

Confédération Mondiale des Activités Subaquatiques  
World Underwater Federation



**GENERAL RULES  
INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**UNDERWATER VIDEO**

VERSION 2008 / 01

General Rules of underwater video championships - [www.cmas.org](http://www.cmas.org) – version BD 159 2008

GENERAL RULES OF UNDERWATER VIDEO  
INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

These General Rules, specifically relating to underwater video, complete and specify procedures and obligations applicable to all CMAS World and Continental Championships.

1. ARTICLE 1<sup>st</sup>      GENERAL RULES

- 1.1. These championships are organised exclusively under CMAS control and all rights possibly deriving from them are sole CMAS property.
- 1.2. They will be catalogued according to their number.
- 1.3. The championships will take place in a single session spread over a period of 4 days, that are
  - 1.3.1. One day for adaptation
  - 1.3.2. Two days of competition
  - 1.3.3. One day for judging
- 1.4. The right to organise the championship will be granted to the competing Federation only after receipt, by CMAS, of
  - 1.4.1. the application form required, duly filled, including all its enclosures. This form will have to be returned to CMAS secretariat two years before the year of the Competition.
  - 1.4.2. the contract duly signed by the President of the competing Federations. This signature is a guarantee that the competing Federation fulfils all its obligations.
- 1.5. Specific Rules
  - 1.5.1. The organising Federations will have to send CMAS the specific rules of the competition no later than 6 months before the starting date of the competition itself. These rules complete and elaborate on the general regulations; they will have to list in detail all relevant and useful information concerning the championship, as provided for by the general rules and by the contract. The CMAS has the right to check up the conditions of the competition on location at the cost of the national federation. On changes to the organisation without permission in written from the CMAS, the CMAS is qualified, to terminate the arrangement without any further notice.
  - 1.5.2. These Specific Rules will have to indicate precisely:
    - 1.5.2.1. The competition program and prices for videofilms, assistant, captains and any possible accompanying persons (lodging, board, dives, local transports) as well as any possible extra charges (for instance additional night, dives, etc.).
    - 1.5.2.2. Name, address, telephone number, fax and E-mail of the person(s) to get in touch with for any request for information.



- 1.5.2.3. The time length and the number of recording media if the organising federation provides them with the brand provided and the different types available, which should be as wide as possible in order all competitors to be able to use them. If the recording media are not provided, the candidates should bring them in their original box (the time length and type of media allowed for the championship will be specified to allow duplication control by the organising committee (the type allowed should be the most varied and commonly used in the world at the time of the redaction of the specific rules).
- 1.5.2.4. The time duration in competition of the film should not be less than 3 minutes or more than 6 minutes.  
Short sequences over water are only permitted if they are taken during the official competition time. It is allowed to shoot at most 15% of the film's actual time over water.
- 1.5.2.5. If the room of the competitors are provided with television and what type of connection are available in such case.

## 2. ARTICLE 2<sup>nd</sup> VIDEO JURY

- 2.1. **Role:** To establish the classification of all videofilms.
- 2.2. **Composition:** This jury is composed of a minimum of 3 (three) members, one will be President, and all members or the jury shall come from different countries.  
They must not necessarily belong to a CMAS member federation, but they will have to be qualified and recognised in the field of underwater image (film, photo, video).
- 2.3. **Appointment:** The jury members will be appointed by CMAS Managing Bureau under proposal of the
  - a) Photo-Film-Video Commission as the President and the members are concerned.
  - b) the Organising Federation as far as the other members are concerned.
 The names of the jury members proposed by the organising county and by the Photo-Film- Video Commission will have to be submitted to CMAS at least 6 month before the date of the competition.
- 2.4. **Presence:** The Video jury President should be present during the whole Championship.  
The presence of the other members is required at least from the previous evening until the day after the working day of the video jury (2 nights / 3 days).

## 3. ARTICLE 3<sup>rd</sup> PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY

- 3.1. All member Federations having voting right within CMAS Sports Committee are allowed to participate. Federations affiliated to one of the other two Committees can participate too, provided that their county is not represented in this competition by a national team of Sports Committee itself.

- 3.2. The entry form for the championship (Enclosure A) will have to be returned to CMAS no later than 6 months before the competition, along with a copy for the organising Federation.
- 3.3. Each National Federation can apply for two teams (Enclosure A) composed of no more than:
  - 3.3.1 2 (two) Videofilmer
  - 3.3.2 2 (two) Assistants
  - 3.3.3 1 (one) Captain.
- 3.4. If the participation is too large the CMAS is authorised to accept only one team per nation.
- 3.5. Personal entry forms (Enclosure B1, B2), either of a team of one Videofilmer or of two, will have to be submitted to CMAS at least 3 months before the date of the competition, along with a copy for the organising Federation.
- 3.6. All videofilmer will have to be at least 16 years old, before the date of the beginning of the Championship. They must either have the Nationality of the Federation that chooses them or have been resident in that country at least for 3 (three) years without interruption and are still resident in that country.
- 3.7. All Videofilmer and Assistants must have a CMAS diver\*\*certificate (2 stars) at least and must be in good health (proved by a doctor) (enclosure B1).
- 3.8. The CMAS delegate will check documents, the day before the training.
- 3.9. All those who do not comply with this article will not be admitted to the championship.
- 3.10. If one videofilmer, for unexpected circumstances, cannot participate to the competition, the national federation or association may replace him provided that it submits to CMAS International Judge, no later than one day before the competition, all the necessary enclosures duly filled and a letter signed by the federation President indicating his agreement on the above change.

#### 4. ARTICLE 4<sup>th</sup> ORGANISATION TASKS

- 4.1. No later than twenty-four hours before the beginning of the competition a meeting will have to be organised and including the following participants:
  - The head of the organisation and or the director of the competition
  - CMAS International Judge
  - Captains and competitors
  - The doctor of the organisation
  - CMAS delegate
- 4.2. This meeting will have the following purpose :
  - 4.2.1. Appoint the CMAS international court composed of 5 members and two supplementary ones, that is:
    - 4.2.1.1. CMAS International Judge appointed by CMAS under proposal of the Photo-Film-Video Commission. He chairs by right the International Jury.



- 4.2.1.2. Four members, that are:
  - 1 (one) official appointed by the Organising Federation
  - 3 (three) officials appointed by the team captains and selected among them.
  - 2 (two) supplementary members appointed by the team captains and selected among them.
- 4.2.2. The jury members must necessarily come from different countries and must be able to attend the entire competition.
- 4.2.3. Give all the information concerning:
  - technical matters
  - schedules and means of transport
  - guidelines for protocol ceremonies
  - schedules and basins reserved for each team
  - safety measures.
- 4.2.4. Assign, by draw, a number to each competitor. The draw will have to be held under control of CMAS International Judge and CMAS delegate. This number will have to be indicated by CMAS International Judge on the recording media that will be given to each competitor.

5. **ARTICLE 5<sup>th</sup>      CMAS INTERNATIONAL JURY**

- 5.1. **Task:** Examine possible complaints and deliberate on them no later than one hour after the complaint has been put forward.
- 5.2. **Working procedure:**
  - 5.2.1. A complaint can be put forward if and only if
    - 5.2.1.1. it is lodged by the team captain or by the videofilmer but only in case this videofilmer should not have any team captain.
    - 5.2.1.2. it is written in French, English or Spanish.
    - 5.2.1.3. it is accompanied by a deposit of 100 (one hundred) € that will be returned immediately if the complaint is declared valid by the International Jury.
  - 5.2.2. If one member of the international jury comes from the same country as one of the involved parties, he will be replaced by one of the supplementary members.
  - 5.2.3. Decisions are taken by simple majority vote and 4 members must be necessarily present.
  - 5.2.4. In case of equal votes, the President's vote shall prevail.
  - 5.2.5. There is no appeal against the decisions taken by the international jury, except for new development.
  - 5.2.6. The decision will have to be communicated in writing to the complainant immediately after the end of the meeting.
  - 5.2.7. CMAS delegate will act as secretary in the meeting without voting right.

## 6. ARTICLE 6<sup>th</sup> ORGANISATION OF DIVING COMPETITIONS

- 6.1. The teams will be allotted boats in a draw conducted by the organising committee. The boats will be equipped with all the equipment specified in the relevant laws of the host National country. Boats must remain at the dive site whilst any competitor is in the water. Boats will only be filled around half of full capacity in order to accommodate the competitors at their ease.
- 6.2. Official time will be fixed by CMAS International Judge and will have to be communicated to competitors during the technical meeting (Article 4).
- 6.3. The minimum total length of the competition per videofilmer and per day must be 90 minutes. The duration per day between 4 and 6 hours.
- 6.4. At the end of the prescribed time, the team must have come to the surface, safety stop must be finished and equipment must be out of water.
- 6.5. Any competition that has begun but has been interrupted because of unexpected circumstances, can be considered valid only under decision of CMAS International Judge.
- 6.6. Only the CMAS International Judge is entitled to decree the interruption of the Competition.
- 6.7. Each videofilmer and assistant will be given at least 2 cylinders per competition day. The capacity (minimum 10 litres) and pressure (minimum 170 bars) will be exactly the same for all competitors.
- 6.8. All competitors should dive in similar diving places allotted in a draw. The host National Federation or Association should have scheduled an alternative protected diving area in case of bad weather.
- 6.9. Judges and non-competing participants may dive in areas away from the championship zone during the 2 days of competition. Team captains (where applicable) cannot dive on the same boat or dive zone as video-film-makers during the 2 days of competition. They may only assist their teams from the surface, this to avoid any dispute
- 6.10. In case of unexpected circumstances (for instance actor unable to dive), the captain, can play the role of assistant for a videofilmer who has none. The prior consent of CMAS International Judge is required.

## 7. ARTICLE 7<sup>th</sup> VIDEOS

- 7.1. Videofilms are allowed to use any video camera they want, as long as the recording media type is allowed in the specific rules, as well as any artificial low-voltage light or other accessory. Assistants and captain are not allowed to work with the videocameras.
- 7.2. Videocameras and accessories are admitted provided they are neither polluting nor dangerous.
- 7.3. Videofilms can use recording media only once they have been marked by CMAS International Judge. Any infringement to this article shall cause the immediate and definitive disqualification of the competitor by the international jury.
- 7.4. Recording media given to each videofilmer will have to be given back at the end of the competition dives, as established by the Specific Rules. These video films will be duplicated for later control and give back to competitor for their editing.



- 7.5. The competitors will be allowed to edit their film themselves with their own editing equipment. In case some participants need help with the editing, a video-editing specialist provided by the organising federation will be available with some editing equipment.
- 7.6. The deadline for giving back the film edited will be decided by the CMAS international judge. The videofilms can bring their own music and anything necessary for making their video film.
- 7.7. Videos submitted to the jury will be CMAS property and will be used freely and with no profit, by CMAS and affiliated National Federations or Associations, with mention of the author's name, within their promotion activities of the diving sector. CMAS will send a duplicate of his film to each competitor.

## 8. ARTICLE 8<sup>th</sup> DISQUALIFICATIONS

- 8.1. The following behaviours are absolutely forbidden on risk of disqualification:
  - 8.1.1. any unfair action.
  - 8.1.2. any action contrary to the rules.
  - 8.1.3. submitting video films made by other film-makers.
  - 8.1.4. submitting video films not made while diving in the official time.
  - 8.1.5. manipulating live or dead organism.
  - 8.1.6. video graphing other videos.
  - 8.1.7. using an underwater scooter or anything alike.
- 8.2. Environmental protection:
  - 8.2.1. The competitors and/or assistant have to avoid any form of deterioration or pollution of the environment during the entire competition including the training day.
  - 8.2.2. A control may be made with the help of video camera during the training day and the competitions days.
  - 8.2.3. In case of destruction of the reef made by a competitor and/or an assistant, duly confirmed by the International jury the competitor and/or the assistant will receive a warning. In case of recidivism, the competitor and/or the assistant may be excluded.
- 8.3. Infringements provided for in Articles above will have to be judged by the CMAS international jury.

## 9. ARTICLE 9<sup>th</sup> SAFETY MEASURES

- 9.1. The entry form sent by the Federation and signed by the President ensures that all team members have no contra-indications to diving and that they know diving prescriptions and obligations.
- 9.2. All videofilms and assistants must obligatorily wear a stab jacket and use a regulator with pressure gauge (exception for snorkellingactors). The videofilmer in addition should have an alternative air source (such as an octopus, regulator on jacket or pony bottle) and a scuba tuba or a surface marker buoy. All assistants should be suitably qualified in order that the buddy team videofilmer-assistant respect the CMAS diving rules. Videofilms without a assistant will dive in pairs, but in case they don't find a buddy, the Organising Committee will assign one to them.

- 9.3. The organising federation will have to guarantee assistance necessary to the good development of competition trials and will have to provide the necessary information on emergency aid and any competent intervention body or service.
- 9.4. At least a high speed emergency boat with radio or walkie-talkie and oxygen supplies aboard will be available at the competition locations and will be used exclusively for this purpose.
- 9.5. A doctor specialised in diving medicine will be present at the competition location.
- 9.6. Each competition boat will have on board a spare dive tank equipped for safety reasons. Any use of this tank for non-emergency purposes may lead to the Organising Committee applying sanctions as it sees fit.

#### 10. ARTICLE 10<sup>th</sup> RESPONSIBILITIES

- 10.1. Videofilms will be responsible for equipment they are given during the Championship as well as for their personal equipment and devices allowed in the competition.

#### 11. ARTICLE 11<sup>th</sup> PHOTO AND CINEMA REPORTERS

- 11.1. Photographing and filming competitors during the competition is allowed only upon authorisation of the Organising Federation.
- 11.2. Competitors who do not want to be photographed or filmed will have to submit enclosure C to CMAS International Judge before the draw is held (article 4).
- 11.3. This enclosure (C) will have to be given to all participating teams before the meeting mentioned in article 4.

#### 12. ARTICLE 12<sup>th</sup> FINAL PLACING

- 12.1. Only an Individual Classification for the world championship will be established by adding up points obtained by each filming team in each of the categories. Only the placing of the first 10 (ten) filming teams will be made public. The whole placing can be read personally by the other videofilms.
- 12.2. The first three filming teams in the placing will be respectively awarded the gold, silver and bronze medal.
- 12.3. The winner of the gold medal will be consecrated World Champion.
- 12.4. There is no appeal against the decisions taken by the video jury.
- 12.5. Other awards
  - 12.5.1. Besides medals, the organising Federation can honour other athletes in the placing with different cups and awards but these prizes
    - a) will have to be given to the winners out of the protocol medal award ceremony, that is strictly reserved for medal awards.
    - b) will not be introduced in CMAS official placing.
  - 12.5.2. Only one special mention can be done by the Video Jury for a particularly remarkable film sequence.
  - 12.5.3. The organising Federation out of the protocol medal award ceremony will give a CMAS testimonial for participation to the Championship to each competitor.



13. ARTICLE 13<sup>th</sup> AGREEMENT BETWEEN CMAS & ORGANISING FEDERATION

13.1. **contract:** a contract is signed between the president of CMAS and the president of the organising federation at least 8 months before the championship

13.2. **expenses:**

13.2.1. CMAS will bear

- Travel, food and lodging expenses for the President of CMAS or his representative.
- Travel, food and lodging expenses for the President of CMAS Photo-Film-Video commission.
- Travel, food and lodging expenses for the CMAS international Judge.
- Travel, food and lodging expenses for the CMAS delegate.
- Travel, food and lodging expenses for the President of the video Jury.
- Travel expenses for the video members proposed by the Photo-Film-Video Commission.

13.2.2. The Organising Federation will bear

- Travel, board and lodging expenses for the members of the video Jury proposed by the Federation itself.
- Board and lodging expenses for the other members of the video Jury.