there for the duration of the event, but the drop-off boat remains under the control of its Skipper, and should the need arise, in the Skipper's opinion, the boat may move its location or undertake another task to the benefit or detriment of all competitors. No protest will be entered into on this matter.

### **FILMFISHING**

112. The event is meant to closely parallel the conditions governing a Spearfishing Competition. The Competitor/ True Pair seeks to photograph up to 20 of the specified different species of fish. Each fish is allocated points on degree of difficulty of photographing with a bonus for framing.
113. The General Rules of Competition and the "A" Section Rules of Spearfishing Competition that are relevant must be abided by. This Competition can be run in a True Pairs format.
114. No Burley is allowed.
115. The length of the competition must be a minimum of one and a half hours.
116. A score sheet listing the fish and their points will be supplied to Competitors at least 14 days prior to the competition.
117. Only digital cameras will be used. Competitors will also need a memory stick and access to a computer.
118. Competitors will clear their memory card before starting the Competition.
119. Competitors may take as many photos as they wish during the time period.
120. Competitors shall be given a one hour period of their computer access to sort their photos and to select the 20 photos they want judged. Photos may be enhanced, but no cropping or dividing photos is permitted.
121. The 20 selected photos, in jpeg format, are placed on the memory stick and supplied to the Competition Officials for judging.
122. In the case of equal points, a count-back of the highest category fish will decide the matter.
123. The Judges decision is final.

### **BY-LAWS**

124. All legislation relating to spearfishing under such State or Federal acts as Fisheries Acts, Harbours and Marine Acts, and Marine Parks Acts must strictly be adhered to.
125. Members are also expected to honour AUFQ and AUF imposed rules and by-laws.
126. The sale of speared fish is strictly forbidden.
127. All fish taken in Spearfishing Competitions shall be of edible size and quality and as such shall be utilized so. No fish shall be discarded or otherwise wasted. All fish shall be handled or stored in a manner consistent with their use as food. Fish refuse shall be disposed of in a clean and proper manner.
128. Spearguns shall be treated with respect at all times by:
  - Never having a loaded speargun out of the water.
  - Never pointing a speargun at anyone at any time.
  - Having spearheads sheathed in an adequate manner when not in use.
129. Members should assist the public whenever possible, and be courteous to any ranger, inspector or official.
130. Members should behave in such a manner so as not to discredit the Federation or the sport of Spearfishing. This includes the use of social media.
131. It shall be the responsibility of the Spearfishing Commissioner to provide all Clubs with up to date amendments to the Rules and By-Laws.