



SPEARFISHING NEW ZEALAND

Competition Rules & Guidelines

June 2026

Incorporating the amendments adopted at the Special General Meeting, June 2026

Amendment Record

This edition consolidates the January 2026 rules with the three motions carried at the Special General Meeting held in June 2026. The substantive changes are:

- **Women's Championship (rules 5.1, 5.2, 6.4, 9.3, 10).** The Women's Championship is now contested solely as a pairs division within the two-day Open Championship and is no longer held as a separate event. Rule 10 was repealed and replaced; the Women's Recreational Grade and the separate-event scheduling were removed.
- **Skipper / Boat Operator Safety Briefing (Part G).** A mandatory, recorded skipper safety briefing was added.
- **World and Interpacific selection eligibility (rules 21.7, 21.8, 22.4).** For events with no mixed division, eligibility for gender-specific selection requires a same-sex pair.

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Part A: Competition Rules for NZ Open Spearfishing Championships

1 Competitor Eligibility

- 1.1 The National Spearfishing Championships shall be open to any individuals from within NZ or international visitors who satisfy the CD as to their ability to compete.
- 1.2 Competitors under the age of 16 wishing to compete in the Open Spearfishing Championship may do so with the approval of the CD who will first assess the standard and suitability of the other member of the team.
- 1.3 All competitors are individually and solely responsible to ensure they are medically fit and capable of participating in the competitions.
- 1.4 Every competitor and safety swimmer must be in attendance for all competition briefings with each competitor verifying their attendance at either a roll-call or sign-in.

2 Equipment

- 2.1 Competitors in spearfishing events must comply with the following equipment rules:
- 2.2 Each member of a team may carry a speargun. Spearguns may include either a speargun, pole spear, or Hawaiian sling. They must be loaded by muscular force. Cartridge type, compressed gas guns and power heads are not permitted.
- 2.3 Mask, Snorkel, Fins, Knife, Weight belt, Torch, and protective clothing may be used.
- 2.4 Flashers, Flasher rigs, Fish attraction devices may not be used.
- 2.5 Each competitor or pair must carry a Compliant Float. A Compliant Float must be:
 - a) either a float or a plat
 - b) coloured either Red, Yellow, Orange, Pink or other bright colour (not white or blue)
 - c) a minimum size of 10 litres
 - d) fitted with a divers flag of at least 15 x 20cm
 - e) self-righting.
 - f) attached to two float lines, one being no more than 4 metres, and the other being a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 40 metres. Either line may be bungee or part bungee.
- 2.6 Buoyancy compensators may be worn but must not aid in landing a fish.
- 2.7 Spare gear may be carried.
- 2.8 Every team must carry an 'Orange Safety Sausage' or 'Smoke Flare'.
- 2.9 Each team must carry a knife.
- 2.10 It is recommended that competitors carry sufficient water, food, and any necessary medications with them throughout the day.
- 2.11 Watches may include those with GPS capability attached to the wrist in the manner of traditional watches and excluding all other GPS devices including but not limited to phones and chart plotters.

3 Competitor Behaviour

- 3.1 Competitors may not assist or interfere with other teams, nor may assistance be received from persons not competing in the competition.
- 3.2 Assisted ascents and descents are not permitted.

- 3.3** Any competitor not enlisted in the competition may not dive in the competition area during the competition.
- 3.4** Competitors are solely responsible for landing, bagging and labelling their own catch.
- 3.5** Competitors may not enter any fish which:
- a) were already dead at time of capture
 - b) have already been trapped or caught by any method other than spearfishing
 - c) have been interfered with in a manner that is not permitted as a spearfishing technique.
- 3.6** Speargun safety:
- a) No spare spearguns or shafts may be carried hanging vertically in the water from floats
 - b) Spare spearguns must not be carried loaded on floats
 - c) No loaded spearguns are permitted on boats
 - d) Competitors must not point a loaded speargun towards another competitor
 - e) Competitors must handle spearguns with extreme care on boats to avoid injury or damage from speartips. Tip protectors are recommended when spearguns are not in use.
- 3.7** Behaviour of members which in any way brings Spearfishing NZ into disrepute will be first reviewed by the Spearfishing NZ Executive. That Executive will have the power to determine an appropriate penalty.
- 3.8** Government, Ministry Of Primary Industries (Fisheries) and Maritime Safety Authority rules and regulations must be observed at all times.
- 3.9** Any decision handed down by the Spearfishing NZ Executive can be appealed to the Sports Disputes Tribunal of New Zealand for Hearing or Mediation.

4 Protocol for return to diving following a hypoxic event

- 4.1** Any competitor who suffers either:
- a) A 'Shallow Water Blackout'; or,
 - b) A hypoxic loss of motor control requiring intervention,
- during a competition must immediately leave the water, notify the competition safety boat, medic and Competition Director, and commence a stand down period out of the water.
- 4.2** Before returning to competition the competitor must:
- a) Complete a one week stand down period out of the water.
 - b) Seek and obtain professional medical attention and obtain a signed statement from a physician confirming it is safe for the competitor to compete.
 - c) Satisfy the CD that the above requirements have been met.
 - d) In all cases, the approval of the CD must be obtained prior to that person resuming competition.

5 Events to be held at the National Championships

- 5.1** The New Zealand National Championships event categories include: the Open Championship (within which the Women's Championship is contested as a division), the Junior Championship, Swimfin, Snorkel Photography, and any fun or informal events.
- 5.2** Event hosts may set the schedule of events. As a minimum, competitions must schedule the Junior and Open Championship events. The Women's Championship is contested within the Open Championship and is not held as a separate event.

6 Rules for Open Championships

- 6.1 The Open Championships competition will normally be a two-day event. Where practical this will be a Saturday and Sunday.
- 6.2 Each day's competition will be of six hours duration, subject to any reduction by the CD due to safety, interruption, or cancellation.
- 6.3 For the competition to be valid, a minimum of four hours competition must be held on at least one day.
- 6.4 In the Open Spearfishing Championships, competitors shall compete as pairs. No diver shall be allowed to compete as an individual. All scoring and placing shall be on a two-person-team basis. For the purposes of the Women's Championship, a "women's pair" is a pair in which both competitors are women. All other pair combinations compete in the Open category only.

7 The Competition Area

- 7.1 Competitions are to run as 'swim competitions' i.e. all competitors will assemble in the 'Start/Finish Triangle' prior to the commencement of the event.
- 7.2 The 'Start/Finish triangle' will be a triangular area designated by three floats or boats as indicated by the CD. No other boats will be allowed in this triangle. Loaded spear guns are not allowed in this triangle at any time during the competition.
- 7.3 The CD will signal the start and finish of the competition.
- 7.4 Competitors must start and finish inside the triangle. Any competitor who begins before the start, or has not returned to the triangle and been signed off prior to the end of the competition, will cause that team to be penalised (See Penalties).
- 7.5 Competitors may only land their catch throughout the competition on boats moored in close proximity to the triangle.
- 7.6 It is the competitor's responsibility to familiarise themselves with the area of the competition. Any competitor outside the competition area will cause that team to be penalised. (See penalties)
- 7.7 Any competitor may enter a patrol boat on the grounds of safety. A competitor so doing must re-enter the water at the same position. A competitor may enter a patrol boat at any time to withdraw from the competition.
- 7.8 No boats associated with the competition other than safety boats may manoeuvre in the competition area during the competitions. All boats shall operate at safe speeds and in a safe manner that is in accordance with New Zealand Maritime Regulations.

8 Rules for Competing as Pairs

- 8.1 At any time during the competition at least one member of the pair will remain on the surface.
- 8.2 At all times during the competition, one member of the team will hold the long float line, the other member will hold the short line.
- 8.3 While both competitors are on the surface, the maximum distance between them both shall be 40 metres.
- 8.4 A competitor in a pair may assist the other competitor in the pair to land a fish. However, one competitor must remain on the surface.

9 Rules for Individual Competitions

- 9.1 In all individual competitions, the competitor must be accompanied by a safety Observer.

- 9.2** In the juniors championships event, the observer may not assist the competitor by berleying, towing the competitor, finding fish, loading guns (except for 10 and under division) spearing or helping to land fish, diving beneath the surface (except for safety reasons) or any other assistance related to the landing of specific fish but not species. General advice and guidance, assistance with equipment malfunction for finding and shooting species is allowed. 10 and under competitors wishing to be eligible for other junior trophies besides the 10 and under must also swim these rules.
- 9.3** For juniors aged 10 years and under, the Observer may assist the competitor in any way except for firing the speargun.

10 Women's Spearfishing Championship

- 10.1** The Women's Championship is a division of the Open National Championship and is not held as a separate event.
- 10.2** The Women's Championship is contested under the Open Championship rules (6.1–6.4), over the same days and duration as the Open.
- 10.3** Women's Championship placings and selection are determined from the results of women's pairs (as defined in rule 6.4) competing in the Open Championship.

11 Junior Spearfishing Championships

- 11.1** Rules will be the same as for the open competition, with the following exceptions:
- 11.2** That all age-related trophies are determined on the basis of the day of the competition.
- 11.3** The duration of the competition will be a minimum of four hours up to a maximum of six hours with the decision on the length of time being at the discretion of the CD.
- 11.4** The junior's Competition shall be swum as an individual competition.

12 Team Events

- 12.1** Competitors competing for the Top Team may be from different clubs or have no club affiliation.
- 12.2** In the event of one member of a team withdrawing through illness or otherwise after the start of the competition, then the remaining diver must withdraw or, with the approval of the CD may participate with an observer.
- 12.3** Teams may not change partners or combinations after the start of the competition.

13 Top Club Award

- 13.1** Teams competing for the Top Club event will comprise the top performing three teams (six divers) of bona fide members from the same club.

14 B Division

- 14.1** B Division competitors may at the discretion of the CD weigh in one extra fish of up to 6 species nominated from the eligible Species list. Where extra fish are included, two weights will be given:
- a) Weight as per A division list / Weight as per B division list
 - b) No points for species will be awarded to extra fish in B division.
- 14.2** The winning team from the B division may not compete as the same team in the B Division in the following year.
- 14.3** No team from the Top ten team placings may compete in the B division in the following year. An individual may change divisions.

15 Super Diver

- 15.1** Competitors must compete in three nominated events:
 - a) Snorkel Photography
 - b) Swim fin (fins only event)
 - c) Spearfishing (A division only)
- 15.2** Scoring shall be on a numerical basis, and based on that individual's placing in each event. A first place 1st receives 3 points, 2nd place receives 2 points, 3rd receives 1 point.
- 15.3** In the event of a draw, the competitor with the highest team placing from the Spearfishing Competition will be used to determine placing in this event.

16 Silver Oldie

- 16.1** Points shall be taken from the Spearfishing Competition.
- 16.2** If a team member is 50 years of age or over at the time of competition, he or she is eligible to enter.
- 16.3** That individual's team score shall be used as the basis for this competition.
- 16.4** In the event that both members of a team are over 50, the award shall go to both members.

17 Golden Oldie

- 17.1** The same conditions apply as for Silver Oldie, except the age shall be 60 years.
- 17.2** Competitors cannot compete in both the Silver and Golden Oldies.

18 Parent And Child

- 18.1** Points shall be taken from the Spearfishing competition.
- 18.2** Only one parent and child are eligible.
- 18.3** Parent and child may compete as a team or in separate teams.
- 18.4** Where they compete in separate teams, 50% of each teams score will be used. However, the score of a parent and child swimming together shall take precedence over any score of a parent and child swimming in different teams.

19 Snorkel Photography

- 19.1** Each competitor must complete the standard registration form or an appropriate separate one if it is the only event entered.
- 19.2** Competitors shall swim in pairs, either two competitors or one with an observer.
- 19.3** Each Competitor must tow a Compliant Float or swim with a competitor with a Compliant Float.
- 19.4** Competitors under 16 years of age must swim with an adult.
- 19.5** Competitors are allowed to use the following equipment; Mask, snorkel, fins, weight belt, knife, torch, protective clothing, buoyancy compensator and one underwater camera.
- 19.6** The competition shall be a maximum of four hours but at the discretion of the CD.
- 19.7** At the pre-dive briefing, competitors are to be advised that the first photograph taken is to be a suitable personal identification photo. After that, only the next 24 underwater exposures will count.
- 19.8** A list of eligible species will be published prior to the competition and this will include common species in the area as well as some rare species. Small fish such as blennies will not be included.

- 19.9** At the end of competition, Downloads or Sim cards are to be with the CD or appointee within the specified time if their photos are to be eligible for judging.
- 19.10** The Competition Committee will appoint judges in consultation with the Spearfishing Executive.
- 19.11** An identifiable fish of each species will receive a point. More than one species may be photographed and scored from a single exposure.
- 19.12** Fish must be in their natural habitat; not in nets, hooked on a line, in containers or a tank.
- 19.13** The competitor with the highest number of points will be declared the winner.
- 19.14** In the event of a dead heat, the overall quality of the photographs will decide the winner.

20 Fin Swim

- 20.1** Only competitors entered in at least one spearfishing event at a specific Nationals can win the trophy for the Fin Swim at that Nationals with fins that will be worn for the spearfishing competition.

21 NZ Interpacific Team Selection Trials

- 21.1** Trials shall be held for the selection of the New Zealand Interpacific Team when the committee decides it is necessary to do so having regard to the number of eligible and willing participants.
- 21.2** The winning pair will receive the Graham Byers Trophy.
- 21.3** The Selection Trials may be held at a different date and venue from the National Spearfishing Championships.
- 21.4** The Spearfishing NZ Executive shall appoint the Competition Director for these trials.
- 21.5** If through circumstances beyond the CD's control, no competition is able to be held for selection of the pending NZ team, then the team will be selected on the basis of results in the immediately preceding National Championships (or the National Championships before that, if the committee in their discretion decides there is insufficient time for selection and organisation of the team).
- 21.6** Where pairs of competitors for an aborted swim-off comprise different members from those who swam together in the Nationals, the reserve shall be drawn by ballot from those members who are happy to go as the reserve.
- 21.7** The women's team shall be selected having regard to the best results from the Women's Championship division and, where relevant, the Open Championship. A woman is eligible for selection only if her qualifying score was achieved in a women's pair; a woman who dived in a mixed pair is not eligible for Interpacific selection on the basis of that result.
- 21.8** Only pairs in which both competitors are of the same sex are eligible for selection under rule 21. A mixed pair may compete but is not eligible for Interpacific team selection on the basis of that result.

22 World Championships Teams

- 22.1** The Executive Spearfishing Committee will call for nominations for Team Manager 18 months before the World Championships and make an appointment accordingly.
- 22.2** Team selection will be decided by ranking, based on the highest two percentage scores of each applicant from the three prior Open National Championship events, weighted at 100% for the most recent event, 90% for the prior event, and 80% for the oldest event. To ensure consistency, percentage scores for any one-day events will be doubled to compare to standard two-day event scores.

- 22.3** If there are sufficient applications, a men's team and a women's team shall be selected. Each team may comprise up to three athletes, a reserve, a doctor, and a manager (who can be one of the athletes).
- 22.4** A competitor is eligible for selection to the New Zealand World Spearfishing Team only if their qualifying score was achieved in a same-sex pair in an Open National Championship. A competitor who dived in a mixed pair may not be selected on the basis of that result, although the pair's score counts toward their individual Open classification.

23 Weighing In

- 23.1** The minimum weight for all eligible fish will be 500 grams.
- 23.2** At the discretion of the Championship Director, gutted and gilled fish may be entered at a minimum weight of 450 grams or a lower weight for specific species.
- 23.3** There will be one Weighmaster, a screening table and all fish checked for the minimum weight on electronic scales.
- 23.4** The screening table will be self-draining for the presenting of fish to the Weighmaster.
- 23.5** Each team will be responsible for sorting their catch prior to presenting it to the Weighmaster. Fish will be placed on the screening table, checked and sorted, then 'Presented' to the Weighmaster. Once 'Presented' they may not be interfered with again by the competitors. Once 'Presented', the fish become the property of Spearfishing NZ.
- 23.6** Each team shall 'Present' only eligible fish in size, weight, species and number as specified for that competition. Non-compliant fish attract a penalty of 100 points, including:
- a) Fish that are less than 80% of the minimum weight (500 grams/400g. 450 grams/360g)
 - b) An ineligible fish species
 - c) Fish that do not meet Fisheries regulations, or
 - d) More than the allowable number of any species is presented
- 23.7** Ungutted/gilled fish or insufficiently gutted/gilled fish as determined by the weighmaster will result in weighmaster sending the competitor/s to the back of the queue to re-gut/gill their fish.

24 Scoring

- 24.1** The standard scoring system is:
- a) 100 points per eligible fish
 - b) 10 points per kilogram of total catch weight
 - c) Fish over 8 kg will be weighed separately, and a weight of 8 kg added to the remaining catch weight
- 24.2** Competitors must nominate at the weigh-in any fish they wish to have considered for other trophies.
- 24.3** The scale weight is to be read to the nearest 100 grams below for bulk weight.
- 24.4** Team placings will be determined by the addition of the team percentage points score awarded on each day of the competition.
- 24.5** Club team placings will be determined by adding the team percentage points score each day.
- 24.6** 'Most Species' title is awarded to the team accredited with the most species caught over the whole competition. In the case where more than one fish per species is allowed on the Eligible Species list, then those fish shall count as only one for the purposes of this award.
- 24.7** In the event of a tie in any competition, the placing will be shared.

25 Penalties

- 25.1** The CD may penalise or disqualify any individual or team who breaks either a safety or competition rule. However:
- a) Any competitor or team outside the competition area will be disqualified for that day.
 - b) Any competitor or team who starts before the start signal will be disqualified for that day.
 - c) Any competitor or team who returns to the triangle after the finish signal will be disqualified for that day.

26 Eligible Species List

- 26.1** The eligible species list should be notified 4 months before the event and a copy provided to competitors at the time of registration.
- 26.2** When preparing the eligible species list for the competition, the host organisers may refer to the Spearfishing NZ Executive for advice.
- 26.3** The host organisers will be responsible for preparing the eligible species list. In doing so, they will ensure that no recreational fisheries limits or regulations are infringed.
- 26.4** The host organisers will take into consideration the area and abundance or scarcity of various fish in setting the eligible species list.
- 26.5** The eligible species list may include more than one fish per eligible species.
- 26.6** The eligible species list will include a category for Gamefish/Hapuku.
- 26.7** A maximum of 1 Kingfish per day may be weighed in by each pair in a Pairs Event or by each Competitor in an Individual Event.
- 26.8** Fish commonly included in the fish list in northern New Zealand include:

Species	No. per team	Species	No. per team
Blue maomao	2	Koheru	2
Blue moki	2	Kingfish	max 1
Butterfish	2	Pink maomao	2
Gamefish/hapuku (Required)	1	Porae	2
Giant boarfish	2	Snapper	2
Golden snapper	2	Trevally	2
John dory	2	Tarakihi	2
Kahawai	2		

- 26.9** Fish commonly included in the fish list in Wellington include:

Banded Parrotfish	Kingfish (max 1)
Blue Moki	Koheru
Butterfish	Mackerel – Any
Butterfly Perch	Red Mullet
Copper Moki	Snapper
Cod - Bastard red	Sweep
Cod – Blue	Tarakihi
Cod – Red	Telescope Fish

Gamefish/hapuku (Required)	Trevally
John Dory	Warehou
Kahawai	

27 Disputes Committee

- 27.1** Prior to the competition, the competitors shall elect two competitors as members of the Disputes Committee. That Committee shall consist of the two competitors plus the CD.
- 27.2** The Chairman of the Committee will be the CD.
- 27.3** Where any dispute involves a member of the Committee, the CD will appoint a replacement member.
- 27.4** Where a dispute has a potential conflict of interest for the CD, SNZ Executive will appoint a replacement member.
- 27.5** The Disputes Committee's decision will be final.
- 27.6** Any dispute that involves an interpretation of the Rules may be further appealed in writing to the Spearfishing NZ Committee.
- 27.7** Protests and appeals to the Disputes Committee must be made:
- in writing to the CD; and,
 - within four hours after the completion of the competition on that day, and,
 - no later than one hour after the results of competition have been announced.

28 Application of these Rules

- 28.1** The NZ National Spearfishing Championships shall be run according to these Competition Rules.
- 28.2** The Competition Rules may be changed by an AGM or a SGM of Spearfishing NZ.
- 28.3** Rules changes are of immediate effect when decided.
- 28.4** The Spearfishing NZ Committee may settle any matters not provided for in these rules.
- 28.5** The guidelines attached to these rules are intended as a 'best practise' guide, and may be altered by the Committee of Spearfishing NZ as considered appropriate.

Part B: Prizes

The CD shall award the following trophies and titles:

Junior Championships

- Committee's Choice Cup** ~ Junior Spearfishing Award
- Lifou Trophy (Carved hut)** ~ 1st Junior Woman
- Mc Coy & Thomas Trophy** ~ Largest Fish in Junior Champs
- Mayor Island Trophy (Carving)** ~ 1st U/16 Juniors
- Trail Cup** ~ 2nd Individual
- Daves Sports Centre Plate** ~ New Zealand Junior Spearfishing Champion
- Shields Family Trophy** ~ 1st 10 years of age and under
- Underwater Sports Trophy** ~ 3rd Individual
- Wilkinson Trophy** ~ Most Meritorious Fish, U/18 Juniors.

Women's Championships

- Eddie Davidson Cup** ~ New Zealand Women's Spearfishing Champion
- GHB Cup** ~ 2nd Women's Spearfishing

Open Championships

- B Division (Stewards Trophy)** ~ 1st in B Division
- Carver Trophy** ~ Most Meritorious fish, Open Spearfishing
- Dowling Cup** ~ 2nd in Open Spearfishing
- Golden Oldie Cup (Timbs & Davidson)** ~ 60 years of age and over
- Howe Cup** ~ 1st Open Spearfishing Champs
- ISCO Cup** ~ Largest Kingfish in Open Championships
- Lance Baker Trophy (Barometer)** ~ 1st Novice Competitor
- Milner Trophy** ~ Most Species in Open Championships
- Parent & Child Mug** ~ Parent and Child
- Plylite Cup for top Club** ~ Aggregate of highest placing in Open Spearfishing A & B, Women's, Junior U/18
- Russell George Trophy** ~ Largest Snapper
- Silver Oldie Trophy** ~ 50 years of age and over
- Super Diver Trophy** ~ Spearfishing New Zealand Superdiver (Highest aggregate in snorkel photography, fin swim)
- Tomlin Trophy** ~ New Zealand Top Spearfishing Team (1st Open Spearfishing Championships)
- Woolworths Cup** ~ 3rd Open Spearfishing Championships
- NZ Spearfishing** ~ New Zealand Top Spearfishing Club

NZ Team Selection Trials

- Graham Byers Memorial Trophy** ~ Winner, NZ Selection Trials
- Mark Briggs Memorial Trophy** ~ Most Meritorious fish in Selection trials

Film Fishing (Snorkel Photography)

- Bay of Islands Cup** ~ 2nd Most Species on film
- Nelson U/W Club Trophy (John Dory)** ~ Best Photograph
- Rollie Cup** ~ New Zealand Champion Snorkel Photographer (1st Most Species on film)
- Spence & Ross Cup** ~ 1st Junior: New Zealand Junior Champion Snorkel Photographer

Fin Swim

Thornbury Cup ~ 1st 200m
New Zealand Swim fin Champion
New Zealand Swim fin Champion Freestyle
New Zealand Swim fin Champion Team

Care of Trophies

The CD shall record the names of all trophy and award winners and pass this information on to the hosts of the following years' event.

All trophies shall be returned in time for the next competitions.

All additional engravings on medallions and/or purchase of miniatures will be the responsibility of the recipient.

Any trophy which is damaged or lost must be reported to the Spearfishing NZ Executive in writing.

Only those competitors placed first in competitions will receive certificates.

Any trophies won by international visitors shall not leave New Zealand unless specifically donated for that purpose. Their names may be recorded on perpetual trophies.

Part C: Background to The Nationals Rules

This update of NZ's National Spearfishing Championships Rules is a re-organisation of the 2016 edition into a more concise and logical layout, incorporating subsequent changes agreed at AGM's, and it has now been extended to include the various competitions administered by Spearfishing NZ.

The rules include changes since the 2005 edition of the Rules, compiled at that time by Paul Spence. Since then, Spearfishing NZ has become an Incorporated Society thereby adding further responsibilities to its role. In particular, it must now have a greater regard to pay more attention to risk management.

New Zealand's National Spearfishing Championships remain as one of few national sport-related competitions in this country that is not always run by the national organisation itself. In this regard ours is a legacy from the past when such responsibilities were largely off-loaded to willing clubs. Times have changed. In the future the relationship between Spearfishing NZ Inc and any club or group of interested people running the National Championships on behalf of SNZ will have added scrutiny as SNZ cannot palm off responsibility, including liabilities, to another group. Its Executive members have to take all reasonable steps for example, to see that host organisers adhere to all safety guidelines. In practice this could mean a Spearfishing NZ Executive member must have a role in organising and supervising an event.

As indicated above this updated document of current National Spearfishing Championships Rules and Trophies has strong links to 50 years of history during which time the NZ Underwater Association and its clubs actively promoted spearfishing. In the middle decades of last century NZUA's diving clubs numbered 100 plus and for some of those years most of them had some degree of spearfishing interest. There were ample clubs keen to run NZUA's Spearfishing Championships because a) spearfishing was the *raison d'être* for the club's existence b) it was support of their parent organisation, and c) most certainly it was a means of generating funds for their club! In those years, at various Annual General Meetings of NZUA, a previous generation of divers hammered out the first set of spearfishing rules many of which remain today, even if the wording is not the same. What has changed is that those clubs have gone or branched in to new diving interests, and for us there are now Health & Safety issues to consider more carefully. So the guidelines within are much more specific when emphasising "best practice" thus avoiding omissions and short-cuts that have crept in and can impact on an efficient, enjoyable and safe running of an event.

Spearfishing NZ Inc. needed to have these Rules updated for other reasons too. We have an evolving membership of competitors at all of our events who are not members of the few remaining spearfishing clubs. They are a new generation of spearfishers able to own their own boats, dive as and when they want to, use social media to find a diving buddy within the hour, and are often well-supported by retail outlets. They genuinely have no interest in, or need for membership of a club. In a very real sense, the institutional know-how of the past about the organisation of the National Spearfishing Championships is increasingly in the hands of fewer and fewer people. However, each year it is apparent there are some new people involved with organisation at new competition venues. The hope is they will stick with such administration for years to come.

Now that organised spearfishing competitions are far more inclusive of a wider constituency of spearfishers, the availability of these updated Rules and a time-line for those doing the organising will help bring consistency to the planning of events, and thoroughness in carrying them out.

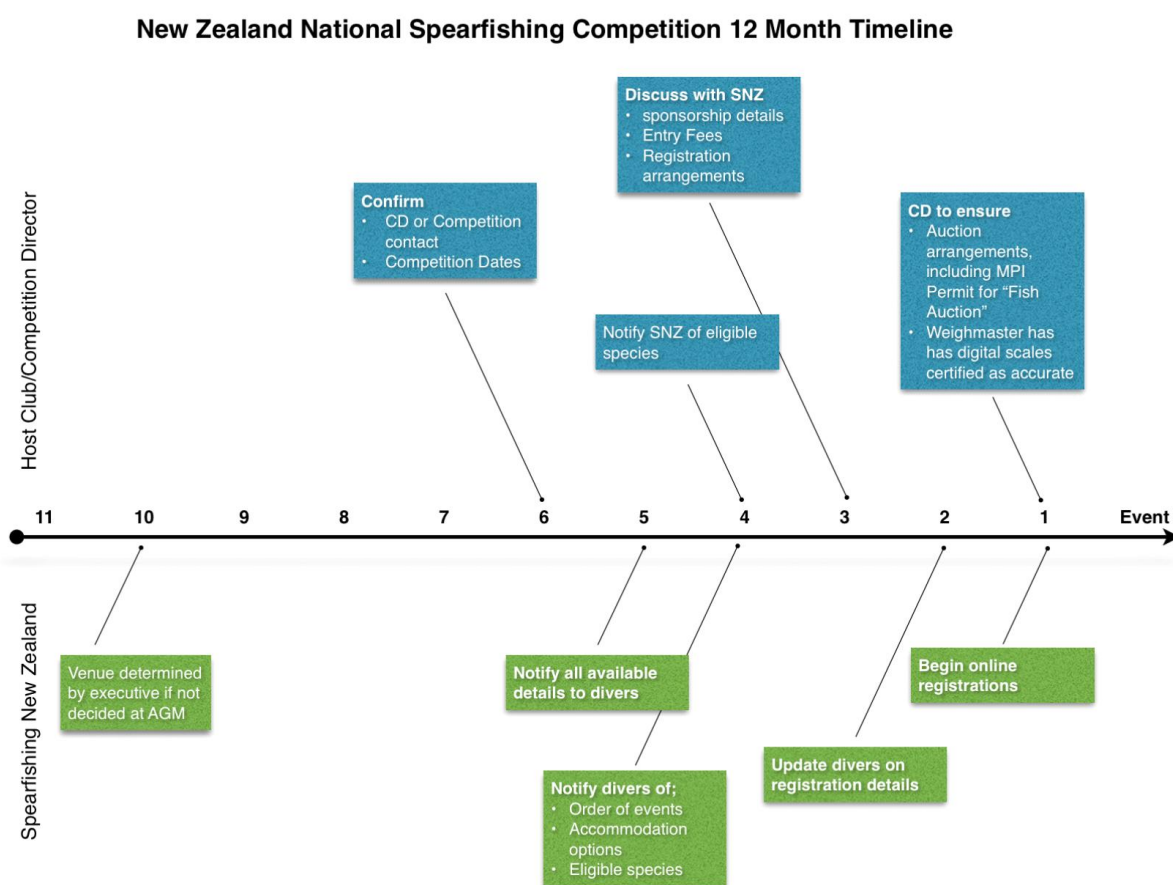
Part D: Preparation for the Event

Hosts

The hosts of the event may be any group or persons approved by an AGM of Spearfishing New Zealand (SNZ) or where delegated authority is specifically given, by the committee of SNZ. As soon as possible after the hosts have been chosen the location and timing of the event needs to be communicated to SNZ members. The hosts shall ensure that:

- The timeline for Nationals is followed
- the eligible species list is selected
- a Championships Director (CD) is appointed
- a Weighmaster and Recorder are selected
- a scorer is selected for the snorkel photography event

Part E: Duties of Championship Director (CD)



Appointment of CD

The role of the CD is overarching of the event from the time planning starts until all details are tidied up in the days following the Competition. In practice, many of the CD's tasks associated with running the Championships will be delegated. But it remains the CD's role to ensure all necessary arrangements are completed by whoever is responsible, to a standard befitting the running of a NZ National Championship.

The CD shall be a person who has previously actively competed in similar competitions and has the ability and necessary knowledge from his/her earlier experience to oversee and safely run such competitions.

Where a host club or body of interested people is organising the NZ National Spearfishing Championships they will appoint the CD or form an interim organising group a minimum of 6 months ahead of the event and confirm with the Spearfishing NZ Executive that planning is underway.

It is expected that the CD will appoint a Competition Committee to assist in the running of the Competitions.

The role of the Championships Director (CD) is to:

- oversee the event and to ensure compliance with these rules.
- follow the guidelines for Duties of Championship Director.
- select all necessary Competition Areas and control event timing
- ensure that scoring is calculated in accordance with the rules.
- ensure that safety boat support is provided
- award trophies and awards.

- ensure that any sponsorship arrangements agreed with SNZ or its sponsors are adhered to.

Early preparation

At least four months prior to the competition, the CD shall notify Spearfishing NZ:

- the eligible species list.
- an official contact for intending competitors so that it can then be advertised via SNZ media accounts
- sponsorship arrangements by both organisers and Spearfishing NZ and the advertising thereof
- establish what registration arrangements will be available
- the fees for the event
- a schedule of the competition events

The CD shall do the following well ahead of the event:

- plan for the disposal of fish including, if appropriate, an Application to MPI for a permit allowing a community organisation to auction the fish.
- secure a venue for the AGM, weigh-ins, briefings, and the prizegiving dinner. Organise caterers for the dinner.
- confirm the availability of digital scales for the bulk weighing of fish ensuring that such scales have a certificate of accuracy well ahead of the time of the competition.
- secure use of a computer with all event documents stored and readily accessible. Setup and rigorously test spreadsheets for each event which should automatically calculate each days' results accurately
- set up electronic registrations for the event well ahead of time. Include guidance for competitors on selection of events (age limit for juniors, and any additional categories (A & B grade, Golden Oldies etc).
- prepare hard copies of these rules to make available at the briefing
- obtain suitable marine charts to be used at the briefing to identify competition areas
- ensure any event apparel is organized ahead of time with the correct designs and with any agreed sponsor's logos. Check deadline for specification of apparel sizing and communicate that to competitors to ensure they do not miss out on correctly sized apparel
- ascertain nearest Emergency Medical Centre and methods of getting there (refer to example form in this pack: 'Spearfishing Competition Medical or Other Emergency Contact List').
- discuss the competitions with local iwi, including arrangements for auctioning of fish. A partnering approach to use of marine resources is expected.
- invite competitors from inter-pacific countries to attend the event

Just Prior to Event

In the days Leading up to Competitions the CD shall do the following tasks:

- Arrange for access to the event computer for entering competitor details and making payment online. Maintain a live record of registrations.
- Notify (where appropriate): Local Authorities; Police; Boating/fishing Clubs; Marine Radio stations; Coastguard
- Obtain latest weather report
- Identify a suitable competition area with regard to sea conditions, underwater visibility, marine currents, boat traffic, marine life, the fish list, diver abilities, and all known risks.

- Make extra copies of charts for use in marking the competition area, and hazards for each day's event.
- Make sufficient copies of the required forms contained in these rules and guidelines
- Ensure there will be two safety patrol boats (1 for safety patrol & 1 for CD) if a land mass will stop one boat seeing the whole of the competition area. A safety boat must be visible to competitors at all times and should be equipped with the items in the Safety Boat Gear List.
- Establish the communication frequency.
- Ensure any such community organisation collecting fish for auction will be ready and with ice, at the start of each day's weighing of fish
- Have a Plan of Action to be followed in the event of an accident or emergency
- Be familiar with the 'Protocol for return to diving following a blackout event.'
- Ensure any event apparel or products have been received and will be available for collection as competitors register.
- Ensure all trophies and medals are transported safely to the event.

Management During The Event

During the event, the CD shall:

- not compete in the Open Spearfishing Championships but may compete in other events at the National Championships, in which case, the committee will appoint an alternate Competition Director to direct any competitions the chief competition director wishes to compete in.
- run Safety Briefings prior to the start of competitions.
- ensure the availability of all relevant safety equipment out on the water during competition.
- define the Start/Finish triangle of a competition and record numbered teams as they enter the triangle and later the return of all competitors through the triangle before the end of competition. Such records shall be retained and made available for audit if required.
- penalise or disqualify any individual or pair who break a safety or competition rule for which there is no provision already listed under existing rules. Such a penalty shall apply to the pair. Where such penalty occurs the affected competitor/s may request the CD to refer the dispute to the Disputes Committee. In that case the Disputes Committee's decision will take precedence.
- ensure that whenever a penalty is applied, the team's results will be recorded.
- record results in preparation for giving out trophies.
- may adjudicate on any dispute arising under existing Rules or withhold counsel and instead refer the dispute to the Disputes Committee

After the event

The CD shall:

- communicate event results electronically when they are available to competitors and to SNZ media
- keep track of certified scales for next events
- obtain a receipt from the charity organization which received auction proceeds to produce to MPI along with a full description of fish speared by species and total weights.
- Complete an Incident Report regarding any safety incidents and near misses and forward it to the Committee of Spearfishing New Zealand.

- Report any incidents to the appropriate authorities as required (Police, MNZ, Watersafe, Worksafe, MPI etc) and cooperate with any resulting investigations with a view to improving safety for future events.
- Revise these rules with any obvious improvements for following years

Part F: Duties of Weighmaster

Overview of the Role

The weighing of fish is the 'face' of spearfishing for the public and the arbiter of a competitor's catch. A Weighmaster who enables public viewing of the fish while efficiently processing each team's catch helps harness the interest of the public and the appreciation of competitors. From an onlooker's perspective it is often their chance to see new species and ones they may bid for at auction. For competitors, an efficient weighing process will ensure they are not still waiting with their fish 90 minutes or more after coming ashore. The consideration of competitors who have yet to clean their gear, re-fuel their boat, organise a meal then get adequate sleep all in preparation for the next day, demands a weigh-in that is run efficiently. It will be one that is indicative of careful, thorough planning done beforehand by the organisers.

With events of 30+ teams, or a lesser number of teams, but with many weighing in 12+ species, a lot of which will need individual weighing on the 500 grams scale, then the weigh-in should start as soon as the first ashore competitors are ready. During the weigh-in process time is unnecessarily taken up by competitors who lay out their catch then spend minutes deciding which fish to remove before presenting them. Meanwhile, the Weighmaster and remaining teams wait!

A proven solution in the above circumstances is to have adjoining table space for presentation. While one catch is being assessed by the Weighmaster the next team can begin to arrange their catch on the adjoining table. The stated requirement in the Rules is that there shall be a self-draining table and no provision is given for laying fish out on the ground.

Any community group auctioning donated fish needs to know to be present with ice ready as of the time competitors arrive at the weigh-in site. Ice should be available for cooling fish in plats/chilly bins/containers of those competitors further down the queue and waiting to weigh in.

Official scales are not to be used by competitors.

Order of weighing in

- Set up under shelter a self-draining table, bulk weighing scales, 500 gm electronic scales (out of the wind.)
- Check that the recorder has the appropriate score sheet for the competitor.
- Have competitors place catch on draining table.
- Competitors check, sort, then present their catch.
- Once presented the competitor may not touch the catch.
- Any entrails removed when fish are presented are to be placed in a competitor's container.
- Once presented, weighing can proceed.
- Group the species.
- Check there are no ineligible species. -100 points penalty
- Check marginal fish for length. Measure them. -100 points penalty
- Check marginal fish for weight using electronic scales. -100 points penalty
- Check allowable number of each species. -100 points penalty
- Fish over 8kg, weigh first and separately. If over 8kg, remove the fish from the scales and place beneath.
- Discard undersized, underweight fish.

- Place eligible fish in bulk weigh bin, naming the number and species as fish go into the bin.
- Recorder to record each fish on score sheet.
- Read out total weight of fish in bin.
- Recorder to add 8kg for each fish under the scales and not already in weigh bin.
- Recorder check with competitor the number of species ticked before fish disposed of.
- Recorder and weighmaster to apply any penalties incurred (See. 'Weigh-in and scoring')
- Weighmaster to ensure any undersized fish are removed by competitor and not available for auction
- Where computer scoring is not used, hand a duplicate copy of score sheet to competitor.
- Re-calibrate scales between competitors.

Scoring System Requirements

Where possible, a computer should be used to record scores and calculate results. Spearfishing NZ has a customised excel spreadsheet available (by request) for this purpose.

A secondary score verification system is required. This may be a manual recording system, or a video recording of the weigh in.

Aggregated results should be printed and displayed to competitors and/or made widely available via social media to competitors when authorised by the CD.

Part G: Briefing Guidelines

Pre-Competition Briefing

The CD is responsible for giving a full pre-competition briefing including the following elements:

- Have a prepared written list for use on the days of competition to run a roll call of all competitors (see example form: 'List of Divers for Roll Call and End of Day Finish Record')
- Issue each team with appropriate identification number and record it
- Record the boats being used.
- Ensure boat operators account for all persons in their boats at the end of Competition. Nominate last boat to return (tail end Charlie).
- Have available copies of the Rules for diver self-briefing
- Discuss the rules for diving in pairs (or as individuals with an Observer as the case may be), so that all competitors are aware of them.
- Discuss the equipment rules so that all competitors are aware of them.
- Run through the Competition Risks and Action Plan so that competitors know the risks, avoidance measures, and expected primary responses
- Inform competitors of safety equipment available
- Identify the CD's boat as the boat within the Start/Finish triangle to be touched for sign-on with team number and later, sign-off before the end of each day of competition
- Identify other Patrol boat/s and Skippers
- Display a chart of the competition area
- Define the area for the day
- Inform competitors of any risks particular to the competition area and note these on a dated copy of the chart
- Give weather report and tide information
- Indicate anchorage/meeting place for boats
- Set official time
- Give intended start/finish times
- Remind competitors that if the Start Time for competition needs to be changed while at sea it will not commence until a minimum of 15 minutes has elapsed after the arrival of the last boat at the competition area.
- Identify the Weigh-in venue
- Summarise the Fish list and scoring
- Notify launching and retrieving arrangements, car and trailer parking
- Ascertain if/where boats are launching elsewhere
- Establish VHF frequency
- Select Disputes Committee (CD as chairman, plus 2 more)
- Explain disputes procedures
- Notify where official results will be posted
- If the above briefing has taken place the evening before competition, clarify any official arrangements for the next morning before departure.
- Housekeeping matters including, Prize giving details, return of trophies

- Deal with divers needing boat rides.

Skipper / Boat Operator Safety Briefing (Mandatory)

- G1** Before any vessel is used to carry competitors during the competition, the Competition Director (CD) must ensure the skipper of that vessel has received the Skipper Safety Briefing and has acknowledged the responsibilities set out below. A vessel whose skipper has not received the briefing and given that acknowledgement must not be used to carry competitors.
- G2** The Skipper Safety Briefing must cover, as a minimum:
- a) that the skipper is responsible for the safety of all persons aboard at all times;
 - b) the requirement to operate at a speed that is safe for the prevailing sea conditions and the persons aboard, and never faster than conditions allow;
 - c) the obligation to observe the 5-knot rule and all applicable maritime navigation rules, and to keep well clear of divers, dive flags and other vessels;
 - d) maintaining a proper lookout at all times, including for sun strike and reduced visibility;
 - e) accounting for all persons carried at departure and on return, and the tail-end Charlie procedure;
 - f) the location of safety equipment, life jackets, the safety boat, and emergency communications and procedures.
- G3** The skipper must confirm, by signature on the Skipper Briefing record, that they have received the briefing and accept the responsibilities in it. The CD must retain this record with the competition documentation.
- G4** A skipper who, having received the briefing, operates a vessel in a manner that endangers persons aboard or other water users commits a serious safety breach. The CD may stand that skipper and/or vessel down from further use in the competition, and must complete an Incident Report.

Part H: Competition Risks & Action Plan & Standard Forms

Competition Risks & Action Plan

Risk	Cause	Avoidance measures	Primary Response	Support Required	Secondary Response
Diver blackout or drowning, when diver is close to the surface	Diving too deep/long; insufficient recovery time before dive; medical event; alcohol/drugs	Agree limited depth/dive times with your buddy; limit dive depths and times to within your known ability; warn your buddy if a dive may be difficult; buddy monitors every dive and stays close enough to assist immediately if diver blacks out; avoid alcohol/drugs prior to and during event	Recover diver, remove mask, blow gently on face, mouth to mouth if not conscious after a short time. Raise alert by waving gun and/or safety sausage/blow whistle – get someone else to do this if possible	Medic on safety boat, trained for SWB incidents, equipped with O2	Diver blackout protocol
Diver lost underwater	Blackout or entanglement/entrapment	Carry knife, avoid entanglement risks; do not dive until your buddy has dealt with any speared fish and is ready to watch your dive; buddy monitors every dive; surface diver monitors float line for direction of diver; maintain a conservative, safe diving pattern	Follow float line and search immediately. If not found immediately, enlist surrounding divers. Mark location if possible (consider firing gun into bottom as marker). Recover diver only if safe; remove weight belt if necessary, bring to surface lifting under chin to hold mouth shut; proceed with mouth to mouth. Raise alert with safety sausage/whistle	Safety boat must have a SCUBA diver and SCUBA gear for diver/body recovery	Medic to assess diver for appropriate response
Diver DCS	Diving too deep/long; not enough recovery time before dive	Buddy control, self control; do not do weight-	Raise alert (waving safety sausage – get someone else to do this if possible)	Medic on safety boat, supply O2	Request rescue helicopter to evacuate diver to a decompression chamber

Risk	Cause	Avoidance measures	Primary Response	Support Required	Secondary Response
		assisted descents			
Lung or Trachea squeeze	Straining/flexing arms, body or neck at depth damages lung or trachea. Diver coughs up blood	Limit dives to depths you are comfortable at, and avoid twisting body or extending chin	Alert safety boat, stop diving	Medic on safety boat to evaluate	Consult doctor and specialist as ordered
Diver run over by boat (including safety boat)	Diver not visible; boat driver not aware/paying attention; diving in high traffic area; sun strike	Boat must not manoeuvre around a pair of divers unless both are visible on the surface; 5 knot rule; communicate with surface diver before coming within 50 metres of any divers; safety boat drivers to be vigilant	Apply pressure to wound, keep head out of water; recover to boat	Medic on safety boat equipped with first aid kit	Transport to hospital if required
Boat strike (unknown boat)	Lack of visibility; boat driver not obeying 5 knot rule; sun strike; boat driver unaware	All floats/plats must carry flags, min 15x20 cm; safety boat with dive flag to patrol other boats and warn of diver presence; notify boating public by VHF/media; divers to avoid high boat traffic areas, or remain aware when crossing them	Raise gun/wave to alert oncoming boats; try to get boat to stop and take you to safety boat; wave safety sausage to attract safety boat; apply pressure to wound, keep head out of water	Medic on safety boat equipped with first aid kit	Transport to hospital if required
Diver puncture wound	Spear wound; cuts from knives/fish; falls/head knock; fish spines	Self-management; never point a loaded gun at another person; unload gun before exiting water; care	Raise alert by waving safety sausage; apply pressure to wound, keep head out of water	Medic on safety boat equipped with first aid kit	Transport to hospital if required

Risk	Cause	Avoidance measures	Primary Response	Support Required	Secondary Response
		when cutting fish; tip protectors on spearguns when out of water; never hang extra spears or guns from float pointing downwards, or loaded			
Diver lost in current	Unable to swim against current in high current areas	Monitor strength of current with return swim in mind	Raise alert by waving safety sausage; swim across current to get out of it; conserve energy, stay together, use float/plat for support	Safety boat to search; if not found in short time, contact Coastguard for broader search	Transport to hospital if required
Shark bite	Using fish for burley	Use kina, not fish, for burley; move away from others using fish burley or when sharks arrive; be wary retrieving fish with known shark presence; safety diver to hold guard; given White Pointers are responsible for the greatest number of fatalities in southern waters, notify competitors to exit the water quickly via boat/rocks if a white pointer is sighted	Raise alert using whistle/waving safety sausage/speargun (if required)	Medic on safety boat equipped with first aid kit	Transport to hospital if required
General sickness/non-urgent injury (not in competition)	Any	—	Contact local doctor; transport to doctor	—	Transport to hospital if required
Dehydration	Forgot to bring a drink with you	Attach water bottle to float	Summon safety boat with raised	There will be water on	If severe dehydration,

Risk	Cause	Avoidance measures	Primary Response	Support Required	Secondary Response
			gun when you see it	the safety boat	remain on safety boat until Medic says OK to dive
Hunger	Forgot to bring food for the day	Bring food in your plat or have food on your boat and return during the day to eat it	Summon safety boat with raised gun when you see it; beg for sugar	Safety boat driver's lunch	Remember to bring food next time
Exhaustion	Caught in currents or rough water; not enough food/drink	Assess currents and rough water as you enter them and do not swim too far; rest on shore if safe; have food/drink	Summon safety boat with raised gun when you see it; conserve energy and hold on to float, stay with buddy	Rest on safety boat as long as you need	Safety boat can deposit diver in same place to continue, or back at safety triangle to withdraw for the day
Medical event due to existing health issues	Various	Self-assessment of risks; disclose pre-existing risks to organisers in registration form; have own medication on hand or on safety boat if required	Get to safety boat for Medic support; use safety sausage if urgent	Medic on safety boat to assess	Further medical assistance
Boat breakdown/sinking	Various	Maintenance; care when anchoring	Request a tow back	Have VHF onboard; boats travel in groups to competition area; tail end Charlie	Re-allocate divers to other boats

Safety Boat Checklist

- MNZ approved dive flags (minimum 600mm x 600 mm)
- Binoculars
- VHF radio (wired in or with charger)
- A cellphone (with charger or spare cell phone)
- A suitably qualified Medic with minimum qualifications including current Work Place First Aid with CPR and Oxygen Administration
- A qualified scuba diver
- A functioning scuba set
- A full scuba tank

- Oxygen cylinder, breathing mask, and person competent in O2 delivery
- Sufficient oxygen to get to medical facilities where oxygen is available
- A first aid kit equipped to deal with likely injuries
- A marker buoy with line and weight to mark spot a diver was last seen
- Spare water, some spare food
- Strong torch/spotlight
- A copy of the safety plan, emergency contacts for the area
- Copies of reporting forms required for vessel safety or medical incidents, pen and paper
- Copy of diver checklist/roll for confirmation of divers finishing at end of the competition

List of Divers for Roll Call and End of Day Finish Record

Team	Competitors	Day 1 Roll Call	Day 1 Back on Time	Day 1 Late	Day 2 Roll Call	Day 2 Back on Time	Day 2 Late
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
21							
22							
23							
24							

Team	Competitors	Day 1 Roll Call	Day 1 Back on Time	Day 1 Late	Day 2 Roll Call	Day 2 Back on Time	Day 2 Late
25							
26							
27							
28							
29							
30							

(Template continues for the number of teams entered — the master edition provides numbered rows to 75.)

List of Boats

Boat Name	Skipper	Call sign	Expected BOB

Incident Report — Part A (Competitor to complete)

Name	Competitor / Visitor / Other (circle one)
Contact Telephone	Work: _____ Mobile: _____ Home: _____
Type of incident (circle one)	Near Miss / Accident / Property Damage / Property Loss
Severity rating	(see severity scale at end of form)
When did it happen?	Date: _____ Time: _____
Where did it happen?	Location: _____
What happened?	Description (include any object, machine or substance involved, or property lost/damaged):
Known significant hazard involved?	YES / NO — If YES, what was the significant hazard?
Witnesses	(include witness contact information for serious harm incidents)
Injury sustained	Body part injured (side): _____ Type of injury: _____
Serious harm injury?	YES / NO — If YES, WorkSafe NZ or MNZ (as relevant) must be notified immediately
Treatment given	First Aid / Physiotherapy / Massage therapy / Doctor (GP) / Hospital / Emergency services / Other — describe:
Declaration	The above report provides a true, accurate and complete account of the accident / incident / near miss. Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Incident Report — Part B (Competition Director to complete with Competitor)

Causal factors	What (in your opinion) were the causal factors of this incident?
-----------------------	--

New hazard identified?	YES / NO — Significant? YES / NO — If YES, identify the hazard management process (e.g. update hazard register) and record recommended actions below
Recommended actions	Action / Person responsible / By when / Date completed
Hazard Management Process undertaken?	YES / NO — What has been done?
Review of Safety Management System required?	YES / NO — Which part?
Communications	All relevant people informed of the incident and any changes of operation/procedures (Person / By when / Date completed)
Serious harm reporting	If serious harm has occurred, have WSNZ / MNZ / CAA (as relevant) reporting procedures been followed? YES / NO
Internal reporting followed?	(e.g. Manager, Health and Safety Committee, Board) YES / NO
Recorded on National Incident Database?	YES / NO
Overall comments	(once investigation complete)
Competition Director	Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Spearfishing Competition Medical or Other Emergency Contact List

First contact	Police or Coastguard — phone, address, opening hours; VHF channel
Second contact	VHF local channel; VHF nowcasting/forecast
Medical (emergency 24/7)	St John ambulance: ph: _____
After hours care / Doctor	_____
Fire Emergency	ph: 111
Coastguard	ph: 09 303 1303
Nearest Decompression chamber	Diving Emergency Service (DES) 0800 4 DES 111 (0800 4337111), 24 hours a day, 7 days/wk
Pharmacy / Harbour master	_____
Venue address/contact	_____
Chopper pads / Competition Safety boats	_____

Spearfishing NZ Patient Report Form

This form should accompany the casualty to the medical facility.

Date / Time / Location / First aiders	_____
Patient name / Date of birth / Buddy name	_____
Medical history / Medications / Allergies	_____
Chief complaint / Mechanism of injury	_____
History of events	_____
Signs and symptoms	_____
Observations (per time)	Time / BP / H-R / O2 / RESP / GCS / TEMP / BSL
Treatment / actions taken	_____

Part I: Mudgeyay Trophy Rules

1 Competition Format

- 1.1 The Mudgeyay Trophy is an interclub challenge competition.
- 1.2 The competitions shall be between the months of November to May, inclusive.
- 1.3 The duration of the competition shall be 6 hours with a minimum of four hours.
- 1.4 The defending club shall set the competition area and the fish list, and may vary the rules of the competition format, in a manner that reflects sportsmanship and encourages participation by other clubs.
- 1.5 The Mudgeyay trophy shall be competed for by one team from each club. A team is defined as comprising for the defending club a minimum of three and maximum of six pairs, and for the challenging club a minimum of three and a maximum of six pairs.
- 1.6 Competing teams are to be introduced to each other prior to the competition.
- 1.7 Subject to The Mudgeyay Trophy Rules, the following sections from the Spearfishing New Zealand Competition Rules will also apply:
 - a) Equipment
 - b) Competitor Behaviour
 - c) Rules for Competing as Pairs
 - d) Weighing in
 - e) Scoring
 - f) Penalties
- 1.8 Notwithstanding any other rule, any number of persons of the same team may assist in landing of any fish.
- 1.9 No competing club members other than the teams shall be allowed in the water where interference is possible.
- 1.10 A minimum of four fish shall be weighed in by the successful team or the challenge shall be declared 'No Contest'.
- 1.11 Any cancellation must be agreed upon by all clubs involved.

2 Challenges

- 2.1 All challenges must be in writing and swum in order of receipt, within six weeks of receipt.
- 2.2 The defending club shall set the date and the venue.
- 2.3 More than one challenging team may compete on the same day.
- 2.4 The defending club has the right to refuse a challenge only if the challenging club has placed two previous challenges in the current season and providing the defenders have continuously held the trophy since the first such challenge being placed. For the purposes of this rule, 'previous challenges' does not include challenges that ended in a 'no contest' or which were cancelled.
- 2.5 No defeated club may challenge within one month of their defeat.

3 General

- 3.1 All members of the teams competing must be members of Spearfishing New Zealand.
- 3.2 Any club winning the trophy shall notify the Spearfishing New Zealand Committee.

- 3.3** Any Dispute shall be referred to the Spearfishing New Zealand Committee within seven days.
- 3.4** In the event of a successful defence, one star shall be added to the trophy for each challenging club.

Part J: Penguin Trophy Rules

- 1.1 The Penguin Trophy is to be awarded to the person making the most meritorious catch during the year.
- 1.2 Entries are considered from any spearfisher for fish speared in NZ's coastal waters.
- 1.3 Scuba of any kind may not be used.
- 1.4 Entries shall be on the Application Form obtainable from SNZ or downloaded from their web site.
- 1.5 Fish must be landed by an individual without the assistance of any other person.
- 1.6 Equipment used to be as per the section of Spearfishing Rules.
- 1.7 Entries will only be considered when accompanied by reputable witnesses' signatures verifying that the weighing in was correct and on government tested scales.
- 1.8 Competition for the trophy runs throughout the year with entries submitted by the 7th March. The trophy presentation will be made thereafter at an appropriate venue.
- 1.9 The Judges will be members of the Spearfishing NZ Executive and their decision is final.
- 1.10 Only the following species will be considered and their weights to the nearest 100 grams will be converted as per this schedule below:

Species	Points per Kilo
Albacore (Thunnus alulunga)	96
Barracouta (Thyrsites atun)	157
Bigeye Tuna (Thunnus obesus)	33
Black Marlin (Makaira indica)	10
Blue Cod (Parapercis colias)	257
Blue Marlin (Makaira indica)	4.7
Blue Moki (Latridopsis ciliaris)	94
Blue Warehou (Seriola lalandi)	162.5
Butterfish (Odax pullus)	208
Giant Boarfish (Paristiopterus labiosis)	99
Golden Snapper (Centroberyx affinis)	314
Gurnard (Chelidonichthys kumu)	735
Hapuku (Polyprion oxygeneios)	24
John Dory (Zeus faber)	202
Kahawai (Arripis trutta)	222
Kermadec Kahawai (Arripis xylabion)	110
Kingfish (Seriola lalandi)	20
Mahimahi (Coryphaena sps.)	57
Northern Bluefin Tuna (Thunnus thunnus)	3.4
Porae (Nemadactylus douglasii)	143
Sampson Fish (Seriola hippos)	35.4
Shortbill Spearfish (Tetrapturus augustirostris)	50
Skipjack Tuna (Katsuwonus pelamis)	128.1
Snapper (Pagrus auratus)	67

Species	Points per Kilo
Striped Marlin (<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>)	6.1
Southern Bluefin Tuna (<i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>)	79
Trevally (<i>Pseudocaranx dentex</i>)	108
Trumpeter (<i>Latris lineata</i>)	79
Yellowfin Tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	20.8

Part K: Background to the Penguin Trophy awarded for the year's "Most Meritorious Catch"

First awarded in 1953 this trophy was presented by the then Penguin Club from Tauranga for competition amongst members of the NZ Underwater Association. Significantly, over the next 13 years it was awarded 10 times to persons spearing a kingfish. Those fish in the 20-24 kg range were considerably smaller than many kingfish often speared 50 years later. But at the time those catches reflected spearfishing's infancy in NZ, when the fish that was the 'biggest' was seen as a "winner" on all counts. That changed as spearfishing proficiency grew and with it a one-time winner, a 19kg Conger eel, was removed from eligibility in favour of edible species. The concept of what made fish 'meritorious' came to include consideration of a fish in relation to the then current NZ Record as well as the challenge of actually spearing it.

For the trophy's first 50 years it was the responsibility of NZUA's Executive or its Spearfishing Committee with eligibility for the trophy only available to the Association's club members. Increasingly though there were fewer of them as New Zealand's spearfishing numbers grew outside of NZUA's club membership. The relevance of the trophy waned and for several years it was not awarded. However, in 2003 the Spearfishing Committee, the forerunner to Spearfishing NZ recognised the spearfishing history it represents, resurrected the trophy and advertised its availability for competition amongst all divers.

An issue still remained though. As mentioned above, there were times in the years of last century when potential winning fish were being discussed, that sentiment, personal preference if you like for a particular species of fish, decided the winner. Criticism sometimes followed. The Spearfishing Committee was looking for additional objectivity when deciding between fish and so added a points system devised by Neville Smith that is based on the NZ Record for each eligible specie. (Points x weight of current NZ Records = 1000 points or thereabouts.) Three examples below from current Records illustrate this.

Some would argue that Blue Cod and Porae shown in this example are relatively easy to spear compared with other eligible species. However, if those two fish were in contention in a given year but one exceeded the NZ Record, its additional points beyond 1000 would add a degree of merit that could be taken into account. On the other hand, if either fish was in contention with a Skipjack Tuna further consideration would be given to the relative difficulty of spearing either fish.

Blue Cod 257 points x 3.89 kg the current Record weight = 999.73 points

Porae 143 points x 6.97 kg the current Record weight = 996.71 points

Skipjack Tuna 128.1 points x 7.8 kg the current Record weight = 999.18 points

Last updated December 2017.

Part L: Catfish Cull Spearfishing Rules

The Main Rules

1. The competition area is the area defined on the Competition Area Maps.
2. Competitors can travel anywhere in the competition area either by driving, swimming, walking, or by boat. (Most people just swim from Motuoapa or drive along the lake to a suitable entry point).
3. Only Hawaiian Slings/Pole Spears are permitted to be used in this event.
4. All competitors must swim in pairs in accordance with the Rules For Competing in Pairs and tow a float with a dive flag. (groups of 3 are also OK but cannot win the top prizes).
5. Only catfish are eligible for scoring.
6. The winning score will be the pair with the highest count of catfish.
7. There are additional prizes for a pair containing at least one junior, and the smallest, and largest catfish.
8. It is illegal for competitors to shoot trout. If any injured trout are found by fishermen this could be the last time we are allowed to hold the event.
9. The Koura and eels in lake Taupo belong to Ngati Tuwharetoa and may not be taken by competitors.
10. Competitors must keep 200 metres away from fly fishers.
11. The competition starts from the end of the morning briefing.
12. All divers must stop diving and exit the water by 2:30 pm.

Detailed Rules for Catfish Cull

1 Eligibility

- 1.1 All competitors must complete an entry form prior to the start time.
- 1.2 All competitors are individually and solely responsible to ensure they are medically fit and capable of participating in the competitions.
- 1.3 Every competitor must be in attendance for all competition briefings with each competitor verifying their attendance at either a roll-call or sign-in.

2 Equipment

- 2.1 Each member of a team may carry a pole spear (Hawaiian sling).
- 2.2 Spearguns are not permitted in this event.
- 2.3 Each competitor or pair must tow a Float. A Float must be:
 - a) either a float or a plat (float boat)
 - b) fitted with a divers flag of at least 15 x 20cm
 - c) self-righting.
 - d) attached to two float lines, one being no more than 4 metres, and the other being a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 40 metres. Either line may be bungee or part bungee.
- 2.4 Spare gear may be carried.
- 2.5 Each team must carry a knife.
- 2.6 It is recommended that competitors carry sufficient water, food, and any necessary medications with them throughout the day.

- 2.7** Fresh water is less buoyant than salt water. Competitors should consider removing one weight from their weight belts to allow for this effect.

3 Personal Safety

- 3.1** Any competitor who suffers a 'Shallow Water Blackout' or a hypoxic loss of motor control requiring intervention during the competition must:
- a) Immediately leave the water.
 - b) Advise the event organiser what has occurred and follow their instructions.
 - c) Any pair that has withdrawn due to this rule may still weigh in their catch.
- 3.2** Catfish have toxins in their sharp pectoral and dorsal spines, which can cause substantial pain. Use gloves and handle speared fish carefully to avoid injuries. Seek medical attention if injured.
- 3.3** There is a risk of boat strike from boats not involved in the competition. Competitors should be mindful that other boat users may be unfamiliar with dive flags, may have issues with sun strike, may not be expecting to see divers in the lake, and your float and flag may be too small to be seen in choppy conditions. Competitors should remain vigilant for approaching boats and be ready to take evasive action.
- 3.4** Spear safety:
- a) No spears or shafts may be carried hanging vertically in the water from floats
 - b) Competitors must handle spears with extreme care to avoid injury or damage from speartips. Tip protectors are recommended when spears are not in use.

4 Safety Boat

- 4.1** There is no official safety boat because all competitors will be close to shore and swimming ashore will be the fastest way to obtain assistance.
- 4.2** In the event of a medical event, competitors should immediately locate a phone, dial 111, and ask for an ambulance.

5 Rules for Competing as Pairs

- 5.1** At any time during the competition at least one member of the pair will remain on the surface.
- 5.2** At all times during the competition, one member of the team will hold the long float line, the other member will hold the short line.
- 5.3** While both competitors are on the surface, the maximum distance between them both shall be 40 metres.
- 5.4** A competitor in a pair may assist the other competitor in the pair to land a fish. However, one competitor must remain on the surface.
- 5.5** The Catfish Cull is a fun event and competitors can swim as a group of 3 (not eligible for a top placing).

6 Competitors Using Boats

- 6.1** All boats used by competitors must display a rigid 600mm x 600 mm dive flag when there are divers in the water.
- 6.2** All boats must slow to no more than 5 knots within 200 metres of a dive flag. Boat drivers should identify the location of both divers in each pair before approaching competitors.
- 6.3** Boats should be anchored at the deepest range of your diving, so that competitors dive inshore of the boat's flag.
- 6.4** Carry a cell-phone and/or VHF on all boats. Dial 111 for emergency assistance.

- 6.5** Taupo Coastguard is available on channel 61.
- 6.6** Boat skippers are expected to help police speed limits from third party vessels in their immediate area, including interception of boats displaying risky behaviour or exceeding speed limits close to shore and divers.

7 Competitor Behaviour

- 7.1** Competitors may not assist or interfere with other teams, nor may assistance be received from persons not competing in the competition.
- 7.2** Assisted ascents and descents are not permitted.
- 7.3** Competitors are solely responsible for landing, bagging and labelling their own catch.
- 7.4** Competitors may not enter any fish which:
 - a) were already dead at time of capture
 - b) have already been trapped or caught by any method other than spearfishing
 - c) have been interfered with in a manner that is not permitted as a spearfishing technique.
- 7.5** Behaviour of members which in any way brings Spearfishing NZ into disrepute will be first reviewed by the Spearfishing NZ Executive. That Executive will have the power to determine an appropriate penalty.
- 7.6** Government, Ministry Of Primary Industries (Fisheries) and Maritime Safety Authority rules and regulations must be observed at all times.

8 Penalties and Disputes

- 8.1** The Competition Director will decide on any penalties or disqualification for breaking the rules. All protests must be registered before the end of the weigh-in.
- 8.2** An event committee comprising not less than 3 of the current Spearfishing New Zealand committee will consider any appeals to the decision of the competition director.

Part M: Rules for New Zealand Spearfishing Records

Records are a privilege, meaning it is the responsibility of the applicant to prove the claim.

1. Fish may only be speared while freediving. No artificial breathing apparatus is allowed.
2. Fish must be free-swimming, unrestrained by nets, traps, lines or other devices.
3. A speargun must be loaded by the diver's muscle power only. Powerheads are prohibited.
4. Any fish speared must be fought and subdued by the diver, in the water and unassisted.
5. Fish must be weighed on up to date certified scales. These can be found at game fishing clubs, butchers, greengrocers, dairies etc.
6. Weights must be recorded in grams to the nearest 10 grams for fish up to 10 kg, to the nearest 50 grams for fish from 10 kg to 25 kg, and to the nearest 100 grams for fish over 25 kg. Make sure the scales you are using can do this.
7. Each claim must be accompanied by measurements and clear photos of the fish. The photos must show any diagnostic features of the species clearly. The photos must include a tape measure or ruler for scale.
8. All fish must be kept whole and frozen until the species, size and weight can be verified by a local representative. The Records Keeper will advise as to who is the local representative. Note that this may take some time to arrange.
9. Records must be claimed within 3 months of the date of capture.
10. Juniors will be under 18 years of age. A junior or women's record can also be claimed as an open record.
11. After a satisfactory referee report is received and the claim is considered valid, the record will be initially awarded as provisional. After publication on the Spearfishing NZ website a period of 30 days will be allowed for any question or dispute to be raised. Subject to any question or dispute under rule 12, after this period the record may be awarded.
12. In the event of any question or dispute about any detail of the record claim, the Records Keeper and Spearfishing New Zealand Committee will be the final arbiters in the acceptance of a record.
13. There is no charge for records applications.
14. Record applications are to be emailed to records@spearfishingnz.co.nz

New Zealand Spearfishing Records - Application Form

Application for: Open record ☐ Junior record ☐
 Women's record ☐ Natural history record ☐

Personal Details – All fields to be completed by applicant

Full name of applicant:

Birth date of applicant if under 18 years of age: / /

Postal address:

Telephone:

Cell phone:

Email:

Species – All fields to be completed by applicant

Common name:

Scientific name:

Measurements – All fields to be completed by applicant

Weight (kg to 2 decimal places, e.g. 0.00 kg):

Length (cm):

Girth – at insertion of pectoral fin (cm):

Height – at insertion of pectoral fin (cm):

Photos – All eight required

(Please tick each box for which a photo is submitted, and please label e-files with surname, fish name and year)

Applicant with fish at time of capture ☐

Applicant with fish on scales ☐

Fish on scales with weight clearly showing ☐

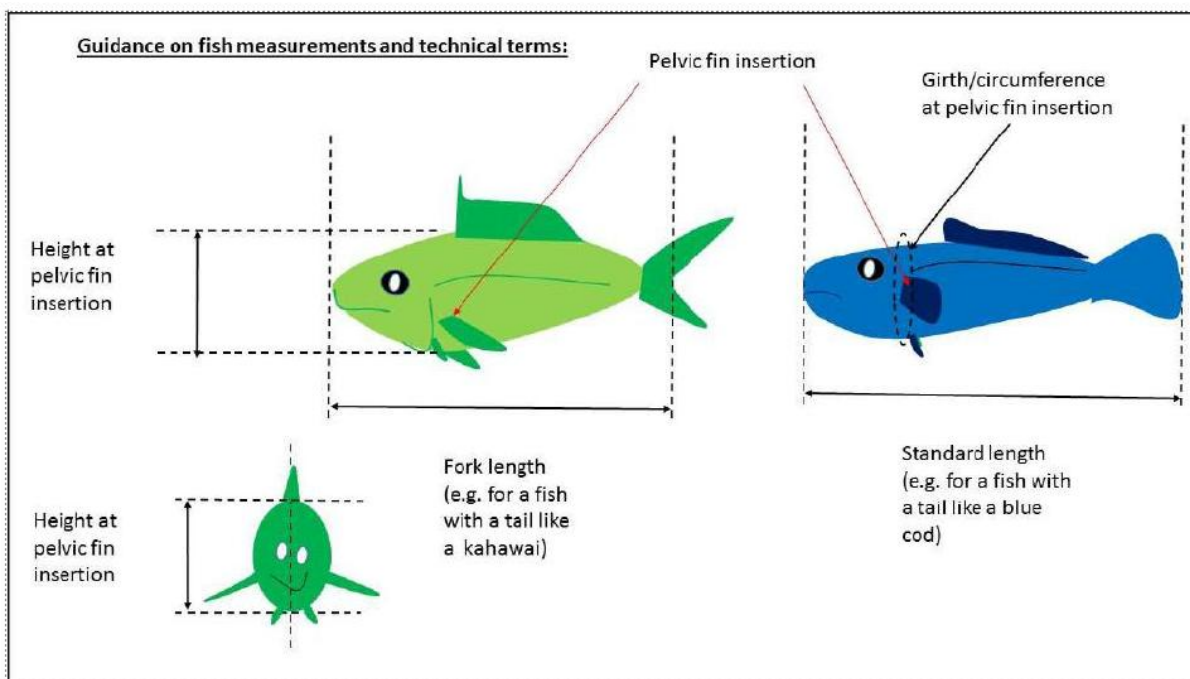
Species diagnostic photo(s) ☐

Fish length—with tape measure under fish ☐

Fish height with tape measure ☐

Fish length—with tape measure over fish ☐

Fish girth with tape measure ☐



Event – All fields to be completed by applicant

Date speared: / /

Location:

Full description of hunt and capture:

Scales – All details to be supplied

Location:

Manufacturer:

Date last certified:

Weighmaster – All fields to be completed by Weighmaster

Weight (kg to 2 decimal places, e.g. 0.00 kg):

Full name:

Address:

Telephone/mobile:

Email:

Signature:

Date: / /

Witness – All fields to be completed by Witness

Full name:

Address:

Telephone/mobile:

Email:

I, _____ confirm that this fish was speared according to the rules for New Zealand spear fishing records.

Signature:

Date: / /

Declaration – All fields to be completed by applicant

I, _____ confirm that this fish was speared according to the rules for New Zealand spear fishing records and that all information supplied is correct. I acknowledge that the burden of proof with respect to this claim rests entirely with me.

Applicant's signature

Date: / /

Part N: Kingfish Trophy

- 1.1 The Kingfish Trophy is to be awarded to the person spearing the heaviest kingfish in the month of February.
- 1.2 This is an Open Entry competition. Anyone is eligible to enter their speared kingfish.
- 1.3 Rules for spearing, landing, weighing, and submitting of entries shall be the same as those for entry to the Penguin Trophy.
- 1.4 Note entries for the Kingfish Trophy close March 7.

A brief history of the Kingfish Cup

The year 1959 was the first occasion this cup was presented. It had been given to the NZ Underwater Association by the then Whangarei Underwater Spearfishing Club for an annual presentation to the member spearing the heaviest kingfish on the second (2nd) weekend in February. For several consecutive years it happened as planned. During that time NZUA in discussion with Australia proposed that they too should compete for it. However, entries from NZ were always heavier and that competition link quickly faded.

A seven-year hiatus (1970 to 1976 inclusive) occurred when the trophy was misplaced. It was to happen again for the years 1982 to 1995 (incl.) although it was not so much 'lost' as packed away in a box when NZUA shifted offices and along with documents etc. went into storage.

In 1996 NZUA recovered and then awarded the Cup for that year. But two known problems then 'hit' much more forcefully. Firstly, the numbers of spearfishers with membership to NZUA had dropped to a fraction of the several hundred that were there decades earlier. Secondly, a weekend of wide-spread bad weather in northern areas had eligible divers shore-bound, and so no entries. It was apparent however that some kingfish were being speared elsewhere by other people.

In 2001 the Spearfishing Committee took over the administration of the Kingfish Cup. The Rules were altered to spread the period for competition to include the whole of February, and the competition was opened up to all people with a spearfishing interest.

The benefits were immediate that year with Shirley Dryden being the first woman with a winning entry. (34.8kg.) Reid Forrest's 2008 winning entry (36.0kg) speared at D'Urville Island showed the South Island gives opportunities when you can pick the fair weather days. Subsequently, for 5 years in a row, the winners are divers who have not previously been associated with Spearfishing NZ competitions. The new format is working!