

USFA NSW SPEARFISHING COMPETITION PROCEDURES AND MINIMUM STANDARDS

For Tournaments run under the auspice of the USFA

These Championships Include

1. State Titles (Rotating)
2. Blue Water Classic (Woolgoolga)
3. Pacific Coast Championships (Nelsons Bay)
4. Canada Cup (Terrigal)
5. Sydney Cup (Gunnamatta)
6. South Coast Championships (Huskisson)
7. Far South Coast Championships (Narooma)
8. Eden Three Way State Championships (Eden)

Zone competitions

Run by the three zones:

- Northern zone
- Metropolitan zone
- Southern zone

Premier Club

This is the competition to determine the Premier Club in NSW for that year. The Premier Club shall be contested between those Clubs which win their respective Zone competitions in that year. Each Champion Club of their Zone shall select their ten best divers as their entrants into this event. The Clubs shall be advised by the USFA as to which Club is to host that year's competition.

Rosebowl

This is the competition to determine the Premier Zone in NSW for that year. Each Zone shall select their ten best divers of that year as their entrants into this event. Zones will be advised by the USFA as to which Zone is to host that year's competition.

Minimum Standards

1. Each Affiliated Zone, Club or Member wishing to convene a USFA Competition, must make application to, and be approved by the USFA in order to run a Major Competition.
2. Competitors must be financial members of the USFA or the AUF.
3. Competitors not financial in NSW but wishing to compete in NSW, must have NSW insurance cover in order to enter a USFA Competition.

- 4.** The acceptance of the responsibility for the convening of a Major Championship by an Affiliated Zone, Club or Member, implies acceptance of these Minimum Standards, the USFA Spearfishing Competition Rules and acceptance of the USFA and AUF constitutions.
- 5.** All affiliated clubs must be duly notified of all details of the competitions at least sixty days prior to the event. Such details must include:
 - (a)** Venue and a control centre.
 - (b)** Accommodation availability.
 - (c)** A map of the general area showing selected event sites and marine park boundaries if applicable.
 - (d)** In USFA championships where the competition to be held is a rock hop competition, a map of the area showing four locations designated as possible competition sites. The competition will be held within two of these designated areas. Boundaries, if any, are to be marked on said map.
 - (e)** A competition score sheet together with: specific advice on ineligible species; and restrictions and minimum weights abiding by the USFA Constitution.
 - (f)** A notice on the competition programme informing competitors that no fishing is allowed in the designated competition area the day before the competition. Any non-compliance to this rule must be reported in the form of an official protest lodged at roll-call on competition day. The protest heard after the first day of competition.
 - (g)** A programme should be provided to each diver which should include at the minimum: starting and finishing times of each event; where and when the presentation will be held; a list of prizes and the category it will be designated to; the entry fee for the competition.
- 6.** Major Competitions shall consist of two events:
 - (a)** Nominated pairs and the first event of the open categories and individual grades.
 - (b)** Nominated teams (three competitors) and the second heat of the open categories and individual grades.
- 7.** Pairs and teams must be nominated by the divers themselves prior to the commencement of each event.
- 8.** Individual grades shall be determined by zone grading, and this grading will be incorporated into USFA competitions.
- 9.** The minimum trophy list for major championships shall include:
 - (a)** The top ten places.
 - (b)** Two top places in Sub-junior, Junior, Lady, Intermediate, Senior, Veteran and Master Categories.
 - (c)** First three places in all grades.
 - (d)** In the event of there being less than 5 competitors in a category, placings will be awarded up to 2 places less than the total number of competitors.

- (e)** First two places in the nominated pairs.
 - (f)** First two places in the nominated teams.
 - (g)** Most Meritorious Fish Open.
 - (h)** Most Meritorious Fish Junior (include Sub-junior and Lady in this).
 - (i)** Heaviest Fish Open.
 - (j)** Heaviest Fish Junior (include Sub-junior and Lady in this).
 - (k)** Most Species.
 - (l)** Four heaviest of random individual species nominated by the organizers.
 - (m)** Additional trophies may be included at the discretion of the organisers.
- 10.** The posting of all scores and placings shall be made available after the first days competition and before the next day of competition on a notice board at the designated control centre.
- 11.** At the end of competition, capitation fees as appearing in the “USFA Schedule of Fees” shall be paid to the Treasurer within 10 days of the running of a competition.
- 12.** The organizers shall provide the Sports Secretary with all results from any Major Championships within 14 days of the completion of the event. These results shall include all placings of all competitors and shall include listings of all prizes and trophies awarded at said competition.
- 13.** Prior to the competition start:
- (a)** Announcements concerning a competition shall be made at this time.
 - (b)** A current weather report with any warnings which may be applicable must be presented by the Safety Officer at this time.
 - (c)** Official time shall be announced at this time with the responsibility on the competitors to synchronize their watches.
 - (d)** Official finishing time of the competition shall be stated at this time.
 - (e)** If a boat start is to occur, the starting point is to be defined with which boat as the official starting boat.
 - (f)** Any changes to score sheets shall be made known at this time.
 - (g)** Announcement of boundaries and marine park zonings are to be defined at this time.
 - (h)** Officials are to be identified at this time.
 - (i)** Officials to request if any protest is to be lodged concerning spearing in the competition area the day before the event.
 - (j)** A safety committee shall consider the conditions in the competition area. A safety committee shall consist of five senior members made up of two members from the organizing host, plus three members in total, one from each of the Zones. It is preferable that the safety committee members carry a Safety Officer role in their Club or Zone. The results shall be announced at this time.

14. Competitors must start from the designated sign on area and travel over land to another area, but must sign-off back at the designated sign-off area (i.e. if a competitor wants to put his vessel in at another venue or is a rock hopper).
15. The organizing committee may set competition area boundaries for a competition. Boundaries must be defined on a map and issued to every competitor. This must be reinforced at roll call.

The organization of rock hop competitions

The Affiliated Zone, Club or Members organizing a rock hop competition shall be responsible, but not exclusively, for the following:

1. The organizing of safety boats. At least two boats must be operating effectively at all times during the competition for up to 50 competitors.
2. For every fifty extra competitors or part thereof, one additional boat shall be provided.
3. Safety boats shall have communications directly to an official in a designated area on land.
4. The official on land shall have access to communications and a contact list in place in the event of an emergency.
5. The Local Coast Guard shall be advised of the area of the competition and asked to broadcast a message of alert to all traffic in the area at regular intervals during the hours of competition.

Safety Announcements

In addition to any rulings offered by the AUF or USFA, the Organizer must:

1. Prior to a boat start, the convener is to point out any areas of danger with regards to any known dangers or other users of such areas: i.e. shallow reef, bommies, known diving locations, areas used for swimming training, etc: and these areas are to be regarded with extreme caution.
2. Warn competitors of life jacket requirements if a bar is to be crossed.
3. Deliver a safety message to all competitors at the start of every comp without exception.

Perpetual trophies

Awarded annually by the state sports secretary as follows:

Mel Brown trophy	Largest fish speared unassisted in NSW
George Davies trophy	Largest fish speared in first year of membership
Adrian Wayne trophy	Most unusual fish speared in NSW
Merv Sheehan trophy	Largest bream speared in NSW
Sue Dockar trophy	Largest fish speared by a lady in NSW
Mark Searle trophy	Largest fish speared by a junior in NSW

Andy Ruddock trophy	Highest points scored in any single official NSW spearfishing commission competition
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Nominations for these awards must be made to the Sports Secretary by each of the respective Zone Sports Secretaries no later than 30th November of each year for due consideration.

Trophy tracking

1. A register of all available perpetual trophies for each event must be kept by the convener, and this list reported to the USFA Sports Secretary for his record.
2. On presenting a perpetual trophy, the name and contact details of the recipient must be recorded against that trophy, with the addition of a second point of contact in the case of that recipient moving away or leaving us in any way.
3. The convener is to convey these details to the Sports Secretary within 30 days of the competition in addition to keeping a record him/herself.
4. The convener of the next year's competition is to be given a copy of this list no later than 30 days before the event in order to facilitate the collection of the perpetual trophies.

