

# **INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC UNDERWATER FISHING**

## **CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **ARTICLES**

At a meeting of Team Managers on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1993, during the 5<sup>th</sup> International Pacific Underwater Fishing Championships, the following **ARTICLES** were discussed, amended and ratified by the Core Nations.

#### **Article 1**

The competition will be known as the INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC UNDERWATER FISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS.

#### **Article 2**

The Core Member Nations will be Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii and Tahiti. The Host Country may extend an invitation to ANY number of countries from ANY location. The invited countries will compete socially, until a majority of the Core Nations agree to adopt them as a Core Nation.

Only Core Member Nations can take out the official positions. But recognition will be given to positions of the invited countries.

#### **Article 3**

The Championships shall be hosted on a rotational basis between competing countries - French Polynesia (Tahiti) then followed by New Zealand, Hawaii, ~~and~~ Australia, New Caledonia, Guam.

Any other country which has applied and been accepted by the Core Nations will then host the following year's Championships.

#### **Article 4**

The existing trophy for Men (originally donated by Nouvelle Calédonie) and the 1998 trophy for Women (donated by Australia) will be "Perpetual Trophies." These trophies will be awarded annually to the Teams of successful countries and the name of the country will be engraved on respective trophies to provide an historical record.

#### **Article 4A**

If the forthcoming Host Country fails to attend the preceding year's Championships, they will forfeit the right to hold those Championships, and thus the next Country will host.

#### **Article 5**

The Host Country shall be responsible for providing early information for all Core Nations. (Recommendation : 5 months before the event.)

All members will be accommodated at their own expense.

The Host Country shall provide organised and reasonable pre-competition training.

#### **Article 5A**

If any Core Member Nation's team fails to attend two (2) consecutive Championships, they lose their Core National status and must re-apply for reinstatement of that status.

## **Article 6**

Each competitor must provide membership license, valid medical certificate, health insurance papers. Failing proof of these certificates the competitor will be ineligible to compete in the Championships.

Each National Team will consist of four (4) competitors, one of whom may or may not be the Manager.

In competition each National Team of four (4) competitors will be divided into two (2) pairs.

Each National Team may have one (1) replacement diver, who is could be ~~not~~ the Team Manager.

A competitor may be replaced by the Team Manager in the event of illness or injury which renders the diver unable to compete. On the second day of competition a country's replacement diver can be substituted for any of the first day's team. (**Article amended** in April 1999.)

Once the competition has commenced on any day, a diver if ill or injured may come in from the water and be replaced by a suiveur provided by one of the team. The competitor and suiveur cannot dive or spear fish, but can carry a suitable weapon for safety if diving in an area that the Host Country considers to be dangerous. They must return to the depart zone to valid the competition day.

## **Article 7**

The scoring system and general procedures for the Championships shall be notified by the Host Country at least one (1) month prior to the commencement of the Championships. All species must be clearly identified (no sp.) and fishes pictures must be supplied with the fishes list.

Each national team of four (4) divers may weigh in the number of fish applicable to the Host Country's eligible fish list.

Each National Score will be the aggregate score of the two (2) pairs from each country for the two (2) days.

In the event of a tie between countries, the result will be determined by the total number of fish weighed in by each country. If there is still a tie, the result will be determined by the country with the heaviest fish.

## **Article 8**

The competition shall be held on two (2) consecutive days each of six (6) hours duration.

In the event of adverse weather conditions, the competition may be shortened to a minimum of four (4) hours.

For the competition to be valid, a minimum of four (4) hours must be fished consecutively on one (1) day.

## **Article 9**

The Competition Director may terminate the competition at his discretion in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

## **Article 10**

Team Managers shall not enter the water during the competition of the participating teams as in **Article 6**, unless as the replacement diver or suiveur.

## **Article 11**

The Host Country shall designate a maximum of four (4) areas as proposed competition sites, no less than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of competition. And give a Detailed map zone.

Competitors may inspect the proposed competition sites (zones) over a period of five (5) days, but excluding the day immediately prior to the first day of the competition, unless otherwise decided by the Director of the Championships.

If the inspection period is reduced to an unreasonable level because of inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances then the day prior to the Championships should be utilised.

The spearing of fish or use of any type of breathing apparatus other than a snorkel is prohibited during inspection of the competition zones.

The selected competition zones must be balloted or selected by common agreement of Team Managers prior to competition, and that agreement and/or alternatives shall be announced by the Host Country on the evening prior to each competition day.

### **Article 12**

The Host Country shall supply plates (where they are normally used) or floats and tethered line up to a distance of four (4) metres. The plates or floats must be of a similar standard and must have diving flag and team number.

The plates or floats must be visual for a distance of one hundred (100) metres (red or yellow or orange).

The distance between the plates or floats is governed by the following regulations :

- a) During competition the members of each Team cannot be more than forty (40) (15) metres apart from each other on surface : disqualified for the day. On surface divers distinguish themselves by taking out their spearguns upright
- b) The diver on the surface must remain within four (4) metres of the float/plâte, be holding the tethered line and must not dive. If the float is not be handle the team pair will be disqualified for the day.
- c) Each diver shall be responsible for the safety of his/her partner.
- d) Anchoring floats or plates is prohibited in all conditions : disqualified for the day.
- e) Gps and sounder are not authorised during competitions days : disqualified for the day.
- f) Two team can't fishing in the same place. The must observe 10 meters between the first team arrived on the roc before : disqualified for the day for the team pair arrived after.
- f) Should these rules not be respected, the Team pair will be disqualified for the day.

### **Article 13**

Competitors may as a single group, reconnoitre the competition site (accompanied by the Director of the Championships and the Team Manager) for fifteen (15) minutes prior to the last fifteen (15) minutes before the commencement of the competition. All boats must stay together during the route towards the zone. They must follow the amiral boat with the Director of the Championship at 50 meters maximum between 2 boats. When arrived on zone, all boats must be anchored near the amiral boat during the first hour of competition.

The competitors must synchronise their watches with the Director and adhere to the designated time.

The competitors must enter the water at the designated start/finish point within the selected competition site and commence spearfishing at a pre-determined signal from the Director of the Championships.  
A boat must be permanently anchored in the departure and finish zone for helping competitors to see this departure and finish zone.

Competitors may not use any means of propulsion other than swimming during the competition period and shall finish at the designated finish point no later than the designated finishing time, or risk disqualification for the day of those pairs who are late.

Article amended in May, 2004. Where a team is late to the finish point, the following penalties shall apply.

0 – 5 minutes late	20% be taken off that country's score for the day
5 – 10 minutes late	50% be taken off that country's score for the day
10 minutes +	100% be taken off that country's score for the day

### **Article 14**

The Host Country must provide a minimum of one (1) safety boat for each National Team and the Director of the Championships.

The boat captains cannot transport any competitor during the competition. To do so will mean disqualification except in a life threatening situation.

If a competitor requires assistance by any boat in an emergency, that boat must respond immediately.

Only the Directors and Team Managers can supervise competitor's catches. In the process of collecting catches from divers in the water, the boats must approach the divers and plates/floats very slowly (without the motor running at high revs.) 5 knots at less than 50 metres of a team. A competitor can request his/her catch be collected from the plate/float. The Director or Team Manager must supervise the collection and place the catch in a numbered sack.

#### **Article 15**

The competitor must use rubber powered guns, or compressed air guns that can be loaded ONLY by muscle power, or without assistance from any other person.

Other equipment that can be used includes :

fins, gloves, mask, snorkel, weight belt, spears, hook, knife, depth gauge, torch (no in New Caledonia), plates/floats, lifeline (only for safety not to mark a point : attached to the float or plate and at the diver or speargun; if the speargun is at the bottom the diver must go back up with the line) and reel, wet suit, flashers.

All equipment can be stored on the plate/float or in the Team boat.

Burley may be used, providing it is obtained during the competition of that day. Burley can ONLY be obtained by the competitors in the water.

#### **Article 16**

The Official Boat must have scuba tanks and oxygen (in case of emergency) on board.

#### **Article 17**

The weigh-in must be conducted in public by the Organiser of the Host Country.

The weighmaster will be the judge and will be assisted by two (2) officials nominated by the Director. They will assist the weighmaster to present the catches Team by Team.

All competitors fish must be sorted, placed in sealed sacks, and these will be presented to the weighmaster.

Each Team Manager can watch the weigh-in, and in case of a disagreement with the weighmaster should lodge a protest within one (1) hour of the completion of the day's weigh-in.

#### **Article 18**

No fish is to be exchanged for any purpose by anyone other than by the competing team members with their own country. To do otherwise will mean immediate disqualification.

#### **Article 19**

All penalties for underweight fish will be advised and imposed by the Host Country.

#### **Article 20**

The Host Country shall not be held responsible for any injury, accident, loss of life or loss of equipment in connection with the holding of these Championships. By participating in the Championships all National Teams are agreeing to this Article.

#### **Article 21**

A full list and pictures of eligible species must be advised by the Host Country no less than six (6) (30) days prior to the Championships.

#### **Article 22**

The Jury will consist of :

- a) The Director of the Host Country
- b) All Team Managers of Core Nations

In the case of Protests, the Claimant and the Defendant will have the right to call witnesses and present their case before the Jury.

The Jury has the right to query and inspect any suspect fish, or spearfishing equipments during the weigh-in.

The Jury will announce the outcome of the Protest and decide on the penalty or otherwise. (The penalty must be wrote in this rules as in Article 12)

#### **Article 23**

In the event of a deadlock situation arising from any necessary decision, the deadlock will be broken accordingly:

“One vote for each Core National and then the immediate past Host Country will have one (1) extra vote ONLY.”

#### **Article 23A**

The Team Managers and Competition Director may under agreement vary these **Articles** when appropriate.

#### **Article 24**

All revised **Articles** numbered **5, 11, 12B, 14, 23A** were discussed, voted on and ratified by the following on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1996 at Matauri Bay, New Zealand. **Article 14** amended again at Lifou, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2000: (removal of option to pick up team in first 4 hours.) **Article 13** amended in New Caledonia in May 2004: (team penalty for late return.)

Amendments ratified at the Bay of Islands, NZ March 2007, **Article 2** “Nations” changed to “members.” **Article 3** Hawaii to replace Nouvelle Caledondie in the rotation. **Article 21** “Eligible” species to replace “ineligible.”

3 Changes made in Western Australia 2009 Articles 2, 3, 11, 12a, 15, 21

**Jacques Beaujeu**

Nouvelle Caledonie

**Adrian Wayne**

Australia

**Peter Herbert**

New Zealand

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Distribution and disk copy

Bob Rosemergy, Freediving NZ, Chairman. Email. [hughr@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hughr@xtra.co.nz)