

# Rules for Nordic Championship in Underwater Photography

The Nordic Championship in Underwater Photography aims to showcase the beauty and condition of the underwater environment in the Nordic countries. This annual competition invites all underwater photographers affiliated with Nordic National Federations to share their best shots from our lakes, rivers and seas.

The objectives are clear:

- **Showcase Excellence:**  
Highlight the stunning underwater scenes from the Nordic region.
- **Award Talent:**  
Recognize the skill and creativity of the Nordic underwater photography community.

## Eligibility for participation

All persons over the age of 15 who are affiliated with a diving club under one of the Nordic federations or direct members of one of the Nordic federations can participate in the competition.

## Eligibility for submissions

All photos must be taken in the sea or freshwater in one of the Nordic countries, e.g. Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, including the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland.

Previously placed images can not be entered into the contest (Images ranked from 1. to 20. in any previous Nordic championship in underwater photography).

The images must be shot within the last three years calculated from the end of the year in which the contest is organized.

## Submission of photos

Participants must follow the instructions of the hosting federation.

## Classes

Participants may submit up to three photos in each class. Submitting more than three will result in disqualification of all of the participant's submissions within that category.

If a photo is not compliant with the definition of the class in which it is submitted it will be disqualified.

#### Class A: Close-up

A close up photo of a specific subject shot with any focal length

#### Class B: Photo with a model

Any photo that features another person

#### Class C: Normal / Wide angle

Any wide angle photo (for example, but not limited to, a seascape/nature/wreck/cave/quarry)

#### Class D: Freshwater

Any photo taken in lakes, rivers and the Baltic Sea (defined as being east of a virtual line drawn from Trelleborg, Sweden to Putgarten, Germany)

#### Class E: Theme

The theme is chosen by the host country and must be announced in connection with the call for participation in April, see section *Organization*

## Guidelines for photos / photographic content

### Definition of Underwater Photo

An underwater photo refers to an image captured beneath the water's surface. In the case of split photos, a minimum of 50% of the photo's area must be submerged underwater.

### Respect for the Marine Environment

Images depicting harmful behavior towards the marine environment, or those based on actions unlawful in the country where the image was taken, are prohibited.

### Anonymity

Submitted entries must not contain elements that can identify the photographer. When presented to the jury, the images must not contain any information that can identify the participant.

### Double Exposure

Combinations of multiple images are only allowed if they are made in-camera at the time of exposure.

### Editing

There are no restrictions on post processing performed by the photographer. However, it is not permitted to add or remove major elements in the image during editing. The Nordic championship is not a Photoshop contest and winning images are expected to represent reality.

## Validation

The original un-edited file must be made available to the organizers on request.

## Publishing

All the Nordic Federations reserve the right to copy and publish the images from the competition in the Nordic Federations' sport diving magazines and use the images for marketing of diving sports and in course literature without compensation for the participants, however, the photographer's name must always be stated together with the published image.

## Organization

### Call for participation

The hosting country should announce the competition with a theme (class E) before the beginning of **April**.

Deadline for entering the competition is on **November 1st at 23:59 CET**

### Jury

The organizing federation must appoint at least 3 judges where at least two must have experience in underwater photography

Disqualification of photos (due to any rule stated within this document) shall be handled before the actual judging takes place.

Decisions regarding disqualifications must be made based on the “anonymized” images.

It is the responsibility of the jury to rank the submitted photos in each class from number 1 to 20 and “unranked”. Number 1 to 3 within each category will receive gold, silver and bronze medals.

Pictures within each category will be assigned points based on their position from number 1 to 20 on the following scale: 100, 65, 45, 30, 25, 21, 18, 15, 13, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. Unranked photos do not receive any points.

Based on the total number of points across all five categories, the Nordic champion is named and gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded to number 1, 2 and 3. The jury's decision is final.

## Winners

Before **November 7th**, the host country must send out a list of registered photographers to the respective federations, which must confirm membership and necessary licenses before **November 15th**.

It is the responsibility of the organizing federation to first notify the 4 federations and photographers of the results .

Before **December 10th** the organizer must provide a catalog with result lists, a minimum of the 20 best pictures in each category, and a list of all participants, and make it available on the internet.

The host country is responsible for making the catalog and all pictures in original resolution available to the other Nordic federations. The catalog must contain a minimum of the 20 best pictures in original resolution in each category. All Nordic federations must have access to the catalog.

-

Version 1.02 (June 27th 2025) - Fixed definition of area of Freshwater category.

Version 1.01 (May 8th 2024) - Initial document.

Authored by a representative from each of all four Nordic federations