**Sunshine Coast Skindivers Inc Competition Rules**

**Section B – Competition Bylaws (01/07/2022)**

**Participation & Membership Requirements**

1. The Sunshine Coast Skindivers Club (SCS) require all participants taking part in their events\* to have current financial insurance with the Australian Underwater Federation (AUF) along with signing the SCS Disclaimer. \*Note to be part of the Club Competition called the Big 10 Challenge. SCS current financial membership is required in addition to having current AUF membership and signing the SCS disclaimer
2. As part of an individuals insurance requirements. All members or participants in our events MUST follow the AUF Code of Practice (COP) in order to be insured.
3. To be a member of the SCS club, nomination of the SCS club is required along with the yearly fee. This can be done when signing up to the AUF association insurance. Members are still required to sign SCS Disclaimer.
4. If competitors cannot provide proof of current AUF membership they will not be allowed to participate. The same applies for competitions that require SCS Club membership. Any member found competing without the above will be disqualified from the day or days competition.
5. Proof of valid AUF insurance or club membership can be provided by showing current membership card or by email receipt of payment to the AUF.
6. Types of club membership:
* Senior Member (18yrs+ covered by insurance, can compete)
* Junior Member (Under 18 covered by insurance, can compete)
* Honorary Life Member (Covered by Insurance, can compete)
* Social Member (Not covered by insurance)
* Supporter (Not covered by insurance)
1. Junior membership requires parent / or legal guardian to sign on their behalf the SCS disclaimer before participating in any event.
2. SCS Club allows all current financial members from other AUF clubs around Australia to compete in the following events:
* Monthly Club Aggregate Series and any Other monthly event. Note: Non Club Members are eligible to win any prizes/money associated with our Other Comps (Pelagic, Crayfish, etc), however they are not eligible for any club trophies)

Excluding;

* the Big 10 Challenge.
* Social club trips (will be at the discretion of the committee)
1. SCS Club Membership Fees as of Jan 1st 2021 for new members and ongoing members for 2022/23 season and beyond.
* Senior Members $30
* Junior Member $10
* Other Membership Types as per AUF website
* SCS Committee can change at their discretion the cost of these types of memberships at any time.
1. Competition Entry Fees (Unless advised differently by the committee)
* Monthly Club Series Aggregate - Senior Competitors (18yrs+) $10 per competition entered.
* Monthly Club Series Aggregate - Junior Competitors (U18) $5 per competition entered.
* Other Comps fees will be at the discretion of the committee.
* Big 10 Challenge entry is FREE to current financial SCS members.
* Social Club Trips fees will be advised (dependent on accommodation and other associated costs)
1. SCS financial club members that are a member of a second AUF spearfishing club..
* Must nominate SCS on their membership as their first or primary club if they are wanting to compete in our Big 10 Challenge.
* Failure to do so can result in the SCS committee not allowing participation in this competition and/or cancellation of membership.
1. SCS Club members and any other participant that take part in their club competitions must always comply with the AUF’s Code of Practice (COP) and SCS Club B Section Bylaws.
2. SCS members must also comply with any Qld Government regulations regarding minimum legal sizes, protected species, catch limits for all coral reef finfish, bag and combined limits. And avoid green and protection zones.

**Competition General Rules**

1. The Sports Secretary will endeavour to hold the competition (Club Aggregate Series & Other Comps) at the location scheduled on the club calendar. This location may change if the conditions are deemed unsafe or not ideal. In which case the closest, suitable alternative location will be utilised. If the Sports Secretary determines there are no suitable alternatives the competition may be cancelled and re-scheduled for the following spare weekend.
2. Sports Secretary will endeavour to make the decision to call a competition ON or OFF on the Thursday leading up to that weekend of competition (Excluding Digital Competition)
3. Sports Secretary will choose the better conditions of the two days. So either Sat or Sun. Only the Safety Officer can challenge the nominated day or location. Once a decision is challenged the committee will make a final decision.
4. Competition Committee along with the Sports Secretary can choose to use a public holiday if they deem it fit, to do so.
5. The duration for spearfishing will be 6 hours each day unless otherwise advised by the Sports Secretary /Committee.
6. Starting time and conclusion will be advised on the Thursday leading up to the competition.
7. All competitions are conducted either from Boat or Shore or a combination of both.
8. For Boat competitions. Those that cannot get positions on boats may be allowed to shore dive providing it is not a designated boat only competition. Shore diving competitors competing in boat comps must still dive in pairs and advise a committee member that is participating roughly where they will be competing.
9. Competitors must Sign On and Off from all Aggregate club series and other monthly competitions unless otherwise stated by the AUF body. Note: The Big 10 Challenge is not a group competition and competitors compete during their own time. Refer to 34-37
10. Competitors will not be able to compete if they are not carrying the following safety gear as required by the A Section Rules & AUF Code of Practice (COP) – 6) Safety Rules & Spearfishing in General https://auf.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/AUF-Spearfishing-Codes-of-Practice-Feb-22-2.pdf
* Personal float of a minimum 7ltrs (and no maximum size: but float cannot be used to transport a diver e.g. kayak) and principally coloured either yellow, orange or red with reflective tape and with a clearly displayed alpha flag attached. In true pairs divers should share a 10L minimum sized float.
* International Code Flag A (blue/white) of minimum size 250x150mm on top of the float above the surface of the water.
* Whistle and signaling mirror of at least 50mm x 50mm.
* Sheathed diver’s knife on the competitor’s person.
* Weight belt fitted with quick release buckle.
* Cover spear points (when out of the water Eg rubber stopper or snorkel)
1. The following rules also apply to our competitions:
* Other safety equipment such as use of smoke flares, safety sausages or electronic shark shields shall be permitted.
* Flashers can be used.
* A torch may not be used, but may be carried as a safety precaution.
* Pneumatic guns will not be permitted to be used by competitors.
* Competitors shall not carry loaded spearguns on floats.
* All fish must be captured by the Competitor using spear, speargun or similar device.
* Competitors must not swap fish or give fish to another competitor including their own pairs partner.
* No breathing aid, other than a snorkel, shall be permitted.
* Competitors must be immersed in the water at the time of spearing the fish.
* Fish speared in traps, nets or lines are ineligible for Weigh In.
* Fish must NOT be tethered to the body. Recommend use of boat floats or boogie board style floats, stringers attached to floats, cray net bags or other catch bags for shore dives or when transporting fish back to boats.
* Burleying is permitted. Only burley obtained in the water at the competition site during the hours of competition is to be used. No burley is to be taken from land. Burley can be any fish species that complies with QLD fisheries laws except crayfish.
1. All competitors must not fish by any means before the official start of the spearfishing period.
2. Competitors must abide by all fisheries rules. Refer to rule 13 Participation & Membership Requirements.
3. All fish and catches must comply with the legal size, bag, possession limits and protected species as per the QLD Boating and Fisheries Regulations..
* Competitors that fail to comply with fisheries laws will be disqualified.
1. Any competitor proven to have been fishing in any of closed area/green zone of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, or in other closed areas as covered by regulation will be disqualified.

**Competition Formats**

SCS holds only Pairs Events as to comply with the Code of Practice (COP) by our association body the AUF.

1. Pairs competitions will either be run as Traditional Pairs or True Pairs at the discretion of the committee.
2. **Traditional Pairs** or Loose pairs require each diver to carry their own float (minimum 7L), and other mandatory safety gear. Diving Pairs are required to be within 20m from their dive partner or their dive partners float at all times when on the surface. There is a maximum length of 30m on float lines. Anchoring up of float lines is permitted.
3. **True Pairs** require each pair to share/use a single float (minimum 10L) between 2 divers or two floats tied together. One up, one down rules. One float line of 30m restricted length connected to the diver that is diving and another 4m line attached to the diver on the surface. Only one diver diving at a time. With the diver that is attached to the 4m line to remain on the surface.

During competition the members of each Team cannot be more than 20 metres apart from each other on surface and no more than 30m away from their float. Anchoring floats permitted unless otherwise stated by the committee.

1. In True pair format participants can use if preferred, a single maximum length 30m float-line that passes freely through a sliding ring setup, having each diver attached on each end.
2. In the event of odd numbers in either format a team of 3 divers will be allowed instead of 2. No diver must dive alone.

**Competition Types – Digital Competitions, Club Aggregate Series, Other Competitions** .

Digital Competitions including Big 10 Challenge

1. These are ongoing competitions where competitors dive in their own time and submit their catches Online. Participants are still required to dive in pairs and follow the AUF’s Code of Practice (COP) including carrying the minimum safety equipment requirements.
2. Competitors can choose to shore dive or boat dive.
3. Competitors can submit fish from anywhere in QLD\* (\*Note: As per AUF QLD spearfishing records,

fish can be taken as far down as Hastings Point NSW).

1. Big 10 Challenge Rules. Refer to

https://sunnycoastskindivers.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SCS-Big-10-Challenge-Rules.pdf

Club Aggregate Series

1. Monthly Competition Series or Club Aggregate Series is comprised of 8 competitions during the financial year.
2. The 8 competitions are made up of a number of Boat and Shore diving competitions from different locations and are calculated off the SCS Competition Scoresheet
3. The Club Aggregate Series is broken into 3 competitor division or categories (Individual A Grade, B Grade & C Grade) with further Sub Categories (Pairs, Ladies, Junior and Teams)

Example: C grade diver can also be in Ladies or Juniors

1. A, B & C grades will be determined by the Sports Secretary along with other members of the committee.
2. Top 2 placings in B & C categories move up to the next highest grade the following season providing the committee thinks their scores are competitive enough to move up a higher grade.
3. If a competitor doesn’t look like they are in the correct grade they can be moved at the discretion of the committee during the season
4. All categories are calculated off the SCS competition scoresheet except for the Teams which is total number of species caught.
5. 1st day of the QLD state titles are encouraged to be used as one of the 8 comps in the aggregate series providing committee thinks there are enough members attending the comp. (Distant locations such as Northern areas could easily affect attendance)

Other Comps

1. Cray, Pelagic comp and other comps are not part of the aggregate series as they don’t use the same Club Aggregate scoresheet.
2. Other comps are one off yearly events, that can have monetary prizes for winners but the same is discouraged in the Big 10 Challenge and Club Aggregate series.
3. Scoresheets and Rules for Other Comps will be determined by the Competition Committee.

Boats (Digital Comps, Club Aggregate Series and Other Comps)

1. Boats in these rules refers to all vessels engaged in spearfishing activities during the competition
2. It is the responsibility of each boat owner to ensure their boats are equipped with the safety gear required by Marine Safety Queensland.
3. All boat drivers must be licensed as required by Department of Transport regulations.
4. In the event of a boat breaking down on return from the competition area, a competitor’s fish may be transferred to another competitor or safety boat for transport back to the weigh-in. This transfer of captured fish remains the responsibility of the competitor.
5. Boats shall fly, clearly visible above the vessel, an International Code A (blue/white) flag measuring a minimum of 750mm x 500mm clearly visible above the vessel and a minimum height of 2m above the water.
6. All boats returning to boat ramps should be extra mindful of other divers, vessels and swimmers. Also consideration should be given to other fishermen who may be in an area already and their rights respected.
7. Boats are not allowed to have a single diver in the water and a boatie. Divers are only allowed to dive in pairs or more.
8. Boats following closely to divers must make sure that they are following the reduced speed limit within 30m of a alpha dive flag.
9. Its the responsibility of all divers on a boat that regardless of pairings that no diver should be diving alone. So in the event of 3 divers in the water with a boatie. All 3 divers should be staying within 20m of each other. The boatie should be directing or assisting any divers splitting up to get back together.

Shore Diving Competitions

1. All shore diving competitions are pairs format.
2. Competitors must all attend the dive briefing at the location proposed and then competitors at their discretion can decide to stay and dive at that location or travel to another location.
3. Competitors in this format must not travel via boat, kayak, or any other water propulsion device
4. Traveling to another shore diving location via car is acceptable. But competitors must give themselves enough time to return to the Sign Off area by the conclusion of the competition.

Teams Comp (Club Aggregate Series)

1. The Teams comp during the Aggregate Series is comprised of x4 Divers per team.
2. Each teams goal is to obtain the highest amount of species from the Club Aggregate scoresheet over the duration of the 8 aggregate competition series. With the winning team obtaining the highest amount of species by the end of the aggregate series. Species must meet minimum size requirements of scoresheet.
3. Teams can be created at the start of the season or during the duration of the competition year.
4. Any single diver can only be part of one team. Cannot be part of consecutive teams.
5. If a team has a member or members that cannot attend a comp there are no changes or substitutes of team members
6. Once a 4 diver team is nominated no further changes of personnel can be made.
7. If all 4 members of a team decide to quit. Those members cannot join other teams or a new team until the following season.

**Briefing/ Sign-on / Sign-off (Club Aggregate Series & Other Competitions)**

1. All Competitors (excluding Digital Comps like Big 10 Challenge) must Sign ON at the commencement of each day of Competition and Sign OFF at the conclusion of each day of Competition.
2. Any competitor who fails to Sign-on before the proposed time will be considered not to have entered the event.
3. ALL competitors MUST have all their safety gear ready prior for checking. Competitors cannot take part without having all the required safety gear. If a competitors is found to have breached these rules they will be disqualified.
4. The briefing by the Sports Secretary or nominated person will include local area details such as hazards, weather and water conditions, weigh-in procedures, limits or other relevant details.
5. Competitors are expected to abide by the Sports Secretary watch or time. Competitors are advised to synchronize their watches to the Sports Secretary or person giving the briefing.
6. The Sports Secretary decision as to the starting and finishing of the competition shall be final.
7. Sign OFF procedures for competition types:
* **Shore dive competition**. All competing pairs are expected to be back at the nominated weigh in area and individually Sign OFF using the sign off sheet provided before the conclusion.

(Late excuses due to Traffic, or cannot find a car park will not be accepted).

* **Boat/Shore competitions.** A diver from a single boat can sign off themselves and any of the other passengers including the boat driver. They cannot sign off other participants from other boats

Note: The exception to this rule is if a designated sign off area on the water has been nominated by the Sports Secretary or the person in charge of the dive briefing. All Boats would be expected to meet at this location before the conclusion time.

* We expect all boat drivers to consider how busy boat ramps can be and prioritize to be their earlier. Rather than rushing and potentially putting themselves, occupants or the public at risk or breaking boating/water regulations.
* Shore diving competitors in boat comps follow the same Sign Off procedures as a Shore Diving Competition.
1. All competitors that arrive back late to the designated sign off area and haven’t signed off at the designated finishing time. Will have the following penalties applied to their individual scores.:
	1. 0-5 mins late 200 point penalty;
	2. 5-10 mins late 400 point penalty;
	3. Over 10 mins late forfeit all points
2. Any Competitor who fails to Sign Off within 30mins of competition finishing time. Appropriate safety measures will be taken including: making an announcement to other competitors if they know where this individual, pair or group is. Contacting these missing members mobiles. Checking to see if anyone knows if their car is still about. After 45mins the competitors emergency contact will be contacted. After 1hr the coastguard and other emergency authorities will be contacted.

**Weigh-in**

1. The competition score sheet only gives a representation of local, eligible species. This list includes no-take species as per current Fisheries regulations or certain species as advised by SCS committee.
2. Before presenting any fish for weigh in. Competitors must and are expected to know and abide by any QLD Fisheries Laws. Competitors that fail to comply will be disqualified. Rule 26-28
3. Species not listed on the scoresheet that are weighed in will be at the discretion of the Sports Secretary/Committee.
4. Individual divers that make up a pair will submit their own individual catch to be weighed in to determine individual scores.Then will be their partners turn. Both their individual scores will be added together at a later date to determine Pairs scores minus the smaller of any duplicate species.
5. All fish weighed in remain the property of the competitor and as such are his/her responsibility.
6. The Weigh-in area will be declared by the committee for each individual competition.
7. The Sports Secretary/Committee will appoint on the day a Weigh master and Scorer.
8. It is the responsibility of the competitor to be present during the Weigh-in of their catch unless organised prior with the committee.
9. Only the individual competitor and the weigh master can be in the weigh in area. The weigh master can nominate a 3rd person or a deputy to enter the area to help with species identification or help with the weigh in process. The weigh master and the committee have the authority to ask competitors or people present at the weigh-in to stay out of the weigh in area if deemed necessary.
10. Scales used at club competitions should be calibrated and certified every 12mths to government standards. If a set of scales used are not certified they should be checked as soon as convenient against a set a of certified scales. Any variance should be added or deducted.
11. Weigh master can decline a presented fish if it’s not clean of foreign matter. Competitor must clean fish ASAP if they would like fish to be re-weighed.
12. Only the Weigh master and their deputy shall handle fish for measurement or weighing purposes
13. Any competitor entering the Weigh-in area with their catch shall be deemed to have presented those fish for Weigh-in. Any sorting of fish needs to be done prior to entering the weigh-in circle.
14. Competitors can take more than one of each species providing they meet fisheries regulations. However each competitor can only present and weigh one of each species.

\*Note: SCS promotes and encourages that all members practice sustainable fishing for the future and that competitors take only what they need in accordance with fisheries regulations.

1. Competitors may ask to enter a fish or fishes into the Big 10 Challenge. However this needs to be done separately from weighing their catch and outside of the weigh in circle. A photograph against a measuring device is still required. And the photo submitted on the SCS Members Area.
2. Competitors found dumping fish will be disqualified.

**Scoring**

1. Species must first meet minimum weight or measurement requirements. No points will be awarded for fish that don’t meet these requirements.
2. No penalties apply for fish that doesn’t meet scoresheet minimum weight or length requirements.
3. Any fish shot by a competitor that doesn’t abide by Fisheries Laws will result in
* individual disqualification and no individual points will be awarded.
* As a pair they are also disqualified and receive no pair points.
* However the disqualified individuals partner can still weigh their catch and receive individual points.
1. The scoring system shall be 100 points per species, and 10 points per kg up to a maximum of 5kg or 50pts. Eg 10kg Spanish Mackerel = 100pts (species) + 50pts (for weight up to 5kg)
2. A BONUS of 50pts is given to ANY\* fish that weighs 75% or more of the current QLD open state record. The 75% calculated weight figure is already listed on the scoresheet to make scoring calculations simple.
* \*Fish that have a maximum measurement fisheries restriction (Dusky Flathead, Estuary Cod and Bluespot Coral Trout) are not eligible to receive the Bonus 50pts for being 75%+ of the open QLD record.
* \*Fish that are newly recognised by the AUF as AUS/QLD records (Crayfish, Squid & Octopus) are not eligible to receive the Bonus 50pts for being 75%+ of the open QLD record until the committee believes there are sufficient enough records.
1. If an unlisted species is accepted on the day of competition by the Sports Secretary/Committee its bonus points (if there is any) will be calculated after the conclusion of the weigh-in. But before scores are published.
2. For Pairs competitions. Each pair individual scores will be taken first and then the pairs score added up later.
3. Pairs scoring is the total number of combined of individual species between the pair minus the lower weight of any multiple species.
* Example:

Diver 1 has 3 species (Kingfish 10kg, Whiting 450g and Luderick 500g)

Diver 2 has 2 species (7kg Kingfish + Tarwhine 550g)

Combined Total = 4 species (Kingfish 10kg, Whiting 450g, Luderick 500g, and Tarwhine 550g)

Final Score Totals

1. Winning divers score per competition or 1st place is awarded at 100% or 100pts. All competitors below 1st place there score is calculated as a percentage of 1st place.

Example

 1st Place Diver 542pts = 100%(100pts)

2nd Place Diver 435pts = 435/542 x100 = 80.26% (80.26pts))

3rd Place Diver 397pts = 397/542 x 100 = 73.25% (73.25pts)

**Protests**

1. Protests may be lodged by any competitor and can be done verbally preferably before the end of the weigh in or in writing within an hour of posting of the provisional results. Protests need to be directed to the Sports Secretary and a committee member that was present at the competition.

**Trophies**

1. Club Aggregate series will be based on the competitor’s SIX highest scores from EIGHT potential competitions. Should more than two competitions not be conducted, the club series will be decided on the results of the competitions completed.
2. Individual trophies/medals will be awarded at the discretion of the committee to the top 2 places in each division or sub category\*. These will be awarded after the completion of the competition season at presentation night. Perpetual trophies/shields for each category 1st place will be presented but not taken home by the individual winners

.\*Note Sub Category Pairs and Teams there are no individual trophies but potentially names put on a perpetual trophy/shield.

1. Big 10 Challenge trophies awarded to top 3 places and each seasons winners name put on a perpetual trophy/shield. Individual trophies will be at the discretion of the committee.

**Club Records**

1. All fish that are weighed in our Club Aggregate Series or Other comps and receive scoresheet points are automatically submitted for Club Records by the Records Officer.
2. Any fish shot by a SCS club member in Qld waters and weighed on certified calibrated scales can be submitted for club record. Fish can be taken in or out of competition.
3. Scales used that are not certified can be tested for accuracy later against Club certified scales..And any discrepancies can be either added or subtracted from the original weight of the species.
4. Club Records have the following categories Open, Ladies and Junior(U18)