

**SA UNDERWATER FISHING FEDERATION (SAUFF)  
RULES AND REGULATIONS - 2008**

These rules pertain to the Inter Provincial Championship, Open Individuals, International Championships, and any other competition arranged by SA Underwater Fishing Federation (SAUFF).

**1. PARTICIPANTS:**

- 1.1 Each Province/Area (hereinafter referred to as "Province") whose clubs are registered member of the South African Underwater Fishing Federation (SAUFF) may enter teams of three members and one buggy, no less than 16 years of age. Minors shall be called upon to show that they have received due authority to participate from their legal guardian.
- 1.2 SAUFF in line with decisions taken by CMAS (World Federation of Diving) may invite International Teams and/or Individuals to compete in its National Championships.
- 1.3 Each province when submitting its entry form must ensure that each diver selected is competent to participate in an extreme sport like Underwater Fishing.
- 1.4 Individuals who are registered members of SAUFF, but who are not members of a Province or club team who have entered the Inter Provincial Underwater Fishing Championships may do so by completing the entry and indemnity forms and paying the prescribed entry fee. Organizers have the right to refuse such individual entry on safety grounds
- 1.5 All participants at any Championship must be registered members of SAUFF. Competitors will be required to produce their SAUFF Registration Number before they will be permitted to participate.
- 1.6 During the Championship a team captain must direct the team.
- 1.7 An official reserve may dive for a team, provided that the Tournament Committee has been advised prior to the commencement of the days diving. The reserve may be withdrawn on any of the following days, but once again, the Tournament Committee must be advised prior to the days diving.
- 1.8 Provincial teams will be divided into five leagues, namely A, B, C and Development and Veterans. The number of teams a Province may enter in the Championship will be determined by their A team's position in the league as follows:
  - 1.8.1 A Province with their A team in the A league may enter a maximum of three teams plus Development and Veterans.
  - 1.8.2 A Province with their A team in the B league may enter a maximum of two teams plus Development and Veterans.
  - 1.8.3 A Province with their A team in the C league may enter one team plus Development and Veterans.
  - 1.8.4 Provincial Unions may enter one team in the development league, provided that divers selected for this team have not participated in an Inter Provincial Championship before. Development teams will not be eligible for any of the Inter Provincial trophies, but individuals can be awarded any of the individual trophies.
  - 1.8.5 Provincial Unions may enter one team in the Veterans league, provided that divers selected for this team are over the age of 45 at the date of the commencement of the championship.
  - 1.8.6 The winner of each league will be promoted to the next league. For example, the winner of the B league will be promoted to the A league. The lowest placed team of each league will be demoted one league with the exception of the C league. However, the team in the most senior league will always remain the A team. No province may have more than one team in each league.
  - 1.8.7 SAUFF reserves the right to alter the above league structure if and when necessary.

**2. REGISTRATION TO COMPETE IN THE SA INTER PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP:**

- 2.1 Provincial bodies/clubs/individuals shall complete the relevant entry form and return it to SAUFF or the host Province on or before the specified closing date.
- 2.2 Each competing team/individual shall pay an entry fee decided by the host province.
- 2.3 Each team/individual must complete an indemnity form absolving SAUFF and the host province, and their officials from any responsibility for any accidents or loss of equipment incurred during the Championship.
- 2.4 Each competitor must be in possession of a valid Underwater Fishing license.
- 2.5 The host province shall provide each potential competing province an entry form and at least two months prior to the commencement of the tournament or competition by e-mail and/or fax. The onus is on each province to ensure that the host province is in possession of their contact details.
- 2.6 Any team or individual not complying with the provisions of Clause 2 will render itself/him liable to disqualification.

**3. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE:**

- 3.1 The Tournament Committee shall consist of a Chairman, who is the President of SA Underwater Fishing Federation or his appointed tournament manager, and all the A league team captains.
- 3.2 Each Province may have one representative at a Tournament Committee Meeting, however only the A league team captain's shall have a vote. The Chairman shall have the casting vote.
- 3.3 Minutes shall be kept of the Tournament Committee meetings and these shall be given to the SA Underwater Fishing Federation secretary.
- 3.4 Any decisions made by a majority vote of the Tournament Committee shall be binding on all participants. Any intentional breach of the Committee's ruling will render the participants involved liable to disqualification.
- 3.5 It is compulsory for all the participants competing in a Championship to be in radio and/or cell phone communication with each other and the organizers so that in the event of accidents, delays or changes to duration, immediate communication will be possible.
- 4. BOUNDARIES, DURATION AND STARTING:**
- 4.1 The Tournament Committee shall decide the limiting boundaries of the competition.
- 4.2 No fish, other than recognized game fish species of the relevant area, and approved by the home Province, shall be shot within the boundaries of the Championship area for at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the Championships by any member of the competing teams. Any team member found to be doing so will be disqualified.
- 4.3 Any clause laid down by the home union as regards areas, limiting fish, and the minimum weight limits for the Championships are irrevocable by anyone other than the said union, provided that the restrictions were made known to SAUFF when asked.
- 4.4 The Championship shall take place within a limited period of time to be decided upon by SAUFF. Minimum time may not be less than four hours and a maximum time of six hours per day.
- 4.5 The Host Province shall propose the boundaries for the competition at least 3 months prior to the commencement and shall provide GPS marks of these boundaries along with the entry forms.
- 4.6 The SA Inter Provincial and Individual Championships shall be held over 5 days.
- 4.7 The Tournament Committee may change the minimum and maximum time and minimum and maximum number of days for the competition.
- 4.8 In deciding on a particular diving area, if the home union or their designated representative feels that the Tournament Committee has moved a motion that in their view is unsafe, the home union may veto such a motion, provided that such a motion was not passed by two thirds or greater majority. In the event of such a veto, the Chairman or Tournament Manager shall uphold the veto of the home union.
- 4.9 No team participating in the SA Inter Provincial Championships, nor an individual from such a team, shall be permitted to scout the area or areas on the day of the competition i.e. during the period 00h01 to the official starting time. Furthermore, no competitor/team assistant, unless he is ordered to by the tournament committee to determine the safety of the diving conditions, shall enter the water before the official start time, and no boat is to launch before the approved launch time. This rule applies to each day of any Championship.
- 4.10 Under no circumstances are marker buoys to be tampered with or be moved by any other teams or individuals other than the team or individual responsible for its anchorage or recovery.
- 4.11 The Tournament Committee shall decide if the mooring of boundary marker buoys to define the competition area will be necessary during the competition days. If boundary markers are required, it shall be the responsibility of SAUFF to moor such buoys. The starting point will be made clear to the competitors prior to the competition and team captains are to log in and out with the Tournament Officials. The Official boat will start the competition. The Tournament Organizers will be responsible for any costs relating to the mooring and recovery of boundary marker buoys.
- 4.12 Any team delayed for the start of the competition should report by radio or cell phone in person to the official's boat for permission and instructions to proceed.
- 5. UNDERWATER FISHING and BOATING EQUIPMENT:**
- 5.1 Competitors shall be allowed to use the following equipment: mask, snorkel, fins, protective suit, knives, gaffs, torches, reels and floats and line, fish stringers (no belt or body stringers) and weight belt.
- 5.2 One or more spearguns of spring, rubber or compressed air variety, loaded with the competitor's own muscular skill, may be used.
- 5.3 No auxiliary breathing apparatus (other than snorkel) or powerheads may be used in any way to assist in shooting or fighting fish.

- 5.4 Any equipment not listed in items 5.1 or 5.2 must be approved by the tournament committee prior to the commencement of the Championship.
- 5.5 Floats must be used at all times when the diver is in the water. Floats must be a readily visible color, be a minimum of 1.5 litres, and be clearly visible in the water during choppy or rough seas.
- 5.7 A diver must be within 50 metres of his float all times. If he is found to be transgressing this rule he will be liable to have 50 points deducted from his score for that day.
- 5.8 It is forbidden to use gut to secure marker buoys, as the means of attachment must be clearly visible.
- 5.9 Allowing the optional use of Shark Pods will be decided upon by the Tournament Committee.
- 6. DIVING RULES:**
- 6.1 Any fish wounded by a spearfisher can under no circumstances be claimed by another competitor spearing it on the same day of the competition.
- 6.2 No fish shall be entered in the competition if it was speared while being hampered by any line or apparatus, from swimming freely.
- 6.3 No help may be accepted in fighting a fish. Once a fish has been subdued and brought to the surface, a competitor may only accept outside assistance in boating the catch.
- 6.4 Any competitor loading a speargun outside the water or leaving the water with a loaded speargun is automatically disqualified. It is also forbidden to have a loaded speargun attached to the buoy.
- 6.5 It is forbidden to exchange catches. Any competitor found doing so will be disqualified and banned from competing in any future SAUFF events.
- 6.6 Competitors must remain within 50 metres of their floats.
- 6.7 Fish will be weighed in with or without guts and gills as decided by SAUFF. If the fish are gutted, an official must check the gutted fish at the weigh in.
- 6.8 All fish speared during the Championship shall be placed in a specially cordoned off weigh in area. Fish bags are to be clearly marked with a sticker or tie on label, stating the diver's name, team and Province. Removal of fish from the cordoned off area is forbidden. The Tournament Committee will decide the acceptance or refusal of badly damaged fish.
- 6.9 All participants must comply with the current regulations of Sea Fisheries and Marine Resources legislation and everyone is expected to be familiar with the current legislation relevant to the area in which they are diving.
- 6.10 It is imperative that competitors present no more than ONE FISH PER SPECIES with a maximum of ten fish per diver or in the case of the team, thirty fish per team and no more than three per species in the case of a team at the weigh in during the championships, unless otherwise stated by the competition permit. The practice of presenting more than that number at the weigh-in in order to determine which one is the heaviest shall not be permitted. This is a disqualifying offence: if so decided by the tournament committee.
- 6.11 The SAUFF President or the appointed Tournament Manager shall have the sole right to issue statements to the media regarding the Championship. Participants who are approached by members of the media shall refer these inquiries to the above office bearers.
- 7. SCORES:**
- 7.1 All eligible fish score one point per kilogram plus one point per fish above the minimum weight to the maximum weight. The Organizing Committee may propose a different points system for a particular competition which will only be valid if approved by the Tournament Committee for that Tournament.
- 7.2 The minimum weight of a fish shall be 0.9 kilogram, unless SAUFF or the tournament committee decides to increase the minimum weight for a particular competition. In addition, an upper weight limit may be imposed for points purposes. The appropriate Marine Living Resources and other legislation must be known by all participants and will be the over-riding consideration in all instances.
- 7.3 The following fish species will not be eligible in any SA Underwater Fishing competition: Sea barbel, barbel eel, any specie of shark, skates, rays, sunfish, brindle bass, potato bass and Natal wrasse. All crustacean, molluscs, reptiles and mammals will also not be eligible, nor any species for which the authorities have declared a ban or closed season.
- 7.4 The competition organizers must also make known, prior to the competition the names of any marine fish not eligible for that competition.
- 7.5 Weight must be measured to the lower 100 grams. The scale must be correctly calibrated not more than six months prior to the Championships. It must be correctly positioned or held while weighing fish, and the weights must be witnessed. Where necessary, fish must be measured to ensure that they comply with the regulations. Weighing a fish that is shorter than the regulation requires shall be considered a disqualifiable

offence if so decided by the tournament committee. The tournament committee shall inform competitors of the method to be used to measure fish.

7.6 If two or more teams score the same points, then the team with the most fish shall win the competition.

7.7 The team captain and one team member shall be present within the weigh in area during the weigh in and recording of the scores for the team in question. The captain shall witness the weights of the fish in his team's catch, whilst the other member witnesses that the scores are correctly recorded. Before the weigh master commences the weigh in for the next team, the captain shall sign the score sheet accepting that he is satisfied with the scores recorded.

## **8. TROPHIES:**

8.1 All floating trophies, hereafter referred to as trophies, which have been or may be presented, shall become the property of SAUFF and shall be competed for upon such conditions as from time to time, are resolved by general meeting or by the Executive Committee.

8.2 All trophies are open for competition between all member unions, and individual open trophies will be available for all participants.

8.3 SAUFF will hold floating trophies after presentation to the winner: SAUFF will engrave the trophies with the relevant particulars.

## **9. OFFICIALS:**

9.1 Officials, guides or crews of boats may swim without guns with the team they are accompanying.

## **10. BOATS:**

10.1 The use of boats in a competition is compulsory.

10.2 All boats used in the Championship must comply with the local regulations governing the use of such boats.

10.3 All boats are to fly flag Alpha (diver down flag) whilst diving is in progress.

10.4 Decision can be made by the Tournament Committee to allow less divers per boat provided the Team Captain can remain in contact with his team at all times.

10.5 Echo Sounders and GPS may be used on all boats.

## **11. INTERPRETATION OF RULES AND COMPLAINTS:**

11.1 These regulations may only be altered by an annual general meeting or special meeting or by postal annual general meeting, except where it is indicated that the Tournament Committee may enforce special condition or

special regulations made for a particular competition by the organizing Committee. The Tournament Committee prior to enforcement must always sanction these special regulations.

11.2 The interpretation of any regulations by the Tournament Committee shall be final.

11.3 The Tournament Committee shall have the power to enforce any of the laid down regulations or any decisions made by that committee.

11.4 Any complaints, which may arise, must be tabled within 24 hours of the time of the alleged offence. The complaint shall be in writing addressed the Tournament Committee and be accompanied by a fee of R100.00.

No complaints may be considered after the 24 hour period has elapsed. If the Tournament Committee does not up-hold the complaint, the amount shall be credited to SAUFF.

11.5 The competitor/s against whom the complaint has been lodged shall appear before the Tournament Committee who shall reach a final decision within 48 hours from the time that the complaint was lodged.

11.6 Any rule where a penalty is not specifically laid down, shall be adjudicated by the Tournament Committee who may impose a penalty of a deduction of points from the team and/or individual or disqualification.

## **12. MEDICAL COVER:**

12.1 The Host Province shall make provision for adequate medical cover during the Championship period by ensuring that the local NSRI, Hospitals and other medical facilities are informed and the competitors are provided with relevant telephone numbers and extraction points.

## **13. GENERAL:**

13.1 The times and venues of the sign on and weigh in for a particular competition shall be made known to all competitors in the special regulations governing the competition.

13.2 The tournament Committee shall make arrangements for the disposal of all fish weighed.

13.3 SA Underwater Fishing Federation, the Tournament Committee, or their officials shall not be held responsible for any damage that may be caused to equipment or loss thereof, nor for accidents, which may befall competitors who through the conditions of their entry accept the risks inherent to competition diving.