



BRITISH
SPEARFISHING
ASSOCIATION

The British Spearfishing Association Constitution

2021



CONTENTS

<u>CONSTITUTION</u>	Pages 3 – 18
<u>CLUB RULES</u>	
RULES	Page 19
SAFETY	Page 19
CLUB OFFICER	Page 19
MEMBERSHIP	Page 19
BREACH OF RULES	Page 19
<u>NATIONAL COMPETITION RULES</u>	
COMPETITORS	Page 20
BEFORE THE COMPETITION	Page 21
DURING THE COMPETITION	Page 22
BOAT COMPETITIONS	Page 24
MEANS OF CATCHING FISH	Page 24
FISH	Page 25
LENGTH OR WEIGHT OF FISH PERMITTED	Page 26
POINTS ALLOCATED FOR FISH SPECIES	Page 28
PROTESTS	Page 28
CHAMPIONSHIPS	Page 29
SUPPORT VESSEL	Page 30
GENERAL	Page 30
<u>CODES OF PRACTICE</u>	Page 31
COMPETITION DATES	Page 31
WEATHER CONDITIONS	Page 32
BRIEFING	Page 32
COVER BOATS	Page 33
BEACH MARSHAL	Page 33
ADJUDICATING COMMITTEE	Page 34
RESULTS	Page 34
TROPHIES	Page 34
DISPOSAL OF FISH	Page 35
ACCOUNTS	Page 35
CONDUCT OF COMPETITORS	Page 35
<u>ANNEXES</u>	
1. Medical declaration	Page 36
2. Participant proforma	Page 37
3. Temporary membership form.	Page 38
4. List of BSA registered clubs	Page 39
5. National competition risk acceptance	Page 40





NAME

The association shall be called the British Spearfishing Association, (B.S.A.)

INTRODUCTION

The British Spearfishing Association (BSA) is a non-profit making organisation of strictly a civil nature. The BSA is the body which provides support and a united voice for all Spearfishers in the United Kingdom.

The BSA is not an organisation that promotes only competitive Spearfishing. Its primary focus is to facilitate the growth of Spearfishing at a grassroots and club level, as well as to protect the interests of our unique activity at a Government level.

The BSA is committed to building on positive publicity for Spearfishing and promoting environmental sustainability for future generations. The BSA is your voice when it comes to your rights as a Spearfisher within the United Kingdom and is concerned with administering all issues pertaining to the activity of Spearfishing.

The BSA is a member of the following organisations:

- CMAS (World Confederation of Underwater Activities) <https://www.cmas.org/cmas/about>
- BUSA (The British affiliate of CMAS)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Underwater_Sports_Association





AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ To support all forms of legal Spearfishing
- ✓ To lobby for Spearfishing rights, anti-pollution legislation and conservation of fish species and habitats
- ✓ To participate in and make representations for any Government agency policy making, as well as the subsequent consultation processes, which may affect directly or indirectly, Spearfishing within the United Kingdom
- ✓ Improving the image of Spearfishing in the eyes of the general public
- ✓ To discourage the catching or taking from the sea of any undersized or restricted species
- ✓ To report the taking of fish by illegal means
- ✓ To encourage and develop the practice of Spearfishing
- ✓ To discourage the use of artificial breathing aids when Spearfishing
- ✓ Administering and managing the British Spearfishing records' database
- ✓ To decide annually on the British Championships' format
- ✓ To coach and develop a National Squad to represent Great Britain in CMAS International events
- ✓ To encourage clubs to recruit members and train them in safe Spearfishing techniques and the safe use of the Sea
- ✓ To maintain and regularly review a BSA Code of Conduct





CODE OF CONDUCT:

- BSA members are to abide by the rules, policies and guidelines as detailed in the BSA Rules and Constitution
- Any member or Club reported behaving or communicating in a manner likely to bring the BSA into disrepute or having a detrimental effect on the BSA will answer to the BSA Committee
- BSA communicating policy: BSA members are prohibited from using any form of communication towards another person, club organisation or Governing body, directly or indirectly, which is harassing, discriminatory, menacing, threatening, obscene, defamatory, or offensive.





DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS:

- ❖ The BSA Committee will deal with breaches of the BSA Code of Conduct
- ❖ Any breaches of the Code by members or clubs must be reported in writing to the BSA Secretary (bsasecretary@underwaterfishing.co.uk)
- ❖ If a Committee hearing is deemed appropriate and proportionate - the Member or Club shall be given 14 days written notice to attend a hearing, which may be via remote platforms such as Microsoft Teams or Zoom. Details of the complaint made against the Club or individual shall be disclosed at this point. If Members are unwilling or unable to attend their hearing, they may elect to send a written statement.
- ❖ The member or Club shall be found to be in breach of the Code if at least two-thirds of the Committee Disciplinary Panel vote in favour of the Breach.
- ❖ If a Member or Club have been found to be in breach of the Code, the Committee can impose a fine of up to £200 and/or suspension for a period of time. In extreme circumstances, the member or Club may be expelled from the BSA
- ❖ Any Member or Club that has been expelled by the Committee can appeal at the AGM or Special General Meeting. In order to succeed, at least two-thirds of the Committee Members present must vote in favour of the appellant.





PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY:

- To establish information, reports and writings to publicise and inform others of spearfishing and its happenings.
- To establish and maintain good public relations towards other users of the sea professional and sporting.
- To communicate and co-operate with authorities dealing with the environment within the sea with particular reference to fish.

INSURANCE:

Members are covered for spearfishing both at club events and when spearfishing independently, subject to members adhering to the BSA guidelines and best practices laid out in the safety booklet at all times. The third-party liability insurance we provide is Civil Liability insurance so it covers all full members if they as individuals are sued or if they are sued as an organisation. The policy provides cover to pay compensation awarded by the court plus unlimited defence costs. Limit of indemnity £3,000,000 Jurisdiction Worldwide except North America and Canada. Any potential claims should be highlighted to the BSA as soon as possible to ensure we are within the time frame required to claim. The excess will be paid by the BSA at the discretion of the committee. If a genuine case is submitted then the BSA will support the member(s) involved. If any foul play or fraudulent claims are made then the BSA will not be held liable for any excess or financial expenses arising from the claim, and the member will incur a lifetime ban from the BSA if they are found to be using the insurance policy for personal gain with fraudulent claims. The insurance listed is purely for social use, under no circumstances is business or commercial activity covered within the policy.





MEMBERSHIP:

The membership is to be open to all interested in spearfishing.

Membership will be due for renewal 12 months after joining the BSA.

All persons less than fourteen years of age being thirteen shall be not eligible for membership.

Any person who wishes to become a member must pay an annual subscription and will not be entitle to insurance until the date the membership officer receives subscription payment.

The committee may refuse membership without explanation.

All members must complete a health declaration and a basic performance proforma on renewal of their membership yearly.

Types of membership:

- National members
- Junior National members (ages 14-19)
- Political members – access to email, website and social media updates, adding weight to the voice of the BSA on a political level
- Honorary members - competes in national championship, covered by insurance.
- One-day members - competing in one-day national, covered by Insurance for the day.

The committee shall determine the annual subscription fee from time to time in line with running costs and available insurance quotes.





MEMBERSHIP FEES:

- Full National Member: £25 – Includes Insurance, can enter nationals, Float number, All BSA Email groups.
- Full Junior Member – Free (Same benefits as full national member.)
- Honorary members – Free (Same benefits as full national member.)

The third-party liability insurance we provide is Civil Liability insurance so it covers all full members if they as individuals are sued or if they are sued as an organisation. The policy provides cover to pay compensation awarded by the court plus unlimited defence costs. Limit of indemnity £3,000,000 Jurisdiction Worldwide except North America and Canada

RESIGNATION:

A member shall cease to be a member if he or she gives written notice to the secretary of his resignation; subscription shall not be refundable.



BSA Committee 2021.



Chairman

Matt Newman

bsachairman@underwaterfishing.co.uk



Vice Chairman

Alan Stephens



Records Officer



Sa



General Committee / Club Officers





EXPULSION:

The committee shall have power to expel a member when, in their opinion, it would not be in the interests of the association for him to remain a member. Please see disciplinary proceedings for an explanation of how to appeal such a decision.

COMMITTEE:

The committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership secretary, Records office, Safety Officer, Team manager, elected General Members and Club Officers.

OFFICERS DUTIES:

Chairman:

- To chair all meetings of the association, except any subcommittee.
- To respond to any correspondence in a reasonable time.
- Represent the B.S.A. at B.U.S.A. meetings.
- Delegate any action he deems necessary.
- Reprimand any committee member for neglect of duty.
- Edit all correspondence representing the association.

Vice-chairman/Support Chairman.

- Chair meetings, in the Chairman's absence.
- Affect any rule changes allowed by the constitution.

Secretary:

- ✓ Take minutes of all association meetings.
- ✓ Send minutes and agenda to all committee officers, 7 days before committee meetings.
- ✓ Send minutes, agenda, and any proposed rule changes to membership 7 days before A.G. M.



Treasurer:

- Provide membership at AGM with loss and profit sheet and balance sheet
- Provide committee up to day accounts
- Membership secretary:
- Keep records of all members
- Collect and keep records of all subscriptions and pass on to Treasurer
- Inform record office and competition organisers of paid up members

Records officer:

- ❖ Keep records of all special catches including British Records
- ❖ Keep records of all total catches from competitions
- ❖ Keep records of all championships
- ❖ Update membership of championship progress, before next competition

Safety Officer:

- ✚ Has the power to call an adjudicating committee meeting at any competition for any safety issues.
- ✚ Bring VHF radios to competitions
- ✚ To send a competition organisation pack including safety form, loss and profit sheet
- ✚ General liaising with competition organisers including, advising of rule changes, liaise with organisers for revenue after the competition.

Team manager:

- Organise squad dives for top ten over 2-years
- Organise and manage British team for international competitions
- Select teams for international duty.

Team Selection Policy:

- The team manager or Acting team manager, shall select any interested national members, who's last two years results put them in the top twenty over that period. If due to lack of interest, selection may be extended to any interested members, however all team selections must be verified by the B.S.A. COMMITTEE. Any Committee Member who has an interest in team selection, may not be eligible to vote except the team manager or Acting team manager.



Property Officer:

- Responsible for the logistics of storing, maintaining and making available all property belonging to the BSA.
- Shall deal with the property as directed by resolution of the Committee and entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence of such a resolution.

General Committee Members:

- ✓ To support committee in any way possible.
- ✓ The committee members shall be proposed seconded and elected by vote at the annual general meeting each year and shall remain in office until their successors are elected at the next Annual General Meeting.
- ✓ Any vacancy occurring by resignation or otherwise may be filled by the committee.

Club Officers:

- ✓ To support committee in any way possible.
- ✓ Attend any Committee meetings held by the BSA
- ✓ Be the direct link between the Club and the Association
- ✓ Feed any arising issues up to the BSA.

Honorary Members:

- ✓ The Annual General Meeting if it thinks fit, may elect a President and vice-president. A President or vice-president need not be a member of the association and on election shall be an honorary member of the Association.
- ✓ The Committee may elect any person as an honorary member of the Association for such period as they think fit and they shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership except that they shall not be entitled to vote at meetings and serve on the Committee.



Committee Meetings:

Committee meetings shall be held not less than once every three months and the quorum of that meeting shall be (four). The Chairman and the Secretary shall have discretion to call further meetings of the committee if they consider it to be in the interests of the association. The Secretary shall give all the members of committee not less than seven days written notice of a meeting. A simple majority shall make decisions of the committee and in the event of equality of votes the Chairman (or the acting Chairman of that meeting) shall have a casting or additional vote. The Secretary, or in his absence a member of the Committee, shall take minutes.

In addition to the members so elected, the Committee may co-opt up to two further members of the association who shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting. Co-opted members shall be entitled to vote at the meetings of the Committee.

The Committee may from time to time appoint from among their number such subcommittees as they may consider necessary and may delegate to them such of the powers and duties of the Committee as the Committee may determine. All sub-committees shall periodically report their proceedings to the Committee and shall conduct their business in accordance with the directions of the Committee.

The Committee shall be responsible for the management of the Association and shall have sole right of appointing and determining the terms and conditions of service of employees of the association.

The Committee shall have power to enter into contracts for the purposes of the Association on behalf of all the members of the Association.



The members of the Committee shall be entitled to an indemnity out of the assets of the Association for all expenses and other liabilities properly incurred by them in the management of the affairs of the Association.

The meeting should be attended by all available committee, and all available Club Officers to discuss any arising issues.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held no later than November to transact the following business:

- Agree that last year's minutes are a true record.
- Any correspondence.
- Officers reports.
- To receive and consider the accounts
- Election of officers
- To decide on any motions which may be duly submitted in accordance with rule 15 b)
- Proposals for competition venues dates and back updates
- Any other business
- Notice of any motions proposed and seconded to be moved at the Annual General Meeting shall be given to the Secretary not less than 14 days before the meeting.
- Any motions not carried at General Meeting may not be proposed again for a period of thirteen months of any further General Meetings.
- Only national and local members who attend General Meetings may vote on motions.
- Any motions affecting competition rules at an Annual or Special Meetings shall be made by a simple majority of members present and in the event of equality of votes the Chairman (or the acting Chairman of the meeting) shall have a casting or additional vote. The Secretary, or in his absence, a member of the Committee, shall take minutes at the General Meeting.
- Any motions affecting constitution at an Annual or Special Meeting must be carried by a majority of at least {two- thirds} of members present at the General Meeting.



SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING:

The Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.

Special General Meeting shall be called within {28} days of receipt by the Secretary of a requisition in writing signed by not less than {one third} of membership, stating the purposes for which the meeting is required and their motions proposed.

The secretary shall send to each member (at his last known address) written notice of the date of the General Meeting together with the motions to be proposed there, at least {14} days before the meeting

The quorum for the annual and special General Meeting shall be {one fifth} of the membership.

BYE LAWS:

The Committee shall have the power to make, repeal and amend such bye-laws as they may from time to time consider necessary for the wellbeing of the association. Bye-laws, repeals and amendments shall remain in effect until set aside by the Committee or at a General Meeting.

FINANCE:

- All monies payable to the Association shall be received by the Treasurer and deposited in a bank account in the name of the Association. No sum shall be drawn from that account except by authorisation of two of the three signatories that shall be the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
- Any moneys not required for immediate use may be invested as the Committee in their discretion thinks fit.
- The income and property of the Association shall be applied only in furtherance of the objects of the
- Association and no part thereof shall be paid by way of bonus, dividend or profit to any members of the Association.



- The Committee shall have power to authorise the payment of remuneration and expenses to any officer, member or employee of the Association and to any other person or persons for services rendered to the Association.
- The financial transactions of the Association shall be recorded by the treasurer in such manner as the Committee thinks fit.

BORROWING:

The Committee may borrow money on behalf of the Association for the purposes of the Association from time to time at their own discretion for the general upkeep of the Association or with the sanction of General Meeting for any other expenditure, additions or improvements.

When so borrowing the Committee shall have power to raise in any way any sum or sums of money and to raise and secure the repayment of any sum or sums of money in such manner or on such terms and conditions as they think fit, and in particular by mortgage of or charge upon or by the issues of debentures charged upon all or any part of the property of the Association.

The Committee shall have no power to pledge the personal liability of any member of the Association for the repayment of any sums so borrowed.

The Custodians shall at the discretion of the Committee, make such dispositions of the Association, property or any part thereof, and enter into and execute such agreements and instruments in relation thereto as the Committee may deem proper for giving security for such monies and the

interest payable thereon.



PROPERTY:

The property of the Association, other than cash at the bank, shall be vested in not more than four Custodians. They shall deal with the property as directed by resolution of the Committee and entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence of such a resolution.

The Custodians shall be elected at a General Meeting of the Association and shall hold office until death or resignation unless removed by a resolution passed at a General Meeting.

DISSOLUTION:

A motion to dissolve the Association shall only be proposed at a Special general meeting and shall be carried by a majority of at least [three-quarters] of the members present. The dissolution shall take effect from the date of the resolution and the members of the Committee shall be responsible for the winding-up of the assets and liabilities of the Association.

Any property remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Association shall be divided equally among the members of the Association at the date of dissolution.



CLUB RULES

1.RULES

All clubs under the BSA are to adhere to the rules set out by the BSA at all times.

If required the club can implement further restrictions and rules within the club, however the BSA rules are a minimum to be adhered to. If implementing further rules, the rules are to be forwarded onto the BSA committee.

2.SAFETY

It is the responsibility of the individual club to produce a risk assessment and implement the required safety steps for each club meet. All risk assessments are to be forwarded onto the Safety Officer two weeks prior to the event.

For national competitions the local club is to supply a support boat , or if non practical, the local club are required to produce and retain a safety waiver that is to be completed by competitors.

3.CLUB OFFICER

Each club under the BSA is to nominate a Club Officer, those elected will be on the main BSA Committee and will be the direct link between the clubs and the Association.

Each Club Officer is to attend the committee meetings held by the Association.

4.MEMBERSHIP

Each club is to ensure all members participating in an event are full BSA members.

5.BREACH OF RULES

Any club not adhering to the rules will result in the insurance becoming invalid or void

If a club breaches the rules, the required action will be decided upon by the BSA Committee. This could result in the club no longer being registered with the BSA.



RULES GOVERNING NATIONAL SPEARFISHING COMPETITIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

1. COMPETITORS

- a) The B.S.A. or the competition organisers must issue all competitors with a competition Float number.
- b) Any competitor wishing to take part in a National Competition must, in addition to his competitive membership fee or one day subscription fee, pay an additional amount representing a competition entry fee. This must be paid to the competition organisers PRIOR to the start of the competition. Any competitor who has not paid prior to starting a competition shall be disqualified from that competition. Juniors or members over 75 do not have to pay any entrance fee but must still register with competition organisers.
- c) Any competitor wishing to take part in a National Competition, who is not a current fully paid-up competitive member of the B.S.A. shall be permitted to compete if they pay a one-day subscription fee (to cover insurance costs) in addition to the competition entry fee. The result on the day will count for that competition, however, will not be used in the championships.
- e) All competitors must be 14 years of age on the date of the first national competition.
- f) Those aged 14 and above but under 18-years-old ('juniors') on the date of the first national competition of the season must have written permission from a parent or guardian on the entrance form provided. This form must be completed before the start of the season and retained by the Membership Secretary. Proof of age via valid photo ID will be required if a competitor appears to be under the age of 21.
- g) Teams shall consist of three competitors. A competitor may fish for only one team in any competition year.



2. BEFORE THE COMPETITION

- a)** Competition Organizers must provide details of their competition, including the Designated Competition Area (DCA). The DCA may only be altered with the permission of the BSA committee, however, the DCA may not be altered within 4 weeks of the competition date. (except as required due to weather conditions: see section 11 Weather Conditions for rules on changes due to weather conditions).
- b)** The Competition details shall clearly describe the DCA and specify any areas that would be out of bounds to competitors.
- c)** The D.C.A. must not extend beyond that designated to be covered by cover boats.
- d)** Competition organisers must designate a starting and a finishing area for the competition. These will be called the 'D.S.A.' and the 'D.F.A.' respectively.
- e)** No competitor shall be permitted to fish or take a gun in the water while in the D.C.A, up to and including, 5 days prior to a competition. Any competitor found or proved to have been in contravention of this clause will not be eligible to compete in that competition.
- f)** No competitor shall be permitted to swim or scout in the D.C.A. thirty hours prior to the start of a competition, any competitor found or proved to be in contravention of this clause will not be eligible to compete in that competition.
- g)** Any competitor found or proved to be placing markers within the D.C.A. designed to give assistance to that or another competitor will be disqualified from that competition. An incident of this nature will also render the competitors' liable to investigation by the B.S.A. and the appropriate sanctions will be imposed.

h) Competition organisers are to complete a National competition risk acceptance form (Annex 4). This form is to be completed by the club chairman and over signed by the BSA safety officer 2 weeks prior to a national competition.

i) All competitors are to sign the National competition risk acceptance form (Annex 4) prior to the start of the competition to acknowledge they are aware of the risk involved.

j) An up-to-date copy of the Competition Rules can be found on the BSA website



I) DURING THE COMPETITION

Electronic equipment may be used in all competition organised by the BSA.

- a) All competitors must start at the D.S.A. with full spearfishing equipment.
- b) Competitors may make for their selected site by walking, running, or swimming immediately after the start of the competition.
- c) No competitor will be allowed to start the competition from a boat, or have the use of a boat other than when allowed by the competition organisers.
- d) Anyone fishing outside of the D.C.A. during a competition will be disqualified from that competition and from the **ensuing two competitions**.
- e) A competitor must return himself and his catch, float and guns to the D.F.A. by his own physical efforts (by whatever means available) before the official finishing time. He must sign out as soon as possible on leaving the water.
- f) Any competitor arriving back at the D.F.A. after the official finishing time will be penalised as follows: -
 - Up to and including 10 minutes after the finishing time, his score will be halved.
 - After 11 minutes of the finishing time he will be disqualified.
 - The competition organisers at the beginning of each competition will set the official finishing time.
- g) The competitor must be immersed in the water at the time of spearing any fish.
- h) Fish stringers can only be carried on floats, (Plats or boards)

i) During a competition all competitors must use a marker buoy, plat or board. The buoy must have a minimum volume of 5 litres. Plats and boards must be of a type and size designed to carry one person only and must not exceed the following sizes by more than 10%. Length 70cm. to 132cm. Width 40cm. to 66cm. Depth 7cm. to 33cm. Propulsion by swimming fins only. Marker buoys, plats and boards must carry an "A" flag of at least



15cm. X 15cm. If a plat or board is used, the flag must be fixed to the top of a 1000mm. Pole.

j) All floats, plats and boards must carry competitors individual float number, (minimum size 75mm).

k) All competitors must carry a working compass, either on their floats, boards or person during a National Competition.

l) No loaded gun to be carried on float/Plat or board under any circumstances & all spears being carried on a float or board must have their points covered at all times.

m) All competitors must fish within a 25metre radius of their float, (measured across the surface)

n) No breathing apparatus other than a snorkel will be permitted.

o) A competitor may come ashore as often as he wishes but he will not be permitted to use any means of transport to return to the D.S.A. other than that provided by the competition organisers.

p) A competitor who aids another competitor in catching a fish in any way will be entitled to 50% of the points for that fish.

q) No lures of any description are permitted to attract fish.

r) Any competitor helping another competitor in the case of injury or exhaustion will be entitled to 50% of the total point's value of the others' catch at that time.

s) The passing of fish between competitors will result in the disqualification of the competitors involved. An incident of this nature will also render the competitors' liable to investigation by the B.S.A. and the appropriate sanctions will be imposed.

t) If during the competition the organisers decide to call time early, due to extreme bad weather and 75% of the competition time has passed then the competition will still be valid



u) Competitors are responsible for their fish until they have accepted the official decision of the records officer or adjudicating committee.

v) Any competitor who is transported by any boat after the start of a competition will be disqualified. A cover boatman can insist on moving a competitor on safety grounds without the competitor being penalised, the reason for the movement must be reported to the competition organisers.

BOAT COMPETITIONS

a) In a National Boat Competition, no competitor is to start the competition by walking or running away from the D.S.A. Otherwise the conditions contained in Clause 3d above shall apply.

b) Competitors can only be transported by a boat to the (DSA). Competitors can only leave transporting boats after reaching the (DSA) and only after the start of the competition. Any competitor who is transported after starting competition Rule 3. v) will apply unless he has signed out. If a competitor is transported after reaching the start area he will not be allowed to enter and will be treated as a boatman in the COMPETITION CODE.

MEANS OF CATCHING FISH

a) It is not permitted to use any means to catch fish other than by knife, hand-spear or a spear expelled by a gun using compressed air, spring or rubber.

b) No cartridge or expellable gas guns may be used.

c) Guns must not be loaded on the beach or in a boat, and must be unloaded before leaving the water.



FISH

a) To qualify, a fish must be caught in the D.C.A. within the time limits set for the competition by the organisers and be above legal local and/or national limits.

The following species of fish are NOT PERMITTED: -

Weaver	Electric Ray
Sting Ray	Lump-sucker
Silver eel	Salmon
Sea Trout	Sunfish
Sharks (on health & Safety)	
Allis	Shad
Twaite	Bluefin Tuna

b) A maximum of 10 fish per species per competitor will apply unless the Competition Organiser has BSA Committee approval to apply a lower limit on specific species.

i) Lesser Spotted Dogfish and Bull Huss will be limited to 2 per species unless BSA Committee approval has been obtained.

- ii) Congers can be included at the discretion of the Competition Organiser.
- iii) Competitors may bring a maximum of ten fish per species to the weigh-in.
- c) Competition Organisers and Competitors must comply with any official restrictions on fish species that may currently be in force.
- d) All fish must be weighed-in once the competition has finished.
- e) The competition organisers must weigh the fish.



- f) If a competitor finishes after the expiry of the time limits set by the competition organisers, Rule 3. f) Will apply.
- g) A balance scale will be used to weigh all fish, save that any fish appearing to the competition organisers to be just permissible under Rule 7. a) Will be measured or weighed using a digital scale.
- h) Any fish brought in by a competitor who is disqualified will not be weighed or recorded for points, but may be weighed for any British records.
- i) Where possible all fish of the same species are to be weighed in bulk.
- j) Specimen fish are to be weighed separately.
- k) Fish brought to the scales which are more than 2cm below the minimum length will incur a 1000-point penalty.

LENGTH OR WEIGHT OF FISH PERMITTED

a) Unless otherwise stated in Rule 7, the length of any fish will be measured by placing the tip of the snout to the front or zero mark and measuring to the end of the tail fin using special linear devices supplied or approved by the records officer or acting records officer.

b) The Records Officer or acting Records Officer will have the final decision in any dispute about any fish length or weight.

c) If the Records Officer is not available to oversee the weigh in, then the majority of competitors shall elect an acting Records Officer.

d) The minimum length or weight of permitted species is as follows: -



Bass - 420 mm. in areas where this is permissible, all other areas fish shall measure 450 mm.

*Trigger fish to longest point of the fish

280 mm.	320 mm.	360 mm.	380 mm.	400 mm.	420 mm.	450 mm.	4 kilograms
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Black Bream Gurnard Mackerel Pout Red Mullet Scad	Flounder	Brill Plaice Pollack Sole *Trigger Fish Turbot Wrasse All Flat Fish John Dory	Gold spot mullet	Cod	Grey Mullet family	Garfish Skate and Ray (across the wings) Bass	Conger Eel
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- i) Wrasse 360 mm Competition organisers have the discretion to set the length above 360 mm.
- ii) Where the competition organiser has decreed the length of wrasse to be above 360 mm, the notice of competition must state this.
- iii) Any fish not listed shall be a minimum of 280mm. or legal minimum size if this is greater than 280mm.

e) Competition Organisers may reduce fish lengths & weight restrictions for junior competitors only. However, any reduction must still comply with minimum requirements by local fisheries. In addition, points issued to these fish can only be used for the Junior Championships and not Senior or Team Championships.



POINTS ALLOCATED FOR FISH SPECIES

- a)
 - i) Round fish 1000 points per fish PLUS 1 point per gram (no maximum).
 - ii) Bottom fish/Sharks/Rays 500 points per fish PLUS 0.5 points per gram Dogfish & Flounders (up to a maximum of 2500 total).

- iii) Flat fish 1000 points per fish PLUS 1 point per gram except Flounders (see 8a ii).
- iv) Conger Eel as per flat fish (up to a maximum of 3000 total).
- v) Wrasse 1000 points per fish PLUS 1 point per gram Competition Organisers have the discretion to reduce points to half points.
- vi) Triggerfish 1000 points per fish PLUS 1 point per gram however Competition Organisers have the discretion to reduce points to half points.

b) A competitor is entitled to bonus points in the following order:

- i) 2 weighing species 1000 points bonus.
- ii) 3 weighing species 2000 points bonus
- iii) 4 weighing species 3000 points bonus and so on.

PROTESTS

a) Any competitor wishing to lodge a complaint must notify the Competition Organisers in writing prior to the prize giving event for that competition.

b) Upon receipt of protest the Competition Organisers must call for an Adjudicator Committee in accordance with the Codes attached hereto.



CHAMPIONSHIPS

a) **Individual:** for male and female minimum age 14 years with parental permission until 18 years **Individual Junior Championship:** for male and female competitors, aged

14 and above and below 18. Parental permission required up to 18 years.
Photographic ID is required for any competitor who appears to be under the age of 21.

b) **Junior:** for male and female 14 years to 17 years with parental permission

c) **Team:** for any three individuals, who have registered with competition organisers, before the National Competition starts, stating which team name they want to compete under. Teams must comply with rule 1 h).

d) **Individual and Junior Championships:** the competitor, who's catch, gains the highest points under section 8, shall be deemed winner of that National Competition, subject to section 1 and 11 b) and shall be awarded 100 percent for that round. All other competitors' points, subject to 1. and 11 b) shall be used to calculate a percentage of the winning individuals' points.

e) **Team Championship.** All individuals registered to a team name, will have their points added together. The team with the highest number of points, allocated by section 8, shall be deemed winners of that National Competition, subject to section 1 and 11 b) and shall be awarded 100 percent for that round. All

other teams' points shall be used to calculate a percentage of the winning teams score, subject to section 1 and 11. b).

f) **Individual, Junior, and Team Championships,** the winning National Champions shall be those, after all rounds percentages have been added together are the highest, second highest shall be second and so on, only one round will be dropped from national calendar, minimum results shall be three.



The BSA will organise a National Boat Championship annually. The Championship will be open to all BSA members. The Championship will be held over one weekend and may be of 1 or 2 days of competition.

11.SUPPORT VESSEL:

Where possible a support vessel should be used, maintaining communication between the vessel and members on the shore, to maximise the safety of the competitors. Where this is not possible a waiver will be signed by all competitors to state that they understand the risks involved and that they wish to proceed with participating in the event using the safety precautions put into place as listed in clause a.

- a) Where a support vessel is not available, divers will continue to participate at their own risk. There will be a sign-in and sign-out process to ensure all participants' whereabouts are accounted for throughout the duration of the competition, as far as can be reasonably assumed and tracked. We advise all participants to keep an eye on other competitors whilst maintaining the safe distance of 25 meters between divers, with the exception of emergency situations and adverse weather conditions, where we advise divers to remain close together and make their way back to shore.

12.GENERAL

- a) The competition rules contained herein must be available from the competition organiser for one hour prior to the start of the competition, including any safety precautions identified specific to the competition site and conditions on the day.
- b) The results of all BSA competitive members will be used in the calculation of results for the British National Championships.
- c) Any B.S.A. member eligible for the International Squad must donate their fish for B.S.A. funds. Any squad member who does not so donate will not be eligible for the International Squad for the ensuing two years.
- d) Unless expressly stated otherwise in the above clauses, any breach of these rules will result in the absolute disqualification of the offending competitor.



- e) Alteration of the rules and the codes will not be permitted save by Ordinary Resolution in General Meeting in accordance with the B.S.A. Constitution attached

hereto.

f) The Competition Calendar will consist of 4 Nationals with the best 3 percentages counting towards the National Championships.

COMPETITION CODE

The B.S.A. has adopted the following codes of practice:

“The Code” should be read in conjunction with the B.S.A Rules, to govern National Spearfishing Competitions for organisers & competitors in Great Britain, and any club not abiding by either the Rules or the Codes will not be permitted to hold a competition in the following year.

COMPETITION DATES

- Dates for all National Competitions shall be proposed at AGM and ratified at the first B.S.A. Committee meeting to be held after the AGM. Only four dates will be allowed for National championships and only three results will be used.
- No National competition is to be held on a week day, i.e. all competitions to be run on a Sat/Sun with the exception of a bank holidays.
- Back-up dates for all National Competitions shall be ratified at the first B.S.A. Committee meeting to be held after the AGM
- Competition organisers may apply to the committee to use only one of the unused competitions back-up dates, and then only after they have been unsuccessful in running their competition with their previous two dates.



- There shall be no alteration to these dates once set, unless under Code 2 or a decision of a Committee meeting.
- The B.S.A. Secretary must send to Club committee members a competition organisers pack, containing updated rules and codes, account sheet and entry register. This should be no later than 1 month before their National Competition.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Where serious doubt exists as to the possibility of holding a National Competition the organisers must make a decision and notify all competing clubs no later than 7pm on the evening before the competition.

If the weather causes alterations to the competition venue within the preceding 48 hours of the competition but it is feasible to hold a competition, the starting time and the competition duration may be changed at the discretion of the competition organisers.

In the event of a change of venue within 24hr of the designated start time, the competition organizers shall ensure that someone is present at the original DSA to inform those who may not be aware of the change.

BRIEFING

The competition organisers will brief all competitors no later than 10 minutes before the start of the competition from the D.S.A. The briefing must state the start and finish time of the competition. In addition, the present official time being held

by the Beach Marshal.

- The briefing will explain any fish restriction and point's allocation allowed under rules 6, 7, & 8
- The briefing will explain the DSA, DFA and DCA



- The briefing will explain the tides and currents expected during the event

COVER BOATS

- There must be a minimum of two cover boats one of, which must be capable of staying in the D.C.A. to recall or to collect competitors in the case of bad weather.
- Cover boatmen will have the power to warn competitors of any potential breaches of competition rules, and report any breaches to the Beach marshal.
- Cover boatmen must at all-time be in-communication with a Beach marshal. Cover boatman must not Spearfish in the D.C.A. during the Competition
- A nominated Cover boatman will take over the Beach marshal's responsibilities at all official boat competition and if the Beach marshal becomes unavailable.

BEACH MARSHAL

- ❖ The competition organisers must appoint a person to be a Beach marshal, the marshal should preferable not be a competitor and will be clearly identified to all competitors.
- ❖ The Beach marshal shall be responsible for signing in and out competitors The Beach marshal will keep the official time and start the competition

- ❖ The Beach marshal shall at all time have the use of a VHF radio for emergencies. The Beach marshal must be able to communication with both Cover boatmen
- ❖ The Beach marshal shall report any breaches of the competition rules by competitors to the competition organisers.



ADJUDICATING COMMITTEE

The B.S.A. committee members present at any National competition shall form an adjudicating committee if required.

The job of the adjudicating committee is to ensure that the competition is run according to the Rules and the Code of Practice herein. The competition organiser must ensure that the adjudicating committee has all the evidence necessary to make a decision.

If the adjudicating committee has been advised by the organiser of protest under Rule 9. b) They shall settle the matter.

RESULTS

A list of results is to be compiled by the competition organiser and must be available for inspection prior to the prize-giving event for that competition.

The results of all competitions must be sent to the B.S.A. Records Officer for ratification within 2 weeks of the competition being held.

TROPHIES

The minimum trophies to be awarded are as follows: -

Individual 1st to 5th place

1st Team

1st Junior

Heaviest Round Fish

Heaviest Flat Fish

Specimen Fish



DISPOSAL OF FISH

- a) The competition organisers must, prior to the competition, arrange for the useful disposal of all fish caught during the competition, which the competitors do not wish to retain. This clause is subject to the provisions contained in Rule 10. C).

'Useful' disposal does not include deliberate waste, which will be considered a breach of this Code. An incident of this nature will therefore render the competition organisers liable to investigation by the B.S.A. and the appropriate sanctions will be imposed.

ACCOUNTS

The competition organiser must complete a competition accounts sheet after each competition, representing fees received; and £5.00 levy's and donations from fish less competition expenses.

Any levy's, donations for fish must be donated to B.S.A. team funds held by the Treasurer, competition organisers may use competition funds to balance expenses.

CONDUCT OF COMPETITORS

Any competitor or organiser found or proved to have caused damage to property, or behaving in a manner likely to bring spearfishing into disrepute or having a detrimental effect on the sport, will answer to the B.S.A. committee.

An incident of this nature will render the offender liable to investigation by the B.S.A. committee and the appropriate sanctions will be imposed. Proven misdemeanours may result in the offender being expelled from the B.S.A.

ANNEX 1- British Spearfishing Association health declaration.

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Name:		Date of birth:
Address:		
Postcode:	Contact number	Club:
Next of kin name:		Next of kin contact number
Float Number (if temporary member club committee are to issue a temporary number)		

	Have you ever had, or suffered from-	Yes	No
1	Diseases of the heart and circulation including high blood pressure (or taking tablets for high blood pressure), angina, chest pains or palpitations?		
2	Chest or heart surgery?		
3	Significant bleeding or blood disorders?		
4	Asthma, chronic obstructive airways disease or ever used an inhaler?		
5	Collapsed lung, pneumothorax or any other lung injury?		
6	Any other problem affecting the lungs, suspected or known COVID-19 or tested positive for COVID-19?		
7	Blackouts, fainting or recurrent dizziness?		
8	Epilepsy or fits?		
9	Recurrent migraines?		
10	Disease of the brain or nervous system (including strokes or multiple sclerosis)?		
11	Back or spinal surgery or any serious back problems?		
12	Diabetes?		
13	A requirement for any prescribed medication (except the contraceptive pill)?		
14	Have you had regular ear problems in the past ten years?		
15	Have you had a head injury with loss of consciousness in the past 5 years?		
16	Are you currently receiving medical care or have you consulted a doctor in the last year other than for mild self-limiting illnesses that have completely resolved?		
17	Are you concerned about any other medical issue that has not been covered by the questions on this page?		

I, the subject of this medical, am signing to certify that I have declared everything and understand that failure to do so may put myself and/or buddy at risk of harm or death

If yes has been ticked for any of the above boxes, consult with your local GP or doctor before taking out membership. Failure to declare any current or previous medical conditions could result in the members insurance to become invalid or void.

Signed:

(Signature of Parent or Guardian if under the age of 18)

Date:

ANNEX 2- British Spearfishing Association participant declaration.

	Is the member competent in the following areas?	Yes	No
1	Able to swim a minimum of 200 meters without fins?		
2	In a generally good health and physical state to allow you carry out spearfishing?		
3	Are you in possession of a surface marker buoy with an Alpha flag?		
4	Aware that you have to remain within 25 meters of your marker buoy at all times?		
5	Aware that you have stay a minimum of 25 meters from another member's position while spearfishing (not including your spearfishing partner)?		
6	In possession of a waterproof compass while spearfishing?		
7	In possession of the minimum basic kit required for spearfishing? (wetsuit, mask and snorkel, fins and safety knife)		
8	Understand the importance of only loading your speargun in the water?		
9	Understand the importance of unloading a speargun before exiting the water?		
10	Have read the British spearfishing Association safety booklet and understand all aspects of the safety guide?		
11	Have read the latest up to date version of the British Spearfishing Associations rules and constitution?		
12	Aware of any local byelaws and protected species?		
13	Fully understand that my membership with the BSA is purely for recreational use and not for commercial use.		

I, the subject of this participant declaration, am signing to certify that I have basic understanding in all the areas listed above, and that I am not hiding any information from the committee of the BSA. By signing this agreement, I fully understand that failure to highlight a lack of competency could result in my insurance being invalid or void.

Signed:

(Signature of Parent or Guardian if under the age of 18)

Date:

ANNEX 3- Temporary membership form.

Name:		D.O.B	
Address:		Postcode	
Email address			
Phone number			
Next of kin name		Next of kin phone number	
Date of event		Location of event	Time of event
			from To
Parent/ Guardian details if under 18 years old			
Name		Relation to participant	

PARENT / GUARDIAN DISCLAIMER (for Juniors only)

I being the above-named Parent/Guardian here by state that, I am aware of the level of Competence required to participate in spearfishing events and competitions and give permission for the above-named junior to participate in the event as detailed.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____

DECLARATION & DISCLAIMER

I hereby declare that the information above is accurate and that I agree to abide by the Rules, codes and guides laid down by the B.S.A at all times. I understand that Spearfishing, Snorkeling and Freediving are all activities that involve an element of risk. By signing this application form, I accept all responsibility and all liability for my own safety.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____

To be completed by Club Committee.

Club	
Temporary float number	

Once completed, a copy of this form is to be emailed to membership@underwaterfishing.co.uk and the original document is to be held by the club for the duration of the season.

ANNEX 4- BSA Registered clubs.

Cornwall

Club Officer: Matt Coombe
Email: Cornwallspearfishing@gmail.com

Dorset

Club Officer: Aidan Meredith
Email: bsadorset@gmail.com

Exe spearfishing club

Club Officer: Maxime Blondel
Email: Exespearfishingclub2020@outlook.com

Forces Spearfishing Club¹

Club Officer: Dan Newman
Email: forcesspearfishingclub@gmail.com

London International Club

Club Officer: Ralph Fearnhead
Email: info@spearfishing.org.uk

Spearfish Scotland Club

Club Officer: Russell Henderson
Email: hello@spearfishscotland.com

Sussex / Southsea

Club Officer: Graham Worley
Email:

¹ Not officially recognised by the UK Armed forces sports board (As ap 12/03/2021)

ANNEX 5-National competition risk acceptance.

The aim of this document is to highlight all safety processes implemented for the national competition. Each participant is to read and sign the document. By signing the reverse, you are stating you are happy with the safety processes implemented and the risk involved with national spearfishing competitions. You are also signing to confirm you are happy with the safety brief or presentation carried out.

Date of event:	Venue:	Hosting Club:	Competition time:	
			From:	Until:
Competition boundary				
High tide:			Low tide:	
Safety measures implemented:				
Cover boat details:				
Name:		Phone number:		
Safety brief key points:				

Once completed by the club chairman, the BSA safety officer is to verify and sign for acceptance of this document.

Club chairman name:		BSA Safety officer name:	
Date the document was produced:		Verified date:	
Signature:		Signature:	

