

INTERCELTIC GAMES

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

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INTRODUCTION

This document holds the rules to follow in the Interceltic Underwater Photography Competition, within the INTERCELTIC GAMES.

1. GENERAL RULES

1.1. Definition

- 1.1.1.** The Interceltic Underwater Photography Competition is another sport discipline amongst those celebrated within the Interceltic Games. It is considered a specialty belonging to Underwater Sports and, from now on, it will be abbreviated as **CFS**.
- 1.1.2.** The competition will consist in the reunion of underwater photographers equipped with scuba-diving gear, for the production of **UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHS IN DIGITAL PLATFORM**, in selected diving places, within an established maximum diving time, for competitive purposes
- 1.1.3.** By visioning and punctuating the images, a jury will determine the overall final individual classification, the classification by countries, and the classification by photographic categories.

1.2. Photographic Categories

1.2.1. The photographic categories for the competition will be the following:

- **Landscape with the presence of human elements**
- **Landscape without the presence of human elements**
- **Whole vertebrates**
- **Vertebrate portraits**
- **Invertebrate microphotography**
- **Selective photography**

1.2.1.1. Landscape with the presence of human elements. In this category, the image must reflect and enhance the sea bottom and/or its inhabitants, and the presence of the accompanying diver as a whole or in part must be included, in a way that the final result should be as attractive and creative as possible.

1.2.1.2. Landscape without the presence of human elements. In this category, the goal is to obtain images of the underwater landscape (wide angle photography). The presence of human elements not belonging to the sea is forbidden, whether they are divers or objects deliberately introduced for decorative purposes. Artifacts that could belong to the sea bottom from long ago (wrecks, lost anchors, etc.) are allowed.

1.2.1.3. Whole Vertebrates. This image category must include, compulsorily, the image of at least a marine vertebrate underwater (fish, reptile or marine mammal). The integrity of their body must be seen, without any cut. Exceptions to this rule are Conger eels (*Conger sp.*) and moray eels (*Muraena sp.* etc.), because they live in caves and holes and it is very difficult to take a picture of their entire body.

The only cuts to be allowed in the image will be those produced by natural reasons (rocks, algae, sand, etc.) **when the whole size of the vertebrate (though not its silhouette can be appreciated within the photogram.**

1.2.1.4. Vertebrate portraits. This category seeks for marine vertebrate portraits (fish, reptiles and marine mammals). All those images where a detail (even if it is a macro shot) of their bodies can be appreciated, will be accepted. Taking pictures of any part of their anatomy is allowed (head, flippers, areas with different colorations, etc.). When judging the image, the jury will take into account the photographic parameters (well lit and well focused), the artistic quality and creativity, as well as the difficulty to take a photograph of that subject, the species rarity, the activity it might be performing and its position. Quite contrary to the previous category, this image must be cut and the images where the animal whole body can be appreciated will not be accepted.

The image will never contain the presence of any human element, in the conditions established under point **1.2.1.2.**

1.2.1.5. Invertebrates microphotography. This image category must include microphotography shots, being considered as such, those images with a reproduction ratio from **1:6** to **1:1** or under. The 1:6 reproduction ratio means that, by instance, 1 cm of the photographic image equals 6 cm of the real image. So, the 1:1 ratio means that the photographic image is actual size.

The jury will take into account photographic parameters (well lit and well focused), the artistic quality and creativity, as well as if it is a rare species and if the subject is mobile or static.

The images where a figure of a marine vertebrate appears will not be considered valid, with the exception of those cases where the invertebrate lives on them (a parasite, for instance) **and the invertebrate is the main character of the image.**

1.2.1.6. Selective photography. In this category, the Organization will designate a marine organism or a group of them (species, genus, family, etc.), **common within the competition zone** and the photographers must get an image of them. The name or names must appear in the **CFS** particular rules, and must be known within a reasonable period of time.

Images can be at any reproduction ratio (wide angle, macro, etc.) but they will never include any presence of human elements, according to the conditions established under **1.2.1.2.**

1.3. Participation

1.3.1. As much as two teams by region are allowed to participate in the CFS, limited to a maximum of twelve teams. If the number of inscriptions is higher than twelve, only one team will be admitted by region. A second team may be admitted, chosen by inscription order, until the limit number of twelve participants is reached.

Each team will be composed of two scuba-divers: an underwater photographer and an assistant. The team selection will be made by the relevant Underwater Sports association of each region.

Each competitor must hold the appropriate diving certifications (CMAS, PADI, BSAC, etc.). Both members of each team must hold insurance compatible with the practice of underwater sports scuba diving.

1.4. Competition

1.4.1. The CFS will take place along *two* (2) days. The day before the diving begins, a meeting will be celebrated with all the competitors, in order to sort out any questions and to revise the competition calendar. Also, on that meeting, a letter will be attributed to each team.

During the two competition days *two* (2) dives per day will be done, each with a maximum duration of *one hour and thirty minutes (1:30h)*.

1.4.1.1. If the photographer or his assistant exceed the maximum allowed dive time, he will suffer a penalty, consisting on a discount of **half point in the final classification, for each minute of delay.**

1.4.2. There will be two to four competition dive sites and one to two sites in reserve, which can only be used in case of bad weather / bad sea conditions. The change of the programmed dive sites is the exclusive responsibility of the Organization

1.5. Competition Scheme

1.5.1. The competition will take place following a program to be established in due course, according with paragraph **2 –Particular Rules**. There may be changes to the program whenever local or other conditions force this to happen, according to decisions of the Organization.

1.5.2. In competition, each photographer and assistant will use open circuit diving cylinders filled with an amount of air that can vary from 2400 to 3000 liters. On account of logistic reasons, the Organization may impose a maximum limit of 2400 liters of air. The filled cylinders must be present to the Organization, for checking purposes.

1.5.3. There will be no depth limits established, other than the ones imposed by the sports diving license held by the competitor.

1.5.4. No competitor may start the dive before the competition start is signaled by the Organization. Competitors must communicate to the Organization the finish of their competition period.

1.5.5. The operation of the camera, be it for capture, visioning, deletion or modification of the images, can only take place during the competition period. **Any infraction to this rule will imply the disqualification of all the images obtained during the relevant competition period.**

1.5.6. No photographer or assistant may abandon the competition area within the competition period, except in the event of accident, or if he has been dully authorized by the Organization.

1.5.7. **It is forbidden to feed the fish or harm the local fauna and flora. Infractioning this rule will imply the disqualification of the competitor.**

1.5.8. **It is forbidden to take photographs of dead animals, or alive but previously captured ones. Infractioning this rule will imply the disqualification of the competitor.**

1.6. Photographic Gear

1.6.1. Cameras

- 1.6.1.1.** Only digital cameras will be admitted, be it amphibian cameras, or cameras housed in watertight housings.
- 1.6.1.2.** Each photographer may use one ore more cameras per competition dive, provided that, in each competition period he does not exceed the time limit established on paragraph **1.4.1**. It is allowed the replacement of a camera by another one during the competition period.

1.6.2. Magnetic Cards

- 1.6.2.1.** The Organization supplies no magnetic cards. Each competitor will supply his own cards. Those must have enough capacity for the photographs to be taken during each competition period.
- 1.6.2.2.** One card per camera and per competition period must be used. Accordingly, if the competitor uses only one camera per competition period, he must have two cards, one for each of the competition periods of a day. If the competitor uses two cameras per competition period, he must have four cards.
- 1.6.2.3.** Before the start of each competition period the card or cards to be used will be controlled by the Organization. After being fitted to the camera they will be formatted by means of the camera menu, in the presence and under the control of a Referee. As from that moment, the camera (if amphibian) or the watertight housing cannot be open until after the end of the competition period, and in the presence of a Referee, to remove the card and deliver it to the Referee. **Any infraction to the present rule will imply the elimination of the card(s) under question.**
- 1.6.2.4.** **The first photo on each card must contain the image of the photographer or his assistant, with the label supplied by the Organization** That image is named IIS (Series Start Image). **Any infraction to the present rule will imply the elimination of the card(s) under question.**
- 1.6.2.5.** Except for the Series Start Image, the number of images is limited to *sixty (60)* per competition period. If the photographer uses two cameras in a given competition period, the same limit applies, meaning that the total number of images on the two cards used, cannot exceed sixty, plus the two Series Start Images.
- 1.6.2.6.** Each competition period starts with the formatting of the cards, according to **1.6.2.3.** and ends with the extraction and delivery of the card to the Referee, in his presence, after the dive.
- 1.6.2.7.** In between the two competition periods of a competition day, i.e., since the moment when the card(s) used in the first competition period of the day were delivered to the Referee, and until the moment where the in-camera formatting of the card(s) for the second competition period of the day takes place, the competitors are free to handle their cameras as they please.

- 1.6.2.8.** During each competition day, the organization will provide a place duly enclosed, where the photographer may handle his cameras. That place will be called **Cameras Park**.
- 1.6.2.9.** At the end of each competition day, the images stored on each of the cards that the competitors delivered at the conclusion of the competition periods, will be downloaded to a directory on the hard disk of the Organization's computer. A directory will be created for each photographer and, within this, a sub-directory will be created for each card to download. After the download is successfully performed, the cards will be returned to the competitors. The images will be left on the cards, so as to allow the teams their visioning and selection, or to download them to their own computers.
- 1.6.2.10.** Any modification or photo editing of an image, no matter by what means, implies the immediate elimination of the card(s) where the image was stored.

1.7. Selection and Submission of Photographs

- 1.7.1.** Each photographer will submit six (6) photographs to the Jury (one for each category), by filling up the form made available to them by the Organization, with the numbers of the JPEG files as stored in the Organization's computer. The form will be given to the Organization at the time and place it designates.
- 1.7.2.** The format accepted will be JPEG, with a minimal size of 3000x2000 pixels.
- 1.7.3.** The photographs will be numbered randomly by the organization, so as they can be anonymously presented to the Jury for punctuation.

1.8. Jury

- 1.8.1.** The Jury will be composed by **three (3) to five (5)** members, being **five (5)** the ideal number. One of the judges will be the **Main Judge (president)** of the competition, named for the effect by the Organization.
- 1.8.2.** The Jury will be assisted by a **Secretary**, named by the Organization, who will be in charge of verifying the correct download of the competitors' memory cards into the Organization's computer. Also, he will supervise all the competition development. For the effect, he may be assisted by as many referees as he finds necessary. The referees will verify the magnetic cards formatting at the beginning of each competition period and receive them at the end, according to the procedures established on paragraphs **1.6.2.3** and **1.6.2.6**. Referees will also be in charge of controlling the diving gear of the competitors, and of the gear aboard the boats, as well as the register of the start and finish competition dive times, and of registering any incident that might arise during the competition development.
- 1.8.2.1.** Members of the Jury are allowed to act as referees.

- 1.8.3. A marine biologist, familiar with the fauna and flora of the competition area, may assist the Jury to provide answers about species and/or animal behaviors.
- 1.8.4. Decision on the different incidences that might happen during the competition will be in charge of the Jury who, if that is the case, will apply the corresponding sanctions
- 1.8.5. All the Jury members must have a copy of the **COMPETITION RULES**, at least a week before the competition celebration.
- 1.8.6. The Jury members must know the present **RULES** perfectly, as well as the **PARTICULAR RULES** of the competition.

1.9. Punctuation and Classification

- 1.9.1. The punctuation process will be done in a closed room until a final overall classification is defined. The only people that may be in the room are the members of the Jury, the Secretary and the biologist (if requested by the Jury).
- 1.9.2. For the punctuation process, the photos will be projected by category. The “Landscape with presence of human element” category will be projected and punctuated the last.
- 1.9.3. The Secretary will project the images of each category, as many times as necessary before projecting them for the punctuation projection, which will be done only once.
- 1.9.4. On those previous projections, the jury can discuss the acceptability (or not) of the images in the category under appreciation, or ask clarifications to the biologist (if present). Under no circumstances may there be comments or talks about the technical or artistic quality of the images.
- 1.9.5. Each photo will be punctuated between **zero (0)** and **twenty (20)** points.
- 1.9.6. Of all the punctuations made by the **5 judges**, the **largest and smallest one** will be eliminated. The sum of the 3 remaining will make the final punctuation for that photo.
- 1.9.7. If there were only **4 judges**, the average value between the largest and smallest punctuation will be obtained, and the resulting value would be added to the sum of the two other punctuations, being the result the final points for that image.
- 1.9.8. If there were only **3 judges**, the final punctuation for each image would be the sum of their three punctuations.
- 1.9.9. In the case of *exaequos*, the winning image will be the one to which corresponds the largest sum of the eliminated points. If the draw persists, the winning picture will be decided by vote of the Jury. In case of 4 judges (and only in this case), the President of the Jury has quality vote.
- 1.9.10. If there are images susceptible of being disqualified, this must be done by total Jury **unanimity**. In such cases, they will be written down in the evaluation sheets as “**D**”.
- 1.9.11. After the visioning of the images of a category and respective punctuation have been done, results must be registered in the Organization’s computer, and the category blocked.

- 1.9.12.** At the end the images will be visioned by competitor collections, to check if there is theme repetitions within each collection and, if that is the case, the necessary adjustments will be done.
- 1.9.13.** Theme repetition means, for instance: repetition of the same landscape in the case of the categories of Landscape with and without the presence of human element; in the case of the Selective Photography, if this is a given species of fish, repeating the same fish in the category Whole Vertebrates; or, still in the case of the Selective Photography, if this is a given species of invertebrates, to repeat the same species in the category Invertebrates Microphotography.
- 1.9.14.** The classification by category will result from the highest punctuations in each category.
- 1.9.15.** The overall classification will result from the arithmetical sum of the points obtained by each competitor, in each category.
- 1.9.16.** Once the punctuation processes are finished, the secretary will replace, on the punctuation sheets, the identification codes of the competitors by their names.
- 1.9.17.** A copy of the final punctuation sheets will be given to each competitor.
- 1.9.18.** The punctuations and the Jury final settlement will be **UNQUESTIONABLE**, except for summing errors.

1.10. Reclamations

- 1.10.1.** Any claim must be on a written paper, and will be presented by the interested team to the Secretary.
- 1.10.2.** Claims must be sent within an hour since the happening of the reason for the claim.
- 1.10.3.** Decisions taken by the Organization in response to a claim are definitive, and not susceptible of appeal.

1.11. Main Judge of the Competition

- 1.11.1.** The **Main Judge of the Competition** will be named by the Organization. He will be the President of the Jury, and he will be the main responsible of the scoring process
- 1.11.2.** It competes to the **Main Judge of the Competition** to decide on any reclamation that may be presented. For the effect, he may ask for the opinions of the remaining members of the Jury, the Secretary and the Organization.
- 1.11.3.** It competes to the **Main Judge of the Competition** to decide upon any situation not contemplated in the present Rules.

1.12. Other Dispositions

- 1.12.1.** The photographs submitted to the Competition Jury are the property of the competitors. However, the Organization is allowed to

keep copies of them for promotional effects, always mentioning their author and the event where they were taken.

- 1.12.2.** The Interceltic Games and the Organization of the Underwater Photography Competition celebrated within said Games, including all its collaborators, **cannot be held responsible**, under no circumstances whatsoever, for any damage, loss or theft that the **scuba diving, photographic or other equipments** belonging to the participants, may suffer.
- 1.12.3.** The Interceltic Games and the Organization of the Underwater Photography Competition celebrated within said Games, including all its collaborators, **cannot be held responsible**, under no circumstances whatsoever, for any damage or loss when handling and transporting the **magnetic cards** of the competitors, during the course of the Competition.
- 1.12.4.** The Interceltic Games and the Organization of the Underwater Photography Competition celebrated within said Games, including all its collaborators, **cannot be held responsible**, under no circumstances whatsoever, for any **accidents, including those which might occur during the scuba diving activities**, which might suffer the competitors, during the course of the Competition.
- 1.12.5.** The present English version of the Rules is a translation of the original Rules, written in Portuguese, V1.0, of 29/1/2009.
In the case of any translation error or inaccuracy, the original Portuguese version will prevail over the present English one.

2. Particular Rules

- 2.1. Particular Rules of the Competition.** A set of Particular Rules will be established until two months before the Competition. Those Rules will contain the program and calendar of the Competition, as well as all Rules specific to the place and conditions where it will take place.

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