

Norwegian Championship rules

1. DEFINITION

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- 1.1. Spearfishing is the act of hunting live animals and especially fish, while swimming with the equipment specified in 3.3. Propulsion and diving capacities are based entirely on the swimmer's physical ability.

2. COMPETITION AREA

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2.1. Competition area establishes and marks.

- 2.1.1. The competition area shall be decided 14 days before the competition takes place.
- 2.1.2. The boundaries shall be marked with bouys and diver's markers.

2.2. The extent of the area.

- 2.2.1. The extent of the area should be based on the number of the participants and should be large enough and of such conditions that the participants are not crowded into the same area.
- 2.2.2. The area should not be larger than that which the judges can safely guard over the competitors.

2.3. Diving in the area before the competition.

2.3.1. It is not allowed to scubadive in the area the last 14 days before the competition, except in emergency cases.

2.3.2. It is not allowed to harpoon fish in the area the last 14 days before the competition.

2.3.3. It is allowed to swim with ABC-equipment in the area before the competition.

2.4. Orientation before starting.

2.4.1. Organization committee orientates about the area before starting.

2.4.2. The competitors should have the possibility to see the whole area before starting, either from land or from a boat.

2.4.3. The organizer should have a sea map over the area, which the competitors can view before starting.

2.5. Reserve competition area

2.5.1. If the area conditions are possibly weather-dependent, a reserve area should be arranged.

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3. THE COMPETITORS AND THE EQUIPMENT.

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3.3. Equipment

3.3.1. The competitors shall use fins, gloves, mask, snorkel, leadbelt with quick-release buckle, harpoon, protection suit, life vest and knife.

3.3.2. It is permissible to use a gun with spring, elastic band or compressed air, that can be loaded and made operable only by the competitors own muscle power.

3.3.3. Only spears with tips are allowed.

3.3.4. Competitors must secure themselves to a line fastened to a floating bouy that is visible either by colour or by size.

3.3.5. The bouy shall have a supporting weight of at least 10 kg.

3.3.6. The line shall be fastened to the lead belt during the competition.

3.3.7. It is permissible to use the bouy to support the catch during the competition.

4. TEAM COMPOSITION

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4.1. Team composition

4.1.1. The team shall consist of minimum 2, maximum 3 competitors

4.2. Reserves for a team.

4.2.1. A team can have one reserve.

4.2.2. Team reserves may not compete for another team.

4.2.3. The reserve can participate in the individual competition.

4.2.4. Reserve points are combined with the original member's points.

4.2.5. If a reserve participates in the competition on an individual basis, and is a late addition to the team, only the points the reserve collects after the change count to the team's total points.

4.2.6. The change of competitors shall be approved by the judges before the change takes place.

4.3. Several teams from the same Nation.

4.3.1. If a nation/team has several teams, the team rosters shall be delivered in written form to the judges before starting.

5. STAFFS AND SAFETY SERVICE

5.1. Organization committee

5.1.1. At least 3 persons are required to form the organization committee.

5.2. Organizer's duties.

- 5.2.1. Control that the area is marked at a safe way.
- 5.2.2. Provide instructions about the start and the finish of the competition.
- 5.2.3. Give all the competitors a good brief of the area.
- 5.2.4. Approve teamrosters and reserves.
- 5.2.5. Decide if the competition shall be cancelled before the scheduled time.
- 5.2.6. Make sure that a sea map over the competition area is available at the meeting place.
- 5.2.7. Control the competitors' equipment.
- 5.2.8. Read the safety rules to the competitors before starting.
- 5.2.9. Nominate 3 judges.
- 5.2.10. Make sure that equipment for weighing the catch is available at the meeting place including weigh scales and recording equipment.
- 5.2.11. Make sure that safety equipment and personnel are available at described areas.
- 5.2.12. Organize control and the weighing of the catch.
- 5.2.13. Approve the substitution of competitors with reserves.
- 5.2.14. Make sure that no catch is left back at the meeting place.
- 5.2.15. Make sure that all required boats are available during the competition.
- 5.2.16. Decide if catch can be delivered to the boats or meeting place during the competition.

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5.3. Judges

- 5.3.1. At least 3 judges are required for the competition.
- 5.3.2. The judges shall judge disputes about the competition and the safety aspect.

5.3.3. The judges shall deal with incoming protests.

5.4. Safety service

5.4.1. Rescue personnel with first aid equipment shall be available at the meeting place.

5.4.2. Personnel with binoculars and communication equipment shall be placed where they have a good view over the area.

5.4.3. A safety boat with a stand by scuba diver shall be stationed in the area during the competition.

6. COMPETITION

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6.1. Start of the competition.

6.1.1. The start shall be indicated by a flag and/or sound signal.

6.1.2. The start is signalled from one of the meeting areas.

6.1.3. The competitors may start from land or a boat.

6.1.4. Harpoons shall not be loaded until after the divers are in the water.

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6.2. The competition's duration.

6.2.1. Kristiansund cup last two days with 4 hours each day

6.2.2. If the competition has been started and has to be stopped because of bad weather or other unexpected circumstances, it will be regarded as valid if it has lasted for at least 6 hours including both days

6.2.3. The organization committee shall decide before the competition possibility for movement during the competition.

6.3. End of competition

6.3.1. The end is indicated by a sound signal.

6.3.2. After the end signal, the competitor shall be at the meeting place with harpoons unloaded.

6.4. Delivery of catch

6.4.1. Minimum fish weight is 500 gram.

6.4.2. The organizer can put the limit higher, but not lower.

6.4.3. Only fish allowed by Norwegian law count.

6.4.4. All types shellfish, mushroom, molluscs, skate, sea eel, frog fish, sea wolf, lump fish and all kinds of ballan wrasse do not count as legal catch.

6.4.5. In competitions where there is little fish in the area, the organizer may give dispensation from 6.4.4 by allowing other fish types.

6.4.6. 1 point is given for each gram of valid pelagic fish caught.

6.4.7. Hit points equal to the minimum catch weight shall be awarded for each fish (normal 500 point).

6.4.8. 0,5 point per gram for flounder shall be awarded. 250 hit points will be awarded for each flounder.

6.4.9. No fish can give more than 5000 points totally.

6.4.10 If two teams or single persons are tied in total points, the number of fish taken will decide. If still tied, the largest fish will decide, then second largest and so on.

7. BREAKING OF RULES AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

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7.1. Rule breaking

7.1.1. The competitors shall in no way interrupt the duration of the competition or interrupt the other competitors.

7.1.2. It is illegal to:

- change out competitors without permission from judges or organization committee.
- change catch between the competitors.
- deliver catch to any other competitor.
- start fishing before the competition is started, and after it has come to an end.
- load the harpoon above the water.

7.1.3. Competitors who lack necessary equipment shall be prohibited from starting.

7.2. Disqualifications

7.2.1. Persons shall be disqualified if they:

try to make the fish heavier with stones and so on.

keep on fishing after the competition has ended.

intentionally disturb other competitors.

break the safety rules.

do not follow orders and reference given by the organization committee, judges or others that have to do with control and safety matters.

catch self dead fish.

have not returned to the start point within the end of competition (4 hours).

7.2.2. All parties caught exchanging catch shall be disqualified.

7.3. Protests

7.3.1. Protests shall be delivered in written form, with a protest fee (NOK 200,-) enclosed before the weighing has started.

7.3.2. All protests shall be decided by the judges.

8. SAFETY RULES

8.1. The competitor is responsible for his own safety.

8.2. The competitor shall be inside the marked area.

- 8.3. It is forbidden to dive where there is fishing gear and ropes in the water.
- 8.4. The competitors have to take care to avoid disturbing each other. Care should be exercised in such a way that lines do not become entangled.
- 8.5. The competitors have to take care with the harpoon. It is forbidden to load the harpoon on land. This is valid both before and after the competition. **THE HARPOON SHALL ONLY BE LOADED UNDER WATER.**
- 8.6. Boat drivers that use a boat with an engine shall only use it when it is necessary and when it is safe, in such a way that no competitor is disturbed or hurt.
- 8.7. If competitors call up following boats when in danger, they shall wave with the arms or with the harpoon from side to side. This sign shall only be used in emergency cases. If a competitor boards a boat for movement or other things, the harpoon shall be held straight up.
- 8.8. The competitors shall be healthy and in good shape.