



Commencing in 2018 the State Spearfishing Titles shall be contested in the True Pair format with the following competition categories available: (Note Rule 5 applies to all categories below.)

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>TROPHIES</b>
<b>SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP OF WA</b>	Open category Any age, sex, club combination	<i>Championship shield &amp; runner-up medals</i>
<b>VETERAN SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP OF WA</b>	45 years or older pair Any sex, club combination	<i>Veterans' shield</i>
<b>LADIES SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP OF WA</b>	All female pair Any age, club combination	<i>Ladies' shield</i>
<b>JUNIOR SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP OF WA</b>	15-17 years of age pair Any sex, club combination	<i>Junior Shield</i>
<b>SUB-JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP OF WA (adult/child)</b>	<15 paired with an adult (>17) The adult is permitted to load guns and spear fish, with the resultant score still being called Sub-Junior	<i>TBA Shield</i>
<b>CLUB PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP OF WA</b>	Same club pairs (rules 64 & 65) Nomination required Any age, sex combination	<i>Pairs trophy</i>
<b>CLUB TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP OF WA</b>	2 x same club pairs Nomination required Any age, sex combination	<i>TBA shield</i>
<b>POSEIDON CUP</b>	Top 2 same club pairs Nomination not required Any age, sex combination	<i>TBA Cup</i>

*N.B. A pair may win both their age category and the open category, and a pair of ladies may also win the ladies category. Intermediate, Senior and Master divisions are no longer contested separately.*

**"A" SECTION RULES OF SPEARFISHING COMPETITION**

**(Specific to True Pairs)**

1. A True Pair shall tow a single float with two tethers attached. The longer tether shall be no longer than 40m (recommended length equal to the comfortable diving depth of the shallowest diver in the pair + 5m) and the shorter tether shall be no longer than 4m.
2. Neither diver (or observer) may leave the immediate vicinity of their float.
3. At least one diver of the True Pair (or the observer) must remain on the surface at all times.
4. A True Pair shall at all times operate in such a manner that each diver (or observer) shall actively monitor their partner.
5. A diver in any category may compete alone provided they are accompanied by an observer. This may be an advantage in qualifying for Ladies, Veterans or Juniors. An observer must tow a separate float and may carry a speargun. The observer may provide the gun or other equipment to the competitor but can provide no other assistance. No diver at the State Titles shall be permitted to swim alone.

**(In general)**

1. Competitors must tow a float in all events. Such floats must have a positive buoyancy of 7kg or more and be coloured yellow, orange or red. It must clearly display a Flag "A" at least 200mm above the surface of the water.
2. There is no maximum size on personal floats, but the competitor must not use the float to aid swimming by lying on, or otherwise lifting the body out of the water, or partially out of the water.
3. Each competitor must carry a knife.
4. Each competitor or pair must carry both a whistle and an orange sheet of plastic as a distress signal (minimum 1.0 X 0.5m.).



5. Each competitor or True Pair must carry at least one of the following; a signal mirror, flare, or emergency laser signalling device. In addition, the competitor may also carry a personal EPIRB. The competitor is responsible for the registration and deployment of the EPIRB if carried.
6. A torch may be used and may be carried as a safety precaution.
7. In water handheld GPS or similar devices are prohibited except for safety devices that incorporate a GPS function provided they cannot be used as a navigational aid.
8. A Shark Shield or other such device may be used.
9. Competitors shall not load their guns out of water.
10. Competitors shall not carry loaded spearguns on floats.
11. Spearheads, when not in use, shall be sheathed in an adequate manner.
12. Competitors will dispose of all fish refuse in a clean and tidy manner.
13. When not diving under the True Pairs format, it is highly recommended that competitors dive within visual and communication distance from another competitor as a safety precaution. No assistance is permitted other than to keep sharks away.
14. All competitors must sign on at the commencement of each competition and sign off at the conclusion of each competition.
15. There are two systems which can be used for those late back:
  - a) Competitors who have not reached the designated finish point by the conclusion of the competition will be disqualified (default).
  - b) Competitors who reach the designated sign off point less than 5 minutes late are penalised 100 points. Those between 5 and 10 minutes late are penalised 200 points. Those who are later than 10 minutes are disqualified (alternative to be adopted before competition).
16. Fish, which are not in the hands of Competition Officials, must be with the Competitor at sign-off or shall be disqualified from Weigh-in.
17. It is the responsibility of the Competitor or the Competitor's agent to be present when the Competitor's fish are weighed.
18. In the event of a tie, the position shall be decided by a count back system on the basis of species first and weight second.
19. Eligible species (specific species provided in associated score sheet):

Species of the sub-class Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes) are eligible with the following exceptions:

- Order sygnathiformes - Pipefishes and allies, excluding the families Aulostomidae (Trumpetfishes) and Fistulariidae (Flutemouths)
- Order Tetraodontiformes - Toadfish, Boxfish, Sunfish and allies, excluding families Monacanthidae (Leatherjackets) and Balistidae (Triggerfishes)
- Others specified in the "B" Section Rules (set by the Host Club.)

20. Fish that are protected under State or Federal Government regulations at the location of the Competition are ineligible.
21. Only one of each species shall be considered when compiling individual or True Pair scores.
22. The Host Club's score sheet shall be used provided it does not contravene the "A" Section Rules.
23. The Host Club shall provide a receptacle of water at the weigh-in point so that foreign matter can be removed from fish before weighing OR the fish are to be cleaned at sea.
24. A duplicate of the Competitor's score sheet, or viewing of the original score sheet, will be available to the Competitor 30 minutes after the conclusion of the weigh-in.
25. All fish must be captured by the Competitor using spear, speargun or similar device.
26. The use of spearguns fired by the discharge of compressed gases is forbidden (compressed air guns are okay provided the gas is not released on firing.) The use of powerheads, poisons and electricity for the taking of fish are also forbidden.
27. No breathing aid, other than a snorkel, shall be permitted.
28. Competitors must be immersed in the water at the time of spearing the fish.



29. Fish speared in traps, nets or on lines are ineligible.
30. All fish shall remain the property and responsibility of the Competitor. At the Host Club's discretion, the Host Club may accept donations of fish to the Host Club or for charity. Officials may be appointed as required.
31. All Competitions shall be a minimum of 4 hours duration.
32. The Time Keeper's decision as to starting and finishing times shall be final.
33. Where applicable, general area limits shall be defined by the Host Club on the nomination form, and definite area limits shall be defined no sooner than 12 hours before the commencement of the Competition.
34. Mobile safety boats, if used, will not accept fish, and should they assist any Competitor, the Competitor will be disqualified.
35. Fish drop-off boats, if used, may be anchored at points designated at the official briefing. It is intended the drop-off boat should remain there for the duration of the event, but the drop-off boat remains under the control of its Skipper, and should the need arise, in the Skipper's opinion, the boat may move its location or undertake another task to the benefit or detriment of all competitors. No protest will be entered into on this matter.