

SKINDIVING SPEARFISHING RULES/REGULATIONS

**Underwater Society
Of
America**

APPROVED OCTOBER 2022

**SKINDIVING SPEARFISHING RULES
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UNITED STATES NATIONAL SKINDIVING SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP RULES/REGULATIONS

ARTICLE I

1.0 The sport of competitive skin diving spearfishing is governed by the Underwater Society of America (referred to hereafter as the *USOA*), administered through the office of the Director of Competitive Skindiving (referred to hereafter as the Skindiving Director) and designed solely for *USOA*-affiliated Councils and/or Clubs in good standing (referred to hereafter as the Councils/Clubs).

1.1 Definition: Skindiving spearfishing is defined as diving where no artificial breathing apparatus is used. This sport of underwater spearfishing is a type of competitive skin diving in which the individual is equipped with mask, foot fins, and spear or spear gun(s) and is submerged in the water when the spear is used.

1.2 A national championship skin diving spearfishing event, officially titled "United States Nationals Skindiving Spearfishing Championships" (referred to hereafter as the National Championships), shall be held annually.

1.3 The Skindiving Competition Committee is headed by an elected Director with an appointed assistant director and secretary.

1.3.1 The election of the National Director is done at the annual National Committee meeting, which is usually held in month of August, 1-3 days prior to first day of competition. **[2022]**

1.3.1.1 The National Championships hosting club/council shall provide the Annual Meeting date and time in their accepted Bid. **[2022]**

1.3.1.2 In a year where there is no physical National meeting, a virtual meeting may be held. **[2022]**

1.3.2 Nomination(s) is made and accepted from the active skin spear fishing clubs and councils and submitted to the Committee secretary at least 2 months (60 days) prior to annual meeting. **[2022]**

1.3.2.1 An 'active' skin spear fishing club/council is one who has had at least one team participate in any division at any of the last five nationals and/or has a team registered for the current nationals. **[2022]**

1.3.2.2 The Committee secretary will inform (in writing, hard copy or E) the active clubs/councils at least 30 days prior to the meeting. **[2022]**

1.3.3 Voting is done by the active skin spear fishing clubs/council. Voting is allowed by written (hard copy or E) proxy. **[2022]**

1.3.3.1 Voting Power: 1 vote per club/council

1.3.3.2 Election is 50% +1 of votes cast.

1.3.4 The elected nominee is presented. as the committee elected director, to the USOA Sports Commission at their next meeting. **[2022]**

ARTICLE II NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS BID REQUIREMENTS

2.0 In addition to the requirements listed in the *USOA Standardized Competitive Rules*, the bid requirements for sponsoring the National Championships shall include the following:

2.1. The National Championships shall normally be held in the month of August. A one day competition is required, but the bidding Council/Club has the option of holding a two day competition.

2.1.1 The Host Council/Club may also schedule a series of dates for the National Championships with the option of delaying the competition date(s) past the first scheduled day if weather conditions warrant. The decision to postpone shall be made at the staging area on the morning of the competition day. The decision will be made by a vote of a simple majority of councils/clubs represented with one vote per council/club. **[1997]**

2.2 Competition Area: A complete description of the diving area is required to include the following:

2.2.1 accessibility, types of fish and water conditions (such as clarity, temperature, depth, surfs, currents, etc.).

2.2.2 An ocean chart/topographic map

2.2.3 The meet area shall be **[2003]**

2.2.3.1 one square mile for the West Coast

2.2.3.2 two square miles for Inland and Northeast

2.2.3.3 12 square miles for Gulf and Florida.

2.2.4 The meet area shall be calculated from the shore to the 60' depth contour line. This shall be used to establish the maximum side boundaries. **[2003]**

2.2.5 Competitors may dive seaward of the 60' contour line as long as they stay between the side boundaries. **[2003]**

2.2.6 The Skindiving Director shall have the prerogative to increase the size of the meet area if requested to do so by the bidding Council and if it best serves the needs of the competitors.

2.2.7 The National Championships shall not be held in another Councils/ Club's area without the other Councils/Clubs written approval. **[2022]**

2.3 **DELETED [2022]**

2.4 *Bid Proposal Form*: Appendix A *USOA Skindiving Spearfishing Championships Rules* **[2022]**

2.4.1. **Deleted [2022]**

ARTICLE III
REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

3.0 Additional general rules, not set forth in the *Standardized Rules*, are as follows:

3.1 Council/Club Eligibility:

3.1.1 Competition is open to teams representing *USOA* member Councils/Clubs in existence at least 3 months prior to the Championships.

3.1.2 Competition is not open to individual divers.

3.2 Competing Council/Club Teams:

3.2.1 The competing teams shall consist of three men or two women or a two person mixed team. **[2003]** However, at the request of the hosting council and the discretion of the National Director, the mens division may consist of two (2) man teams. **[2022]**

3.2.2 Mixed teams: a mixed team can be made up of the following combinations: An adult male diving with any adult/minor female or with a minor male **[2020]** or an adult female diving with either an adult or minor male. **[2003]**

3.2.2.1 A minor is defined as a person under age 18 on the first day of the event/Nationals. **[2018]**

3.2.3. Master's Division: The hosting committee may choose to hold a Masters division, if there are enough teams. **[2022]**

3.2.3.1 Two divers per team who are each at least 55(+) years of age. The team may consist of two men, two women or a mixed team. **[2022]**

3.1.3.2 Masters receive individual and team awards as Masters only. Masters are still eligible for the Kate Miller and Churchill perpetual awards and the All American awards. Same awards system shall apply as is used in the other divisions. **[2022]**

3.2.4 An alternate may be designated for each team.

3.2.4.1 No alternate will be allowed to replace a team member after the start of the competition for any one day.

3.2.4.2 Less than a full team may compete at the discretion of the Meet Committee, subject to the approval of the Skindiving Director.

3.2.5 Each *USOA* member Council and/or Club may enter *five* men's teams, *five* (5) women's teams and *five* (5) mixed teams in the National Championships. **[2021]** The hosting Council or club may enter one (1) extra team in each division. **[2018]**

3.2.6 Deleted **[2022]**

3.2.7 Deleted **[2022]**

3.2.8 All women/men in tournament will compete for high individual aggregate and largest fish trophies and All-American team honors based on gender. **[2006]**

3.3 Deleted **[2022]**

3.4 Defending Champions

3.4.1 The Defending Champions are defined as the first place men's, mixed **[2022]** and/or women's teams from the most recently held National Championships.

3.4.1.1 The National sponsoring Council/Club shall furnish all banquet fees for all Defending Champions.

3.4.2 All members of the defending team have the right to compete as the Defending Team. **[1997]**

3.4.2.1 One or more members of a defending team may change teams for the Nationals if s/he chooses to do so. **[1997]**

3.4.2.2 A member of the a defending team may not be voted off the their defending team by the other team members or the Council/Club the defending team represents. **[1997]**

3.4.3 If the members of a defending team are not in agreement concerning whom they are representing in the Nationals, the National Skindiving Director shall dissolve the defending team for that year. **[1997]**

3.4.4 In the event one member of a defending team is unable to attend the National Championships or decides to represent another council/club and/or team at the Nationals, the defending team's council/club shall select a replacement. **[1997]**

3.4.4.1 Should two members of a defending mens team or 1 team member of womens and/or mixed defending team be unable to attend or choose to represent another council and/or team at the Nationals, the defending team ceases to exist, and the hosting council is not obligated for any defending champions fees/expenses. **[1997]**

3.4.4.2 The decision of each defending team member to remain or separate themselves from the team must be made before March 1 of the Nationals Year, and the National Director must be informed in writing. **[2022]**

3.5 Meet Headquarters shall be designated by the Meet Chair

3.5.1 These headquarters shall be established and operated at or near any team housing area for one week in advance of the meet.

3.6 Legal/state requirements: If requested by the Meet Committee, each competitor will be required to show a current fishing license.

3.7 Entry fee(s) shall be decided by the Meet Committee excepting the following:

3.7.1 entry fees shall not exceed \$300.00 per men's team and \$200.00 per women's and/or mixed team and includes the *USOA* National Entry Fee. **[2005]**

3.7.2 Each competitor shall pay a \$30 International team support fee in addition to the normal entry fee. The hosting club or council will collect these fees and forward them to the Society Treasurer. **[2005]**

3.8 To qualify as National Championship, the following conditions apply:

3.8.1 There must be at least three (3) eligible teams registered in at least one division (men, mixed or women) from two different Clubs or Councils registered within three weeks of the meet.

3.8.2 If there should be no National Championships in any one year, all bid requirements pertaining to the Defending Champions will be dissolved.

3.8.3 Should a division of the National Championships be canceled, teams from the canceled division may compete in the remaining division(s).

3.9 Host Responsibilities

3.9.1 Lead weights should be furnished to those competitors traveling to the National Championships by air.

3.9.2 Nothing shall be planned which will occupy the competitors' time when they can be in the water or after 9:00 p.m.

3.9.3 No activities shall be planned for the competitors 24 hours in advance of the meet.

3.9.4 Meet start and end signals shall be by an audible device. **[2012]**

3.10 The following meet officials will be ineligible to compete in the National Championships:

3.10.1 Meet Committee Chair, Safety Committee Chair, Weigh Master, Timekeeper and all field judges.

3.11 Scheduling:

3.11.1 The National Competitive Committee Meeting shall be held 1-2 days) prior to the championships but not including on the day before the championships. **[2022]**

3.11.2 A competitors' briefing shall be held 1-2 days prior to the championships but not on the day before the championships. **[2022]**

3.11.2.1 The National Committee Meeting and Competitors' briefing are usually combined, that is, held at the same place, with the meeting immediately preceding the briefing. **[2022]**

3.11.3 Banquet of Champions is to be held before, day of or day after the championships. It is to be determined and stipulated in the bid by the hosting council/club. All interested are invited and encouraged to attend. **[2022]**

3.12 **Deleted 2021**

ARTICLE IV
RULES GOVERNING SKINDIVING SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

4.1 This event shall consist of skin diving spearfishing only; no artificial breathing apparatus will be allowed.

4.1.1 Competitors must be swimming in or under the water when the spear is used.

4.1.2 Every competitor must enter the water with a float and with a dive flag as/if required by relevant state(s) or national regulations. **[2022]**

4.2 The competition may be land-or boat based as determined by the Meet Committee.

4.2.1 In land based competition, divers must enter and leave the water only in the staging area and must check in with a designated official.

4.2.1.1 In land based competitions where kayaks/paddle boards are used, there shall be a travel time at the beginning and at the end of the competition. **[2006]**

4.2.1.1.1 The travel time shall be approximately equal to the time taken by an average paddler to reach the furthest point of the meet area from the staging area.

4.2.1.1.2 The travel time must be indicated in the bid **[1999]**

4.2.2 In boat based competition, each team will be transported by one boat equipped with a motor.

4.2.2.1 **deleted 2016**

4.2.2.2 The minimum travel time for boat based meets shall be equal to the time it takes the average boat in the meet to reach the farthest point of the meet area. **[2003]**

4.2.2.3 Team members may use the boat to carry spare equipment, to repair equipment, to rest and to remove fish from their spears.

4.2.3 **Deleted 2022. [2022]**

4.3 General Regulations

4.3.1 Team members must check in with a designated official when returning to the staging area.

4.3.2 Spear guns must be loaded in the water and unloaded before leaving the water.

4.3.3 Since local conditions such as tides, weather, water temperatures, visibility, fish species and size, conservation principles and legal regulations vary from area to area, these rules are designed to be flexible.

4.3.3.1 These rules give the local Meet Committee sufficient latitude to conduct a well-organized and safe meet.

4.3.4 Final determination of such items as: diving area, duration, allowed fish species, etc. should be made by the Meet Committee within the limitations of the following rules.

4.3.5 The following rules will also take precedence over all local, state, provincial or Council/club rules under the jurisdiction of the *USOA*.

4.3.5.1 Team members may help each other land fish. **[1997]**

4.3.5.2 No other swimmers shall be permitted to help.

4.3.5.3 Judges may not assist team members except

4.3.5.3.1 to mark fish, take fish from competitors in boat based competition or in case of illness or injury. **[2022]**

4.3.5.4 Team members must keep catches separated. **[2003]**

4.4 Officials

4.4.1 The minimum officials shall be one field judge, one timekeeper, a safety committee, patrol committee, a fish weighing committee.

4.4.2 **Deleted [2022]**

4.4.3 In a boat based nationals, judges/observers must be supplied by hosting council/club.

4.4.3.1 The judges/observers must be randomly assigned to boats before the meet and NOT on the morning of the meet. **[2022]**

4.4.3.2 The judges on boats must not be a member of the competing teams' Council/club and cannot be a relative of any member of the team being judged. If a team brings an observer, that observer must be assigned to different club/council team boat. **[2022]**

4.4.3.3 The hosting council is responsible to assure all teams are given prior notification of judges and assignments well before tournament day. There must be enough time for teams to review assignments and make changes before tournament day. **[2012]**

4.4.3.4 Judge selection is at the discretion of the Meet Committee, subject to the approval of the Skindiving Director, and the judges shall be announced at the competitors meeting..

4.4.4 All field judges/observers shall be required to attend a judges' briefing previous to the start of competition.

4.4.5 The following persons must be in attendance at the meet site from one hour before until one hour following the close of the meet: Meet Committee Chair, Safety Committee Chair, Weigh Master and Timekeeper.

4.5 Equipment:

4.5.1 Equipment that may be used by individuals shall consist of snorkel, mask, nose clip, knife, fins, suit, weighed belts, spear guns, inflation type life preserver, floats and hardware, webbed gloves (web not to extend past end of fingers), fish stringers, connectors, lines, anchors, lights, watch, compass, spare equipment parts, hand tools, notebooks and writing equipment, and containers (bags, bottles, boxes, etc.).

4.5.2 Only foot fins may be used for propulsion while in the water.

4.5.3 Only muscle-loaded spear guns or spears may be used.

4.5.3.1 Any questionable gun shall be ruled on by the Meet Committee subject to the approval of the Skin Diving Director.

4.5.3.2 No detonating heads, power heads or the use of chemicals for stunning or killing fish shall be used.

4.5.3.3 For safety, free spears shall be allowed only in clear water as determined by the Meet Committee with approval of National Director.

4.5.3.4 Depending upon the visibility at the start of the meet and prior to the actual competition, the Meet Committee has the right to limit the length of line attaching the spear to the gun. **[2022]**

4.5.4 Gaffs are permitted except where prohibited by state/local laws.

4.5.5 The use of paddles and/or oars in paddle board/kayak based National Championships are also allowed.

4.5.5.1 Floats other than paddle boards will be allowed (i.e. row boats, kayaks, canoes), although the following limitations will be imposed.

4.5.5.2 Only one competitor per float; no non-competitor shall be allowed on a competitor's float; and the competitor's float may not have any type of motor or propeller.

4.5.6 In land based meets, so called "poppers" (buoys) of Life Guard type may be used as a float to string or hold a spear gun at the surface.

4.5.6.1 Said spear gun must have enough line between the spear and gun to prevent the popper/buoy from pulling a speared fish to the surface. **[2022]**

4.5.7 No electronic equipment other than lights, watches, compasses and GPS **[1999]**/Loran positioning equipment may be used on the day of the meet.

4.5.7.1 For boat based meets, depth sounders (recorders) and GPS **[1999]** /Loran positioning equipment **[1999]** may be used.

4.6 Diving Area

4.6.1 The diving area shall be determined by the Meet Committee.

4.6.2 The Meet Committee must make every effort to have the following conditions enforced:

4.6.2.1 The specific diving area should not be used by competitors or Councils/Clubs members for the purpose of spearing fish for at least three weeks prior to the National Championships;

4.6.2.2 **Deleted [2022]**

4.6.2.3 For land based meets, the shore staging area is to be kept clear of the public.

4.7 Event Time/Official time shall be by GPS. **[2012]**

4.7.1. The meet shall not have less than six hours of dive time in addition to travel time. If the meet has no travel time, the meet shall not last less than seven hours. **[2005]**

4.7.2 The National Championships may cover two days.

4.7.2.1 Scoring of National Championships covering two (2) days shall be calculated by percent (%) of first place individual's score for each diver on each day and then both day's percent's will be added together for a total 2-day score. The converted percent scores will also be used to determine Team standings. The exact method to be used is the same method currently in place to determine USOA's National Team as for the World Championships. **[2020]**

4.7.3 At the beginning of competition, all competitors must be present at the roll call.

4.8 Species and Size of Fish -

4.8.1 Eligible species are to be specified by the Meet Committee and must conform with local fish and game laws.

4.8.2 Eligible species shall include a minimum of four of the most common species within the size limits for saltwater meets and a minimum of two of the most common species within the size limits for freshwater meets.

4.8.3 The weight minimum is one pound per fish, and when a length is used, it shall approximate a one pound fish.

4.9 Weigh-In

4.9.1 Signs

4.9.1.1 Signs located at the staging area shall adequately identify the meet and its significance; lettering shall be conspicuous, no less than six inches high

4.9.2 All persons not functioning in a necessary official capacity shall be restricted from an enclosed area reserved for competitors, their catches and the weighing apparatus.

4.9.3 All fish taken must be brought to the weigh-in stand immediately after the contest.

4.9.4 Certified scales sufficient for the largest fish taken are required.

4.9.3.1 Small scales are to be used for the smaller fish to show weight to the nearest ounce.

4.9.5 Fish may or may not be gutted prior to weigh-in depending on local climatic conditions.

4.9.6 Fish must be washed before weigh-in.

4.9.7 Each diver must have a score sheet and must sign their score sheet indicating they are in agreement with their score, their fish size(s) and catch number. **[2022]**

4.9.8 Official placement will be announced by the judges immediately after the end of the meet.

4.9.9 There will be no borrowing or swapping of catch for photographs or publicity.

4.10 Disqualification will result from any infraction of the above spearfishing rules plus the following additional infractions:

4.10.1 leaving specified diving area, except in case of an emergency,

4.10.2 not entering or leaving water at designated area,

4.10.3 failure to be on board or ashore at staging area at time designated by Meet Committee, except in an emergency,

4.10.4 chumming or feeding of fish **[2022]** the day of the meet or in the 30 days prior to the meet), **[2005]**

4.10.5 deliberate mutilation of fish, and/or

4.10.6 fish reaching the measuring table in such condition that their original size is in doubt shall result in disqualification of either the individual diver or the entire team, at the discretion of the Meet Committee.

4.10.6.1 Divers must preserve their fish until weigh in. Any fish in poor condition, relative to other fish of the day, will constitute a disqualification for that fish. Determination is by the weigh master. **[2012]**

4.10.7 Any violation of regional, state and/or local fish & game laws including but not limited to size limit, bag limit, protected species, out of season species and so forth. **[1999]**

4.10.8 Failure to procure, present and/or carry local fishing license if required by law. **[1999]**

4.11 Scoring -

4.11.1 Places will be determined by a scoring method of one point per fish and one point per pound OR by points per fish – as approved by the National Director. **[2022]**

4.11.1.1 The maximum weight counted toward an individual or team aggregate score, for any one fish, shall not exceed 25 pounds.

4.11.2 First place will be awarded to the team with the most total points.

4.11.2.1 In the case of a tie in either team or individual aggregate, the place shall be awarded to whichever team or individual has the most fish. If a tie still exists, the team with the largest fish will be determined the winner. **[2022]**

**ARTICLE V
WINNERS AND AWARDS**

5.1 Championship Winning Teams

5.1.1 The spearfishing team, in each division with the most points, shall be declared the first place winner and become Defending Champions of that Division. **[2022]**

5.1.2 Ties in points will be broken by the number of total fish brought in.

5.2 National Championship teams hold their title from 30 days after the Championships until 30 days after the subsequent National Championships.

5.3 Large Fish: To be eligible for the largest single catch or largest aggregate, all fish must be taken by an unassisted individual competitor

5.4 Award Presentations: Awards shall be presented in the following order by distinguished persons invited to the National Championships. No one person should present all awards.

Order Presentation: **[2022]**

5.4.1 Large Fish Awards

Women: Third - Second - First largest fish

Men: Third - Second - First largest fish

5.4.2 High Aggregate Awards. **[2022]**

First individual high aggregate (Women)

First individual high aggregate (Men)

5.4.3 Team Awards

Third – Second – First team (Mixed) (USOA award) **[2022]**

Third - Second - First team (Men) (USOA award) **[2003]**

Third - Second - First team (Women) (USOA award) **[2022]**

5.4.4 Perpetual USOA Awards

US. National Skindiving Championship Trophy – *Churchill Trophy*
(Men)

US National Skindiving Championship Trophy – *Kate Miller Trophy*
(Women)

5.4.5 USOA *All American Skindiving Team* (USOA award)

5.5 Official USOA Awards:

5.5.1 USOA official national championship awards shall be given for men's, mixed and women's divisions. **[2003]**

5.5.2 **Deleted [2022]**

5.5.2 The required placing Awards depends on the number of teams in each division: **[2022]**

5.5.2.1 First through third place awards given in any division with 5 entered teams.

5.5.2.2 Any division with less than 5 entries, must have 3 entries for first and second place awards; only first place award for division with 2 entries.

5.5.3 all other awards are optional.

5.6 Trophy Value: When trophies are awarded, their value, based on the dealer's price list, shall not exceed \$250.00 for first place, \$150.00 for second place, and \$100.00 for third place.

5.7 Other previously approved awards must precede the above sequence of presentations.

ARTICLE VI OTHER HONORS & AWARDS

6.0 There are several yearly honors and awards for skindiving spear fishers

6.1 All American Skindiving Teams

6.1.1 Men - This honor is granted to the members (3) of the first place Mens Championship team at the national Championships plus the 2 highest scoring men not on the Championship team.

6.1.1.1 The host may award ribboned *Society* logo medals to each member.

6.1.2 Women - This honor is granted to the members (2) of the first place Women's Championship team at the national Championships plus the two women placing highest not on the Championship team.

6.1.3 Mixed Team - This honor is granted to the members (2) of the first place Mixed Championship team at the national Championships plus the two Mixed team members placing highest but not on the Championship team. **[2022]**

6.1.3.1 The host may award ribboned *Society* medals to all team members. **[2022]**

6.2 Skindiving Spearfishing *Athlete of the Year* – AOY

6.2.1 As outlined in Appendix B, one man or one woman will be designated as the *Skindiving Spearfisher of the Year* - AOY. **[2022]**

6.2.2 A suitable memento of the honor will be bestowed

ARTICLE VII *Section re numbered 2022
INTERNATIONAL TEAM SELECTION

7.0 The process of selecting the *USOA* International Skindiving Spearfishing Teams. The process applies equally to Men's and Women's Teams

7.1. A Men's team consists of 3 competitors, 1 alternate competitor and a team captain

7.2 A Womens' Team consists of 3 competitors, 1 alternate competitor and a team captain. **[2022]**

7.2.1 As stipulated in 2022 CMAS Skin Spearfishing Rules. **[2022]**

7.3 ALL team members must be US citizens as CMAS/USOPC requires citizenship.

7.4 Selection is based on a percentage ranking achieved at the two National Championships held during the two years prior to the international year of competition. **[1996]**

7.4.1. The top individual diver's score in the first National Championships will represent 100%.

7.4.2 All other divers scores will be a percentage of the top individual diver's score.

7.5 The same procedure will be applied to all National Championships thereafter, and the two year's scores are combined

7.6. The four men and women divers with the total highest percentage scores will be the International Teams members.

7.6.1 In case of ties, the most recent, previous National Championships scores will have priority.

7.6.2 Alternates: if a diver eligible to the International Team cannot participate, the diver with the next highest score replaces the team member. The process continues until a team is complete.

7.7 Divers eligible and participating on an International Team must secure their position 270 days prior to the meet date or 30 days after the meet site announcement (whichever less) with a \$1,000 deposit to the Society Treasurer. **[2005]**

7.7.1 Deposit moneys may be used to pay entry fees, registration fees and other directly related expenses for the team. Any balance will be used for other athlete tournament expenses.

7.8 In any year without a National Championship, the two preceding championships standings prior to the international meet will be used.

7.9 The International Team Captains shall be chosen by the 4 diving members-**[2022]**

7.9.1 If no team captain is chosen or available, the National Director may act as Captain.

7.10 **Deleted [2022]**

ARTICLE VIII RULE CHANGES

8.0 The process for changing competitive rules is as set forth in the *Standardized Competitive Rules*.

8.1 Meeting Information

8.1.1 To insure a good competitive representation, the competitive rules meeting shall be held at the site of the National Championships one to three days prior to the meet but may not be held the day before/prior to first day of competition. **[2022]**

8.1.2 Should a National Championships not be held in any given Year or there is a need between competitions, rule changes and/or business would revert to the annual USOA Sports Commission meeting. **[2022]**

8.2 Rule changes voted upon and passed by the Sports Commission shall take effect immediately.**[2022]**

8.2.1 Rule changes approved by the USOA Annual Membership Meeting shall be sent to all members of the USOA Skindiving Spearfishing Committee by the Skindiving Director within 30 days following notification of the approval. **[2022]**

Rules Amended: 1996, 1997 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2012, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022
Rule changes since 1996 are noted in **[bold]**

APPENDICES:

- A – Skindiving Spearfishing National Championships Bid Guide
- B – Skindiving Spearfishing *Athlete of the Year* (AOY) Criteria/Nomination Form
- C – Skindiving Spearfishing National Championships Program Requirements
- D – Skindiving Spearfishing National Championships Critique Outline

APPENDIX A – COMPETITION BID GUIDE
October 2022

BID FOR THE _____
day/date
UNDERWATER SOCIETY OF AMERICA
SKINDIVING SPEARFISHING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
(Site, Latitude/Longitude, City/County/State)

INCLUDES: Basic Information, Schedule, Awards and Coordinates of Dive Site

Contact: Host, Name, postal address, phone and email:

Club/Council: _____

Contact Name: _____

Postal Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

To: _____
Director of Skindiving Spearfishing, Underwater Society of America

From: _____ Date: _____
Council/Club

Competition: _____
(diving time)

Date & Location: _____

Schedule of Events: _____
(Dates)

Competitors Meeting: _____

Championship: _____

Banquet/Awards: _____

• **Event Headquarters**

• **Entry Deadline:** _____

- **Registration Fees:** (There is a \$30/diver fee included in entry fee to support World Teams)

- (Plus \$5/diver USOA National Fee)

- **Mens Team** \$300 + 3x \$30 + 3x \$5 = **\$410 (3 men)**
- **Womens Team** \$200 + 3x \$30 + 2x \$5 = **\$275 (2 women)**
- **Mixed Team** \$200 + 3x \$30 + 2x \$5 = **\$275 (2 persons)**
- **Masters Team** \$200 + 3x \$30 + 2x \$5 = **\$275 (2 persons)**

- **Diving Conditions:**

Visibility

Water temperature

Depth

Surf

Current

Tides

Bottom

Travel Time

- **Fish Species:** List

- **Fish Quantity/s:** Dependent on local Fish & Wildlife Regulations

- **Miscellaneous Rules:** All divers **must** have signed wavier or fish will NOT be weighed.
-

- **Equipment:** spearguns **must** be loaded and unloaded in water;
-
- mm____ wetsuit; _____ fishing license;
-
- lead supplied for out of state divers by request **IF** 30 days in advance; dive flag Yes? No?

- **Diving Area/s: include map(s)**

- **Awards:**
New

Proposed?

- **Publicity:**

- **Sponsorship:**

- **Accommodations:** recommended/suggested

- **Budget:**

WEBSITE: _____

In accordance with Underwater Society of America requirement, submit a check for \$1,000 as a performance guarantee.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

UNDERWATER SOCIETY OF AMERICA
Skindiving Spearfishing Athlete
of the Year Award Criteria
October 2022

APPENDIX B

The “*Underwater Society Of America Skindiving Spearfishing Athlete of the Year Award*” is awarded to a deserving United States male or female tournament skindiving spearfishing athlete each year. The award Committee is composed of representatives from each of the five regions – North East, South East, Midwest, North West and South West/Hawaii. Every effort will be made to have both a male and female representatives, and, where possible, have previous winners of this award, representing each of these regions. The committee will receive nominations in December and announce the winner in January for the previous year.

While this is not an exact science, committee members should consider a 50% weight on the lifetime performance in diving as well as the contribution to the sport of skindiving spearfishing. Contributions may include but are not limited to education, safety promotion, organization, fishery regulations/management/biology, USOA involvement, youth and new club development. The other 50% weight should be based on how the diver performed during their nomination year.

Historically, the winners of this award are athletes who have won the U.S. National Skindiving Spearfishing Championships at the individual or team level and have also won many other tournaments.

Some have likened this award to a “*Skindiving Spearfishing Divers Hall of Fame*” going forward and as such, nominees can only be awarded once.

[10/2022]

UNDERWATER SOCIETY OF AMERICA
Skindiving Spearfishing
Athlete of the Year Award
October 2022

NOMINATION FORM:

Nominee Name: _____

Nomination Year: _____

- Postal Address: _____

- E-mail address: _____

- Telephone number: _____

- Name Dive Club or Council: _____

Name of Person making nomination: _____

Why nominee is deserving of this award:

Tournament Records: Include: year, location, place finished – individual and team. Please document if nominee has beaten past AOY recipients at any of the competitions listed below.

World and/or National Championship Level:

Regional and Local Tournament Level:

Contributions to the Sport of Skindiving Spearfishing:

List any effort the individual has undertaken to promote skindiving spearfishing (such as: education, safety promotion, fishery regulations/management/biology, youth and new club development.)

Other:

List any contributions to USOA and to their local council/club. (Keep in mind, paid occupation/business ownership is not a contribution.)

Nominating Signature: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX C
UNDERWATER SOCIETY OF AMERICA
October 2022

Skindiving Spearfishing Nationals Program Requirements

1.0. Title/Cover Page

1.1 Title Must Read: *USOA National Skindiving Spearfishing National Championships*

1.2 Include USOA and host logos

2.0 Table of Contents

2.1 Schedule of events including day/date/time

2.2 Welcome from USOA president

2.3 Welcome from National Skindiving Spearfishing Director

3.0 List of Volunteers/Contributors – if wanted/often included

4.0. List of eligible fish

4.1 Pictures of fish

4.2 Local Fish & Game Regulations

5.0. Pictures/Text: divers' resume/teams with identification/credit to club/council

5.1 Grouped by division: men, women, mixed, masters

7.0. List of AOYs

8.0. List of past nationals with info 1950 to last nationals

UNDERWATER SOCIETY OF AMERICA
SKINDIVING SPEAFISHING NATIONAL COMMITTEE
RULES
October 2022

APPENDIX D
POST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS CRITIQUE

1.0 Bid

- 1.1 When was Bid submitted?
- 1.2 Was Bid complete?
- 1.3 Did Bid include all relevant/needed information for participants

2.0 Diver Meeting

- 2.1 Was there a Briefing?
- 2.2 Was there a review of local regulations, Fish & Game regulations, etc?
- 2.3 Was the meeting facility/venue adequate in size and convenience?
- 2.4 Was there a competition rules review?
- 2.5 Was there a meeting to review, discuss and vote Rule changes?
- 2.6 Was weigh-in/scoring discussed and clarified?
- 2.7 What was fish clearance? Donation, sale, divers take, etc?
- 2.8 Was Protest System outlined, discussed and Committee selected?

3.0 Dive Day

- 3.1 Was there a role call before start?
- 3.2 Was Start signal clarified?
- 3.3 Was Finish clarified?
- 3.4 Were judges at Start?
- 3.5 Were there Safety persons at Start?

4.0 Weigh In

- 4.1 Run efficiently
- 4.2 Adequate support crew
- 4.3 Scales as needed
- 4.4 Measuring table /measuring devices as needed
- 4.5 Fish washing tub
- 4.6 Score Board/score sheets/administrative staff
- 4.7 Fish Donation/Disposal

5.0 Banquet/Dinner

5.1 What day and time was dinner?

5.2 Name of facility/venue for dinner?

6.0 Awards

6.1 Were USOA awards presented?

6.2 What other Awards were presented?

7.0 Other/Miscellaneous

7.1 Sales? What items, if any, were available for sale?

7.2 Was there a Program?

7.2.1 did it meet Requirements in Appendix C of Skindiving Spearfishing Rules