



National Spearfishing Commission By Laws- 24 March 2006

1. Purpose

The National Chair (Spearfishing) and the Executive Committee are responsible for all matters of national significance that apply to spearfishing in Australia, and to:

- a. represent Australia's spearfishers at a national level to ensure a high quality spearfishing experience and ensure access to waters that is equivalent to or greater than other recreational fishers;
- b. advise governments, government departments and agencies, and non-government organisations on policies and programs relating to spearfishing and management of natural resources and systems supporting spearfishing;
- c. make representations and assist the members to make submissions and representations on matters of national importance to spearfishing;
- d. foster and promote legal, and ecologically sustainable spearfishing in all its forms;
- e. facilitate, encourage and promote spearfishing-related communication, education and co-operation among all members and the Australian recreational fishing community and the wider Australian community;
- f. encourage and promote the study of spearfishing, the scientific study for the conservation and management of fish, their environment and ecology;
- g. organise (with the host state) the annual Australian Spearfishing Championships and appropriate representation to International spearfishing competitions;
- h. commission, contract and make grants to organisations or individuals for the furtherance of the above objects relevant to spearfishing and to the conservation and management of the marine environment and species;
- i. receive gifts, grants and subscriptions for the functioning or furtherance of these objects;
- j. to assist members, as far as possible, for the furtherance of these objects, and
- k. do all such things and acts, which may be deemed necessary to achieve the foregoing objects.

2. Executive Committee

- a. The Executive Committee of the National Spearfishing Commission comprises the National Chair, State or Territory Chairs (with 3 or more members), National Records Officer, National Team Manager and National Communications Officer.
- b. The State / Territory Chairpersons (where they exist) are responsible for all matters within their own State or Territory that relate to local matters.



- c. All major decisions of the National Chair (outside the parameters of the agreed strategic plan) requires input and agreement of the Executive Committee and if the decisions have national importance or relates to corporate governance the President of the AUF must also be consulted.

3. Elections

- a. The following positions are elected and will have a term of 2 years – (see section 4 voting rights) National Chair, National Records Officer and National Communications Officer.
- b. The State Chair positions are elected through the state process.
- c. Any person elected to a national position may be subject to a vote of ‘no confidence’ provided at least two (2) members of the Executive Committee submit to the Executive Committee in writing, stating their reasons. The vote should take place within 90 days of lodgement of the second ‘no confidence motion’.

4. Voting rights

- a. Voting rights at National Spearfishing Commission meetings are:
 - 1. one vote for the National Chair,
 - 2. one vote for each state commissioner (where the State / Territory has at least 3 members) plus 1 vote per 50 members or part thereof.
- b. No ONE state can have an absolute majority; if it does it requires the vote of at least one other state.
- c. National Records Officer, National Team Manager and National Communications Officer do not have a vote on national matters.
- d. If there is a potential conflict of interest (e.g. elections, financial gain) – the National or state Chair must declare and abstain from voting.
- e. Where a vote is drawn the *status quo* will remain.

5. Finance

- a. See Schedule A.
- b. The National Spearfishing Commission will seek other sponsorship that has mutual benefits.
- c. Annual Finance report will be provided by the National Chair within one month of the end of financial year or at the AGM.

6. Meetings

- a. At least two (2) meetings of the National Commission shall be held annually (and may be held by teleconference), and one must be an Annual General Meeting attended in person by all commission members.
- b. Meetings must be notified at least two (2) months prior and four (4) months for the AGM to being held and a call for agenda items must be contained. Agenda items or nominations for elected positions must be notified 30 days prior to the meeting.
- c. That a meeting be held each year in February-March to review the Australian Championships, Bylaws, Strategic Plan and rules.
- d. That any changes discussed in 6c be voted on at the executive meeting or teleconference immediately following.



- e. That the Annual General Meeting of the National Spearfishing Commission be held in September - October each year in the state that is hosting the Australian Championships.
- f. The quorum for meetings to take place is at least three (3) of the Executive voting positions.

7. Australian Spearfishing Championships

- a. All Australian Championships and Selections will be conducted in accordance with the current "A section Rules of Competition and Selection".

8. Australian Teams and Managers

- a. All Australian Teams and Managers will be selected and conducted according to A-section rules.

9. Australian perpetual awards

- a. AUF members are eligible to nominate in writing to the National Records Officer for the following awards and must be received at least one month prior to the National Spearfishing AGM. The awards are voted at the National Spearfishing AGM.
- b. Mermaid and Marlin Trophies
The Mermaid Trophy and the Marlin Trophy shall be awarded for the heaviest fish speared by a female and male Member respectively during the preceding twelve months.
Applications for the Mermaid or Marlin Trophies should be submitted on a standard Federal Records Application Form.
- c. Bruno McKenna Trophy
The Bruno McKenna Trophy shall be awarded for the Most Meritorious Fish captured during the preceding twelve months.
- d. The Beau Beere (administration) and the Sportsman of the Year (competition) awards may be nominated through the Federal Secretary and are voted at the AGM of the AUF National Board.

10. Rule Changes

- a. Changes to the Bylaws and A section rules can be proposed in writing by any financial member and at least one week prior to any meeting and will be discussed and voted on by the Executive Committee.
- b. Rule changes will be provided to all state commissions and an updated version will be available on the AUF website.

11. Reporting

- a. The National Spearfishing Commission Chair, in consultation with the Executive Committee, will develop (and update annually) a 3-year Strategic Plan.
- b. The National Spearfishing Commission Chair will provide a written report at the Spearfishing AGM and the AUF AGM and should include reports on individual state/territory issues as well as national issues.



SCHEDULE A- Fees, Charges and Loans (to be set by the Executive and reviewed annually at the AGM and incorporated into the Strategic Plan)

1. National commission membership fees will be \$10 per senior member and FREE for junior members.
2. National records application fees will be \$10.
3. 50% of the profit (if applicable) from hosting the Australian Championships will be forwarded to the National Spearfishing Commission.
4. 50% of the profit (if applicable) from hosting the Australian Blue Water Classic will be forwarded to the National Spearfishing Commission.
5. A loan of up to \$2000 may be made to the host state for organisation of the Australian Championships by the National Spearfishing Commission (this loan should be repaid within 3 months together with a share of the profit- see 3)
6. The National Spearfishing Commission will provide a grant of \$1000 to support the Australian team competing in the annual Interpacific Championships. If Australia is hosting the event, an extra \$2000 will be provided to cover some organisation costs.
7. The National Spearfishing Commission will provide a grant of \$2000 and pay registration fees (estimated at \$4000) to support the Australian team competing in the World Championships.
8. The National Chairperson must seek the agreement of the majority of State/Territory Chairpersons where it is proposed to spend more than \$200 on any matter that has not been previously agreed or is not part of the agreed strategic plan.

This version of the BYLAWS was endorsed by all state Chairs and national spearfishing Chair on 30th March 2006.

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