

# International Rules

## Underwater Target Shooting

### ARTICLE 1 – DEFINITION

Underwater Target Shooting is a sporting discipline performed in the swimming pool by an athlete kitted out as per the provisions of article 9 herein, swimming and staying under water without the aid of breathing apparatus.

Target Shooting specialities are:

- Precision
- Biathlon;
- Relay.

The Precision and Biathlon specialities have two distinct categories: men's and women's.

The Relay event has mixed teams:

Men's/Women's.

The events are: individual and team.

Individual and team events are staged during the same event, from a minimum of one day to a maximum of two days.

Prior to the start of each competition a practice session is envisaged, with minimum sessions of 15 minutes, depending on the number of athletes present in each lane during practice.

Each competitor must be in possession of the C.M.A.S. Sports Licence.

### ARTICLE 2 – INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

The specialities are:

- Precision
- Biathlon

A men's title and women's title will be awarded according to the ranking of each speciality.

### ARTICLE 3 – NON-INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

The speciality is:

- Relay

Each Nation may enter up to two teams in the Relay event, each made up of three competitors, or, alternatively, one team only made up of two competitors, if only two are actually present.

### ARTICLE 4 – VENUE

Events will be staged in a swimming pool having a water temperature of 23°C +/-5°C.

The minimum pool size shall be 10 x 25 metres, with a minimum depth of 1.80 metres and a maximum depth of 5 metres.

Non-standard pool sizes must be approved by the International Underwater Target Shooting Commission.

### ARTICLE 5 – VENUE ORGANISATION

The competition venue shall be arranged as follows:

Security area: the water area behind the targets where no one is allowed to stay or pass by.

Competition area: the water area reserved for competitors when actually competing.

Preparation area: the water area situated before the competition area and used by athletes to wait for their turn.

Warm-up area: the water area used by athletes to warm up before the competition.

**IT IS FORBIDDEN TO LOAD THE SPEARGUN IN ANY PART OF THE SWIMMING POOL, EXCEPT DURING THE COMPETITION, WITHIN THE COMPETITION AREA.**

Arrangement of competition venue.

Target "A" Plan

Shooting line "B"

Start Line "C"

Line demarcating preparation area "D"

Warm-up area "E"

SPACE A/B 4 METRES

SPACE B/C 10 METRES

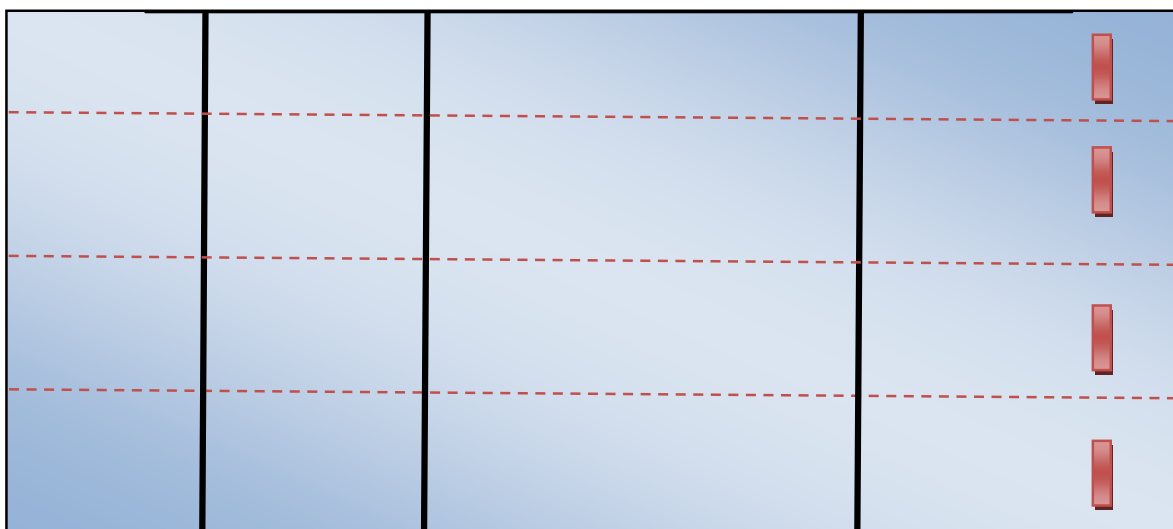
SPACE D/C 3 METRES

SPACE D/E WARM-UP AREA – REST OF SWIMMING POOL

**IT IS FORBIDDEN TO ENTER THE SPACE A/B.**

**DURING WARM-UP IT IS FORBIDDEN TO ENTER THE SPACE C/D.**

E ← W.A. → D ← 3 m → C ← 10 metres → B ← 4 metres → A



#### **ARTICLE 6 – DRAWING OF LOTS**

The athletes' start order will be decided by the drawing of lots effected by the Judge.

The draw will be attended by the designated Competition Officials and the captains of each team present.

#### **ARTICLE 7 – RELAY TARGET**

The sheet for the Relay event is rectangular in shape and measures 33 x 35 cm, with a white background and placed at a height such that the centre of the central target, worth 460 points, is 80 cm above the pool bottom.

The sheet has nine targets arranged on three levels, with three targets per level.

#### COMPOSITION OF RELAY TARGET

CENTRAL AXIS	DIAMETER	SCORE	COLOUR
1st Circle	1.2 cm	460 to 400 points	White
2nd Circle	3.2 cm	390 to 300 points	White
3rd Circle	5.2 cm	295 to 250 points	Black
4th Circle	7.2 cm	245 to 200 points	White

#### BIATHLON AND PRECISION TARGET

The target sheet for the precision and biathlon events is rectangular in shape and measures 33 x 35 cm, with a white background and placed at a height of 80 cm above the pool bottom: this measurement refers to the centre of the target, corresponding to the centre point of the 1st circle of the central target; the sheets contains 5 identical targets, each of which have 6 concentric circles, divided by a white line between two black circles and a black line in other cases, containing the following values:

#### COMPOSITION OF BIATHLON AND PRECISION TARGET

CENTRAL AXIS	DIAMETER	SCORE	COLOUR
1st Circle	1.2 cm	460 to 400 points	White
2nd Circle	3.2 cm	390 to 300 points	White
3rd Circle	5.2 cm	295 to 250 points	Black
4th Circle	7.2 cm	245 to 200 points	Black
5th Circle	9.2 cm	195 to 150 points	White
6th Circle	11.2 cm	145 to 100 points	White

#### ARTICLE 8 – SCORING:

Points in the Precision and Relay events are awarded by the Competition Judge according to the following instructions:

- A special scorecard will be used to mark the points of each shot. The scorecard is placed over the single target, using the circular references, to determine the score of the shot, by means of the reference position of a peg having a diameter of 6.5 mm which, moving on the scorecard, will be positioned in the hole made by each shot, simulating the impact of the spear. The centre of the peg will determine the score for the shot, to be read directly on the scorecard.
- If the centre of the shot lies outside the scale, the score for the shot will be zero (0).

For the Biathlon speciality, the same rules as above hold good for determining the number of valid shots with reference to the centre of impact of each shot on the target.

If the centre of the shot lies outside the scale, the shot will be considered as being off target.

For the Biathlon speciality only the Competition Judge will count the points at the end of the manche in a specially reserved space.

At the end of scoring, the target is made available to the athlete, who may view it with the Judge and file a complaint, as per the rules hereunder.

#### ARTICLE 9 – EQUIPMENT

Use of the following equipment is permitted during the competition: fins, mask, aerator, wetsuit, ballast, gloves, suction cap, replacement gun, replacement spear with line, positioning items; any other equipment is not permitted.

The extra gun can be used only when the first gun is broken.

The use of torches is forbidden.

#### ARTICLE 10 – RULES REGARDING GUNS

Air and rubber-powered spearguns can be used in competitions, the spear having a length of up to 150 cm.

The spear diameter shall be up to 8 mm, the tip shall be up to 4 mm in diameter and without fins.

The spear must be connected to the gun by means of a line in an excellent condition, having a minimum thickness of 0.8 mm. Guns with elastic lines are not permitted, with the exception of the biathlon, in which the use of an elastic line and a single pulley is permitted, in order to aid the sliding and recovery of the spear.

For air guns, to connect the line to the spear and the gun, only mass produced and not custom-built spear guide are permitted.

Alternatively, spears bound by means of a through hole on the spear without spear guides can be used.

The elastic line shall measure not less than 1.80 mm. It shall be bound to the spear and to the gun to prevent breakage that would cause the spear to go out of control.

The regularity of the weapon is checked in advance and may be tested, should the Competition Judge wish, with a shot in the water.

The gun shall be loaded only with the strength of the arms.

The gun shall be mass produced for underwater fishing, of a verifiable and recognised brand, and neither modified or customised.

All aiming devices, mass produced or customised, lasers, diopters from bows or rifles, fixed or adjustable, all optical aiming devices that modify visibility, ailerons, compensators, counterweights, spear guides with fins, any gun-body support or gun-arm support and custom anatomical grips, are forbidden.

The gun, without the spear, shall be able to float without the aid of floats (fixed or removable) applied to it, and may not exceed 1.5 kg in weight, excluding the spear.

Wooden rubber-powered guns are not permitted, even if they are mass produced.

The spear, line, ogive and rubber bands may be replaced.

## **ARTICLE 11 – COMPETITION OFFICIALS**

Competition Officials are either the Competition Judge or the Competition Director.

The Competition Judge and the Competition Director are aided by the Competition Physician, Secretary and Competition Stewards.

To ensure the safety and correct staging of the competition, the Competition Judge may seek the collaboration of the Competition Director and of the Stewards to control the shooting line in the water, the start line and the changeover of competitors in the replay competition, to act as timekeepers and whenever he deems their use to be necessary.

## **ARTICLE 12 – PENALTIES**

An athlete may be disqualified for:

- Loading the gun on the water surface, during the biathlon and replay competitions.
- Passing beyond the shooting line with any part of the body.
- Loading the gun on the water surface, during the biathlon and replay competitions.
- Loading or trying the gun in areas other than the competition area.
- Leaving the gun loaded on the pool bottom.
- Making a knot with the line of the gun.
- Entering the competition area before other competitors have completed their turn.
- The use of a non-regular weapon, as determined by the judge.
- Anti-sporting conduct.

## **ARTICLE 13 – SAFETY IN THE WATER**

For the biathlon speciality only, the competitor shall load the gun under water, using only his own strength, without the aid of special equipment.

In the Biathlon and Relay events the weapon shall be loaded under water and in the direction of the target.

The competitor may not leave the gun loaded on the pool bottom.

The competitor may not rise to the surface with the gun loaded.

In the Precision event the competitor may not stay on the surface with the gun loaded for more than five (5) seconds.

The competitor may not enter the competition area during a turn other than his own.

Once his turn is complete, the competitor may withdraw his equipment only once all competitors in that manche have completed their turns, and only when the competition judge has given his permission.

#### **ARTICLE 14 – TECHNICAL INCIDENTS**

Technical incidents may happen during the staging of the competition.

In the event of faults or breakages, the athlete may replace his weapon with the replacement weapon, or in the case of a line breaking, with a spear complete with line, in an excellent condition, positioned together with the replacement gun on the pool bottom or close to the start line, prior to the start of the competition.

When the weapon is being changed the clock is not stopped.

If the replacement gun or spear is not positioned on the start line the athlete's turn will end, and the shots fired up until that point will be counted.

The extra gun can be used only when the first gun is broken.

Replaced guns are checked by the Competition Judge, and if no technical incident is detected, he will disqualify the athlete.

A competing athlete is not allowed to make any type of repair to the gun or to parts thereof; in the event of breakage, he may replace the bow or ogive of the rubber bands.

A technical incident caused by problems to the equipment of the organisers or the competition venue shall be reported by the competitor, by raising an arm: the manche is cancelled, and the athlete shall repeat it from the beginning.

#### **ARTICLE 15 – TIMEKEEPING**

The time is kept by timekeepers in minutes, seconds and tenths of a second.

#### **ARTICLE 16 – PRECISION EVENT**

The Precision event consists of 10 shots fired at the fixed target in two separate manches (5 shots per manche), in a time of 5 minutes per manche. The time not used up in the first manche cannot be added to the time of the second manche.

The target consists of 5 centres, and the athlete shall fire one (1) shot at each centre of the target.

In the event of 2 shots in the same centre, the shot scoring the most points will not be counted.

**If for any reason the spear does not reach the target or there is no sign on the sheet, the calculation of valid shots is compared with the report of the line judge.**

After each shot the competitor must return to the surface, and use this moment to prepare the gun and load it, which can be done on the surface or underwater, but always in the direction of the target.

The weapon must be supported by one arm only and gripped with one hand only, without further support from an arm or any other part of the body.

When shooting it is possible to gain added stability by making contact with the pool bottom with one's free hand.

Firing more than one (1) shot during the same dive results in the competitor being relegated to final place, with zero points.

#### **ARTICLE 17 – RULES ON GUNS IN THE PRECISION EVENT**

Only mass produced guns are allowed in the precision event, wooden guns are not allowed, as already described in article 10.

#### **ARTICLE 18 – STAGING OF PRECISION EVENT**

The competitor is invited by the organisers to prepare his competition base in a maximum of two (2) minutes, then he must position himself behind the start line and wait for the start signal, which will sound within one (1) minute.

The manche will take place as follows:

1. The athlete waits for the start signal behind the start line.
2. After the start signal the athlete swims on the surface to the shooting line, where he will decide whether to load the gun underwater or on the surface; in the latter case he shall dive under within 5 seconds of loading, then fire the shot, supporting the gun with one arm and one hand only.
3. After taking the shot, the athlete must return to the surface, remaining close to the shooting line and, reloading the gun, will repeat this sequence until the fifth (5th) shot is fired.
4. The manche will end when the athlete, having fired all his shots, resurfaces on the shooting line, swims on the surface and returns with his gun beyond the start line, where he will raise a hand to signal the end of the manche.  
The winner is the athlete scoring the most points, taking any penalties into consideration.
5. In the event of a tie, and only for the top three (3) places in the ranking, one or more shoot-offs may be staged, until the winner and second and third places are decided.

#### **ARTICLE 19 – PRECISION EVENT PENALTIES**

The time limit for the completion of a Precision manche is five (5) minutes. Competitors taking longer to complete the turn will be handed a penalty of ten (10) points per second over the five (5) minutes.

The competing athlete may fire only five (5) shots at the sheet, one per target.

At the end of the manche, when scores are being counted, any extra shots are not counted, and penalties are inflicted, as follows:

##### **WITH FIVE SHOTS ON THE SHEET:**

If two or more shots are present on the same target, the shots scoring the most points are not counted.

##### **WITH MORE THAN FIVE SHOTS ON THE SHEET:**

The athlete is relegated to final position in the ranking, with zero points.

##### **WITH MORE THAN FIVE SHOTS:**

The athlete is relegated to final position in the ranking, with zero points.

The athlete that passes beyond the shooting line with his spear tip when shooting receives a penalty of 50 points for each infringement.

The athlete loading his gun on the surface and staying above water for more than 5 seconds before diving under will be relegated to final place, with zero points.

The athlete loading his gun on the surface or underwater without directing the tip of the spear towards the target will be relegated to final place, with zero points.

#### **ARTICLE 20 – BIATHLON**

The Biathlon event consists of five shots per target, swimming along a course in apnea, back and forth, five times, firing one (1) shot per course.

#### **ARTICLE 21 – STAGING OF EVENT**

The competitor is invited by the organisers to prepare his competition base in a maximum of two (2) minutes, then he must position himself behind the start line and wait for the start signal, which will sound within one (1) minute.

The manche will take place as follows:

1. at the starter's signal the athlete will dive in and reach the shooting line, underwater;
2. he may load the gun while travelling along the course or in front of the shooting line, but in any case not before crossing with his head the start line during the diving phase;
3. he must fire while holding the gun with one arm and one hand only;
4. after firing he will return, again underwater, behind the start line and, taking at least one breath, will travel along the same course until five shots are fired.
5. the manche will be complete and the clock stopped when the athlete returns to the surface with his gun beyond the start line, raising an arm upwards.

## **ARTICLE 22 – RULES ON GUNS IN THE BIATHLON EVENT**

Only mass produced guns are allowed in the Biathlon event, as described in article 10.

## **ARTICLE 23 – BIATHLON PENALTIES AND TIME LIMIT**

The competitor who during the manche passes beyond the shooting line with the tip of the spear will receive a penalty of 30" (thirty seconds) for each infringement, to be added to the total time recorded; if he passes beyond the shooting line with any part of the body he will be relegated to final place, with zero points.

To be considered valid the manche must be completed with five courses and five shots.

An interrupted or incomplete turn is considered not valid.

The time limit for completing the Biathlon event is 150 seconds (2 minutes 30 seconds) for men and 180 seconds (3 minutes) for women.

The competitor taking longer to complete the course, including any time penalties, will be penalised by having a valid shot not counted.

A competitor taking 45 seconds longer than the set time limits (195 seconds for men and 225 seconds for women), again including any time penalties, will be penalised by having another valid shot not counted, accordingly the penalty will be two (2) valid shots removed from the shots fired at the target.

A competitor who dives underwater, or starts before the start signal, will receive a penalty of 30" (thirty seconds) to be added to the total time recorded.

## **ARTICLE 24 – BIATHLON RANKING**

The ranking is based on the five (5) shots landing in the target in the least possible time, deducting any penalties.

## **ARTICLE 25 – SHOOT-OFFS**

For the top three places in the ranking, if athletes have the same score and the same time, there will be a direct shoot-off, with a complete biathlon manche, until a winner is found.

## **ARTICLE 26 – RELAY EVENT**

The relay event consists of 9 shots fired at 9 targets on the sheet.

The competition consists of a single manche having a time limit of 4 minutes 30 seconds.

A team is made up of three competitors, each of whom will fire three shots at the nine targets.

Alternatively, only 2 athletes of the same National team may make up a team providing, at the time of entry, only two athletes are present and entered in the individual competitions.

In this case, one athlete shall travel the course five times, the other four times, firing as many shots at the targets.

## **ARTICLE 27 – RULES ON GUNS IN THE RELAY EVENT**

Only mass-produced guns are allowed in the Relay event, as described in article 10. The use of guns endowed with elastic line is not allowed in the Relay event.

## **ARTICLE 28 – STAGING OF RELAY EVENT**

The team is invited by the organisers to prepare its competition base in a maximum of two (2) minutes, then it must position itself behind the start line and wait for the start signal, which will sound within one (1) minute of the positioning of the third competing athlete.

The manche will take place as follows:

1) at the start signal the first athlete dives in and travels the course underwater, loading the gun close to the shooting line.

2) having reached the shooting line, the athlete shall fire the shot as follows:

The weapon must be held by one arm only and gripped with one hand only, without additional body support; the second arm may be used to provide body stability.

3) after shooting, he must return behind the start line, swimming underwater, where he will be replaced by the second athlete, who will travel along the same competition course in the same way. The changeover between the two athletes must be with the gun unloaded and a touch of hands, to be performed above the water surface and before reaching the start line, for the competent judges to ensure that the changeover has been effected correctly.

4) the manche ends when the athletes have completed all the courses and fired the relative shots. Having fired the ninth (9th) shot, the final athlete returns to the start line, swimming underwater, and emerges with an arm pointing upwards to mark the end of the manche.

## **ARTICLE 29 – RELAY PENALTIES**

The team may fire only nine (9) shots at the target sheet, a maximum of three shots per athlete in three-man teams, and in any case one shot per target.

For those Nations competing with only two athletes, the number of shots will be five for one athlete and four for the other.

At the end of the manche, when scores are being counted, any extra shots are not counted, and penalties are inflicted, as follows:

### **more than nine shots on the sheet:**

- team relegated to last place, with zero points;

### **nine shots on the sheet:**

- if two or more shots are on the same target, the shot scoring the most points is not counted.

### **more than nine courses:**

- team relegated to last place, with zero points.

### **more than three courses travelled by a single athlete in three-man teams, or more than five shots for one athlete and four shots for the other, in two-man teams:**

- team relegated to last place, with zero points.

**During the manche each athlete may use only his own gun, otherwise the manche will be cancelled and the team relegated to final place.**

**In the event of a technical incident athletes may use the extra gun or a spear complete with line, placed behind the start line.**

**The changeover between two athletes in the relay race must always be effected with the gun unloaded, and hands touching above water, in a visible manner, otherwise the manche will be cancelled and the team relegated to final place due to a non-valid changeover.**

**Teams whose athletes have their spear tips beyond the shooting line when firing receive a penalty of 50 points for every infringement.**

## **ARTICLE 30 – RELAY RANKING**

**The ranking is compiled based on the highest score obtained for the nine shots fired, deducting any penalties or adding bonuses:**



- for each second below the time limit of 4 minutes 30 seconds a bonus of ten (10) points is added to the final score obtained adding up the scores on the target sheet;
- for each second above the time limit of 4 minutes 30 seconds ten (10) points are deducted from the final score obtained adding up the scores on the target sheet.

### **ARTICLE 31 – RELAY SHOOT-OFFS**

For the top three places, if two or more teams obtain the same score and the same time, there will be a direct shoot-off, with the manche being repeated.

Manches will be repeated until a winner emerges.

### **ARTICLE 32 – BEGINNING AND END OF ALL COMPETITIONS, COMPETITION OFFICIALS**

For each manche the time starts when the starter gives the start signal. The clock is stopped when the competitor raises a hand above the water, beyond the start line. Each manche is timed without interruptions, from the beginning to the end.

**TIMEKEEPERS:** Accuracy is to a tenth of a second.

**REFEREES:** operate under the supervision of the Competition Judge.

**SHOOTING LINE JUDGE:** The judge's position is the shooting line, which may be a black line on the pool bottom or a floating lane on the surface.

The judge shall notify the Competition officials if:

the shooting line has been exceeded with the spear tip or any part of the body, the number of shots, rule infringements and anti-sporting conduct.

**STARTER:** the starter gives the start signal for every manche when the competitors, judges and timekeepers are in position.

**SHOT CONTROL AND SCORING JUDGE:** the Competition Judge is responsible for the adequate preservation of targets until the end of the competition, viewing shots and assigning points, possibly with the aid of the scorecard.

Controls must be carried outside the water, and only the captains may be present at the control; the results must be countersigned by the captains.

**Only the Competition Judge is competent to decide in the event of complaints.**

### **ARTICLE 33 – COMPETITION JUDGE**

The Competition Judge has the job of ensuring that these rules are abided by.

The Competition Judge is competent to decide on objections, penalties and irregularities.

### **ARTICLE 34 – PRELIMINARY MEETING**

On the day prior to the competition a meeting shall be arranged involving:

- the Organisers' Representative
- the Competition Judge
- the Captains
- the Organisers' Physician

The aim of the meeting is to agree on:

- technical matters
- times and transportation
- instructions regarding opening and closing ceremonies
- times and pools reserved for each team
- safety measures

Under no circumstances may the Rules governing the event be modified during this meeting.

## **ARTICLE 35 – THE JURY**

### **COMPOSITION:**

The Jury consists of 5 members and 2 replacements, namely:  
the Competition Judge, acting as Chairman;

- 1 (one) representative appointed by the organising federation
- 3 (three) representatives appointed by and among the captains
- 2 (two) replacements appointed by and among the captains

### **DUTIES:**

to examine objections received and take a decision within one hour.

### **PROCEDURE:**

A complaint will be accepted only if presented by the captain of the team or by the competitor if the team does not have a captain.

The objection must be presented in written form in French, English or Spanish, no later than sixty minutes after the official rankings are displayed.

The presentation of the complaint must be accompanied by a deposit of 100.00 (one hundred) Euro, to be returned if the complaint is upheld by the Jury.

Form A (attached) should be used for the complaint, to be presented exclusively to the Competition Judge.

Relative decisions are taken on a majority basis, in the presence of at least four Jury members.

In the event of a tie, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

Jury decisions are final, unless new elements emerge not considered during the initial examination.

The decision shall immediately be communicated to the complainant at the end of the meeting.

The person delegated to communicate this decision is only the Competition Judge, who will do so in writing, using Form B (attached).

## **ARTICLE 36 – LIABILITY**

The entry form sent by the corresponding Federation and signed by the President will ensure that all team members are in possession of the requirements needed to practise underwater activity and are aware of diving safety rules.

The organising Federation shall ensure, during competitions, the necessary assistance for the correct staging of the competition, as well as prompt first aid, provided by competent and duly authorised personnel.

The organisers and their representatives and collaborators, officials and stewards are not liable for any damage to the equipment of participants or for any accidents happening to the competitors and other participants as a result of their participation in the sporting event.

