

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL OF DIVING CLUBS
COUNITUTION

1977*



ARTICLE I, NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Southwest Council of Diving Clubs and is established as a non-profit organization.

ARTICLE II, OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Council shall be to encourage and promote the Sport of Skin Diving, with or without breathing apparatus, to encourage water safety, and to promote skill in seafaring generally.

ARTICLE III, MEMBERSHIPS

Action Divers	Explorer Scuba Post #1168	L.T.V. Divers
American Airlines Aquajets	Hell Divers Scuba Diving Club	Midland Dune Divers
Aqua-Holics	Inland Divers Association	Quitman Dolphins
Dallas Divers	Lawton Divers	Sherman Divers
East Texas Aquanauts	Les Hommes De Mer	Texins Divers
East Texas Men-of-War	Little Gem Scuba Club	West Side Divers
		Whitney Divers

A. Diving clubs which apply may be admitted to membership by the Executive Committee. The club shall have the privilege of being represented at all general meetings of the Council and shall receive the publications of the Council. Each club shall submit to the Executive Committee for approval, their club's Consitution and/or By-Laws or (Charter).

B. Independent members are those who are not members of a member club and who have been accepted to membership by the Executive Committee, and who have not lost their membership in a member diving club due to misconduct. The duration of such membership shall be at the pleasure of the Executive Committee and not be less than twice the dues charged individual members who are members of a member diving club. Independent members will not be accepted if their residence is within 25 miles of a member club.

C. Should a member transfer from one club to another, he or she shall be recognized as a member of the last club until such time as the Secretary of the Southwest Council and affected club have received written notification. No transfers shall be accepted for purpose of voting strength after November 1st, although for record purpose, it will be accomplished.

D. As a method of promoting membership, and informing divers of the Council and it's activities; the Council shall offer one year's (free) membership to any diving instructor furnishing the Slate Editor with a mailing list of the students in his certification classes, and each of these students shall receive one year's (free) Slate subscription.

E. Each person holding membership in the Southwest Council can hold dual membership in more than one club and one Council during the same time period. However, points can only be received through one club and one Council towards National points. Member's entry blank must reflect entrant's choice of Council.

ARTICLE IV, OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers of the Council shall consist of a President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, seven Area Vice Presidents, Newsletter Editor, Public Relations Officer, Underwater Society Representative, Directors (who served as such, less than two years), and the remainder of the Directors (who shall become advisory committee).

Section 2. The Officers above shall consitute the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Officers and Executive Committee shall hold office from the date of their election, until the next annual meeting of the Council, or the election of their successors.

- Section 4. The President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Public Relations Officer, and Underwater Society Representative will be elected by the delegates of the Council at the general meeting.
- Section 5. The Area Vice Presidents will be elected by the delegates of the clubs in his area.
- Section 6. Each person having served a full term as President of the Council shall be appointed a full Director of the Council with all privileges for a term of two years.
- Section 7. Any person holding an office in the Southwest Council must have been a member of the Council at least one full year prior to election of Officers.

ARTICLE V, DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

- Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Council and shall act as and perform the duties of the Chief Executive Officer of the Council. He shall also perform other duties as may be delegated to him by the Executive Committee. At his discretion, he may appoint a Corresponding Secretary.
- Section 2. The Executive Vice President shall preside at all meetings of the Council and shall act as and perform the duties of the Chief Executive Officer of the Council in case of absence or incapacity of the President. He shall also perform other duties as may be delegated to him by the Executive Committee.
- Section 3. Area Vice Presidents shall perform the Presidential duties in case of absence or incapacity of the President and Executive Vice President. The Executive Committee may designate any one of the Area Vice Presidents to perform the duties of the President.
- A. It shall be the duty of the Area Vice Presidents to ascertain a proper Council representative to be at each contest (Council Sanctioned) hosted by a club in his area, that the contest is properly conducted, and that a written report for the records is forwarded to the Manager-Editor of the Slate, copies to the President and Secretary, within a seven day period.
- B. In addition, the Area Vice Presidents shall be responsible for co-ordinating with each club reporter in his area, on a monthly basis, and ascertain that all news items for publication in the newsletter are forwarded to the proper person.
- C. He shall be responsible for conducting the general business of the Council in his area and shall submit a written report to the President each 30 days, advising as to all new developments or problems in his area.
- D. Any Area Vice Presidents failing to send a monthly report to the President for three consecutive months will be eligible for replacement.
- Section 4. Secretary: The Secretary shall keep a true and accurate record of all proceedings of the Executive Committee.
- A. The Secretary shall also keep a correct roll of all clubs that are members of the Council, a roll of all individual members, and independent members who are not members of a member club. He or she shall also issue all membership cards to the members.
- B. The Secretary will be responsible for the publication of the Sanctioned Pointstandings in the monthly newsletter of the top 20 Men Divers, and the top Lady Divers. This also includes the Scuba Skills events. This duty may also, upon approval of the Executive Committee, be delegated to a newsletter editor.
- C. The Secretary shall be exempt of dues.
- D. The Secretary shall have a revised Constitution to each member of the Council within 60 days from the close of the Convention, and/or may be in the monthly newsletter.

E. The Secretary shall send the minutes of the Executive Committee to the Editor of the Slate within two weeks for publication.

F. The Secretary shall make a list, per meeting, of proposed changes and bring forth Executive minutes for record.

Section 5. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall collect and receive all money and deposit same in the name of the Council in such bank as may be approved by the Executive Committee. He shall pay all bills authorized by the Executive Committee, not to exceed 75 per cent of the current bank balance and keep an accurate statement of his account in a book provided for that purpose. He shall make a detailed report each four (4) months of all receipts and expenditures of the Council and will submit his books and allied records to the Executive Committee once a year in order that they may be reviewed. A complete check of all books will be made each four (4) years by an outside source. All checks are to be signed by the Treasurer. Checks written in the amount of over \$200.00 must be approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 6. Publisher of the Newsletter:

A. He will be wholly responsible for the publication and mailing of the monthly newsletter.

B. Any changes in Newsletter policy and expenditures shall be approved by the Executive Committee.

C. He shall be a voting member of the Executive Board.

D. He shall uphold the ideal that the Slate is the voice of the Council and not the Editor.

E. The Editor of the Slate will get a \$250.00 bonus if he publishes 12 issues of the Slate, that being from March to March.

Section 7. Public Relations Officer: The Public Relations Officer shall help form new clubs by contacting a prospective group, direct this group to the Area Vice President in that area and give his assistance such as; advising of Councils' regulations, business, and activities.

A. He shall conduct Council business through the public media and advertise various Council activities.

B. He shall also perform other duties as may be delegated to him by the Executive Committee.

C. He shall be a voting member of the Executive Board.

Section 8. Underwater Society Representative: The Underwater Society Representative shall represent the Southwest Council within the Underwater Society of America.

A. He shall be a liaison for any business or activity between Council members and the Society.

B. He shall be a voting member of the Executive Board.

Section 9. Director: The Directors shall serve in an advisory capacity to the President and the Executive Committee, and shall be voting members of the Executive Committee.

Section 10. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall:

A. Consider and act upon applications for club memberships in the Council.

B. Appoint special Officers and Committees, except the Appeals Committee.

C. Frame contest rules.

D. Fill vacancies among the Officers.

E. Approve expenditures of over \$200.00.

F. Be responsible for the general management of the Council.

Section 11. The business of the Executive Committee shall be carried on as far as possible by correspondence; but it shall meet the call of the President at such place as he may direct, as often as may be considered necessary. Notice in writing, of every such meeting, shall be sent to each member of the Executive Committee, in ample time to enable them to attend a quorum. Absentee members may vote by mail on questions submitted to them in writing for their vote. Members may vote by mail and be counted present for the purpose of constituting a quorum.

ARTICLE VI, REPRESENTATION

- Section 1. Each club belonging to the Council shall be entitled to be represented by delegates, one which shall be designated to cast its' vote at meetings of the Council. His authority to act, in case of challenge, must be in writing and certified by the Secretary or another Officer of the club represented. Delegates shall be chosen as far as practicable from the active membership of the clubs they represent.
- Section 2. Each club shall be entitled to one delegate and one additional delegate for each ten members of the club. Such members and the club must be in good standing with the Council.
- Section 3. Proper written proxies may be voted in any meeting of the Council, after having filed them with the Secretary prior to the transaction of any business at said meeting.

ARTICLE VII, MEETINGS

- Section 1. The annual general meeting of the Council shall be the first full weekend in February.
- Section 2. Special general meetings of the Council may be held upon written request of any five member clubs. Such request shall be sent to the President of the Council, who shall forthwith call the meeting to be held within six weeks upon receipt of such request, and shall be at such time and place as he may delegate.
- Section 3. Special general meetings of the Council may also be called by the Executive Committee, to be held at such time and place as it may designate.
- Section 4. Thirty days notice of meetings called by the President, or Executive Committee, pursuant to provisions of Section 2, shall be given by mail to the Secretaries of the clubs.
- Section 5. A majority of member clubs present, by delegates, or proxy, shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Council.
- Section 6. Notices of all meetings will be mailed thirty (30) days prior to meetings, and the last notice must be mailed ten (10) days prior to the meetings.
- Section 7. The Executive Board meetings, consisting of the President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, all Area Vice Presidents, Slate Editor, Public Relations Officer, Underwater Society Representative, and Directors, shall be closed to the general membership, with the exception of the delegate representing each club (without vote).
- Section 8. The annual general meeting shall be scheduled during the summer, and shall be held at a lake, date and time to be determined at the Convention. This gathering shall serve as training workshops, and shall be a family type outing, with games and events for all, for fun instead of competition. Money needed for prizes, refreshments, or other expenses shall be provided by the S.W.C. Treasury. The amount shall be determined at the Convention, or left upto the Executive Board to set details and limits of expenditures.

ARTICLE VIII, CONTEST AND EVENTS

- Section 1. A minimum of four contests will be held.
- Section 2. Notice of all contests and events in both divisions will be mailed thirty (30) days prior to the event and the last notice must be mailed ten (10) days prior to the event, or it may be advertised in the Slate sixty (60) days prior to the contest.
- Section 3. At the Council Convention each year, a drawing will be held to determine which club will give Sanctioned contests and date of each contest. Clubs desiring to have Sanctioned Council contests will write their club name on a sheet of paper, which will be sealed in an unmarked envelope, furnished at the Convention, and placed in a container. A person of unquestionable character will be appointed by the President to draw the envelopes, one at a time, and he will open each envelope and read the club name. The first name read will have first choice of a contest date. This date will be voided immediately by a delegate from the club, or his representative holding a written proxy. The second club name will have second choice of a contest date, etc., until all interested clubs have set a date. Clubs wishing to exchange dates may do so, but this must be done on the floor prior to adjournment of the Convention. Due to peculiar circumstances, it is understandable that some contests must be held at the same time each year. Any club desiring an annual Sanctioned contest, to be held at one particular time each year, may obtain an official sanction by having the matter discussed and voted on by the Officers and delegates during the annual Southwest Council Convention, each year. Request for permanent contest dates will be considered and voted on prior to the general drawing.
- Section 4. In the event that the host club cancels a scheduled Sanctioned contest, the contest will be considered to be totally void, and will not be scheduled at a later date.
- Section 5. Any diver who attends Southwest Council functions during the year will receive some type of recognition in the form of a pin or patch. In order to receive "100%" patches and pins, divers must attend the Main Convention as well as any one event, Scuba Skills or Spearfishing, at the Sanctioned diving events. Photography, Scuba Skills, and Spearfishing Divisions are considered separate events, and Point Systems for each division are kept separately.
- Section 6. Each Sanctioned Contest, except the Jim Clark Memorial (Gar Rodeo) shall have a required Scuba Skills event. This event should conform to those events held in Nationals' Competition, and should be held in a different time frame than the Spearfishing. All rules, regulations, and requirements regarding safety would also apply.

ARTICLE IX, DUES

- Section 1. The expense of the Council shall be apportioned among the member clubs of the Council. Should the Council cease to exist, the Treasury shall be apportioned among the member clubs, on a proportionate basis.
- Section 2. Regular member clubs shall pay annual sum of \$20.00 and \$6.00 for each individual desiring membership. The Council shall maintain membership in the Underwater Society of America by paying U.S.A. dues of (current members) that have entered three (3) Sanctioned events during the prior year. The Treasurer shall pay these dues to the Society "following" the March 31st membership deadline. All other Council members have the option of paying U.S.A. dues, in addition to S.W.C. dues, for membership in the Underwater Society of America.
- Section 3. Expiration date for Council dues is the 31st of December.
- Section 4. No club which is in arrears for dues assessments shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Council.

ARTICLE X, RESIGNATIONS AND EXPULSIONS

- Section 1. The membership of any club in the Council may be forfeited either by voluntary withdrawal, by disbandment, by non-payment of dues by the next annual meeting, or by the unanimous vote of all the other member clubs.
- Section 2. Any Council member or Council Officer may be voted out of the Council or Office upon recommendations of the Executive Committee and on written vote of two-thirds of the membership represented at a Council meeting. The Executive Committee shall have the power to discipline members, by suspension or other appropriate measures, upon notice of the offending member, and after such member is given reasonable opportunity to be heard. The decision of the Executive Committee may be appealed to the general membership. Such an appeal shall be controlled by a majority vote of the members represented at a meeting of the Council.
- Section 3. If any Officer elected to the Southwest Council removes any article from the Council Consitution or By-Laws, he shall be removed from Office and barred from the Southwest Council.
- Section 4. If an Executive Board member misses three (3) consecutive Board meetings, or doesn't send in his proxy, he will be replaced.

ARTICLE XI, APPEALS COMMITTEE AND APPEALS

- Section 1. The Executive Committee shall act as an Appeals Committee for the purpose of settling disputes arising out of the conduct of Spearfishing contests. Such appeals shall be in writing, addressed to the President, and shall set out the facts certified to be true by the Council Committee at the contest in question. Such fact findings shall be conclusive on the Appeals Committee. The Committee shall confine itself to interpreting rules, based on the facts so found. No appeal shall be accepted, unless by the Contest Committee of the contest involved.

ARTICLE XII, ORDER OF BUSINESS

- Section 1. At all meetings, the order of business shall be:
- (a) Roll call of all member clubs.
 - (b) Reading of the minutes.
 - (c) Unfinished business.
 - (d) New and miscellaneous business.
 - (e) Election of Officers and Executive Committee members.
 - (f) Robert's Rules of Order will govern any business not provided for by the Southwest Council Consitution or By-Laws.

ARTICLE XIII, AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Consitution may be adopted at any meeting of the Council by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present, provided that notice of the meeting shall have contained such amendments in full, or by unanimous vote of the clubs represented at such a meeting where the notice of the meeting shall not have contained such amendments. Voting on amendments so proposed may be by mail, by delegates present, and by proxy.

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL OF DIVING CLUBS

BY-LAWS

1977'

ARTICLE I, DUES

Dues are \$20.00 per club and \$6.00 per member, per annum. Dues are payable in advance of January 1st of each year, and are delinquent on the 31st of March of each year.

ARTICLE II, BAD CHECKS

All bad checks, received by the Council or by member clubs, shall be listed with the Council Secretary and Treasurer, and if not paid within thirty (30) days, individual privileges will be revoked, and a \$1.00 fine shall be levied when the check is paid.

ARTICLE III, TREASURER REPORT

The Treasurer shall make a detailed report each four (4) months of all receipts and expenditures of the Council. A complete check of all the books will be made each four (4) years by an outside source.

ARTICLE IV, CONVENTION

A permanent date will be the first full week-end of February, for the general meeting and awards banquet. Each interested club may submit, to the President, its' bid for the sponsorship of the meeting, with details of said meeting. Bids for the next year's Convention will be submitted by August 1st of the current year. The Executive Committee is empowered to provide funds to the club hosting the annual Convention, as a loan to be reimbursed, to help defray costs of the Convention, in an amount to be determined by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V, CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS

All persons selected to represent the Council at National events shall commit themselves six (6) weeks prior to the event that they will attend. Failure to attend will forfeit individual rights to participate in the next year's contest, except in case of an emergency. \$300.00 shall be set aside, each year, in a separate account, for the first place champion teams to go the Nationals', if he or she elects to go. If not, they forfeit their funds.

Third place winner shall accompany the representing team to the site of the National Competition for alternate purposes.

Council champions attending the Underwater Society of America National Contest will enter and participate in all events for which they are eligible. Failure to do this will result in automatic forfeiture of a champion's rights to attend the following year's Nationals, even though he may otherwise be eligible.

ARTICLE VI, COUNCIL LIABILITY

The Southwest Council will not be legally liable for accidents or negligent actions of any Council member, while performing any duties for the Council, or in the name of the Council.

ARTICLE VII, CLUB PUBLICATIONS

All member clubs will mail a copy of their club newsletter, or similar publications, if any, to their Area Vice President.

ARTICLE VIII, RULES FOR COUNCIL SANCTIONED SPEARFISHING CONTEST

The purpose of this set of rules is to form the basis for the selection of outstanding divers in our Council to become our champions, and represent us in National events. They will be chosen by the use of the point system. The top four (4) competitors in

the point-standings from the previous year shall represent the Council at the National events, with respect to National rules. The team partners shall be comprised, by choice, of these competitors. The alternates shall be determined by the fifth and sixth place in point-standings, with the fifth place as alternate to the first team, and the sixth place as alternate to the second team. In the event that one or both of the top two teams does not represent the Council, teams may be determined by selecting the next immediate person or persons in the point-standings.

These rules are for Council use only and are in addition to any rules set up by local contest officials, or fish and game commissioners. Events must be Sanctioned by the Council to receive award points.

These rules will apply to three (3) competition divisions.

CONTEST

- (a) A Council representative must be present at all Sanctioned contest.
- (b) Contest season shall start the 2nd full week-end in February through the last full week-end in the following January.
- (c) Maximum length of any contest shall be six hours and shall take place all in one day.
- (d) Executive Committee shall provide for Scuba Skills, with point system and annual awards.
- (e) Council Sanctioned Spearfishing Contest shall be limited to eight a year, and be spaced at least three weeks apart on a first come, first served basis, beginning with the calender year.
- (f) Maximum total fee for Sanctioned contest shall be \$4.50, Council fee shall be \$1.50 per entrant, and collected by the sponsoring club at the time of the contest.
- (g) In an invalid contest, trophies and prizes shall still be awarded to contest winners with only two (2) points being given to each entrant for entering and participating.
- (h) All divers engaged in Spearfishing contest must have in his or her possession, a valid fishing license.
- (i) Contest shall end at a designated weigh-in time.
- (j) At least one team member must be in line at the end of the contest, with all fish to be weighed in. Fish not present in line, at contest end, will not be counted.
- (k) Any club in good standing with the Council may sponsor a contest or event of their choice. If the event is non-standard (out of the ordinary) a written request for Council Sanction, with details of the event, must be submitted for evaluation and approval.
- (l) A list of the clubs in the Council will be furnished, by the Secretary, for mailing out your contest information. This information and rules for the event must be in the hands of the club, at least thirty (30) days prior to the event.
- (m) Number of trophies to be given during a tournament, and size of the trophies, must be approved by the Executive Board. Distribution of trophies will be as follows:

TROPHIES required for Sanctioned Spearfishing Events.

MEN'S DIVISION:

1st Place Most Fish
1st Place Largest Fish
2nd Place Largest Fish
3rd Place Largest Fish
4th Place Largest Fish (OPTIONAL)

ONE TROPHY FOR EACH TEAM:

1st Place Team, Total Aggregate Weight
2nd Place Team, Total Aggregate Weight
3rd Place Team, Total Aggregate Weight

NOVICE DIVISION: - MEN OR LADIES

1st Place Most Fish
2nd Place Most Fish
3rd Place Most Fish

1st Place Largest Fish
(TIE FOR MOST FISH - BROKEN BY LARGEST FISH)

LADIES DIVISION:

1st Place Most Fish
1st Place Largest Fish
2nd Place Largest Fish (OPTIONAL)
3rd Place Largest Fish (OPTIONAL)
4th Place Largest Fish (OPTIONAL)

(NO TROPHIES REQUIRED FOR LADIES TEAM DIVISION)

- (n) Host club will give a special award or trophy to the diver, with the largest fish, entering competition for the first time. (OPTIONAL)
- (o) A reciprocal agreement will exist between our Council and any Council who will make a reciprocal agreement to our Council, for the purpose of entering each others contest.
- (p) Entry forms must reflect S.W.C. or non-council members for the point-system records. Contestants shall be required to show proof of membership (SWC membership card) upon registration as of the Texins Sanctioned Contest, the 2nd week-end of May. This allows the Secretary ample time for recording membership and distributing cards.
- (q) There will be a permanent film taken of the contest scoreboard by the sponsoring club, for Council records, and sent promptly to the Secretary, with the winners.
- (r) Contest may be called off due to inclement weather, by two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of contestants registered.
- (s) For new clubs; the Council, if requested, will sponsor and furnish all necessary guidance, and guarantee no loss on the club's part, for one Sanctioned contest, in an effort to help new member clubs get started and know how to hold a Sanctioned contest. The contest date will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- (t) Any new divers, being under 18 years of age, must be certified to participate in Southwest Council Sanctioned Contests.

ARTICLE IX, SPEARGUNS AND SPEARS

- (a) Only muscle loaded or muscle powered spears, poles, or spearguns, without power-heads or explosive parts of any sort, will be allowed.
- (b) No CO₂ guns with air or gas on their mechanisms will be permitted. Questionable spearguns will be ruled upon by the Executive Committee, using the best available information of operation principle.
- (c) Free spears shall be allowed only in clear water (Safety) and the decision will be up to the Contest Committee.
- (d) Any other method of catching fish shall not be construed as legal spearfishing.

ARTICLE X, TEAMS

- (a) A team shall consist of two (2) men or two (2) women.
- (b) A minimum of one (1) fish per registered team must be brought in and entered in the contest, to make the contest valid. Each team is not required to enter one fish, but the total taken by all teams must equal the number of teams entered in the contest.
- (c) Team total, aggregate of fish, shall be considered for only one team prize.
- (d) Ladies will be considered individual divers and a team. If women dive with men, they need not be carried as part of the men's team.
- (e) These same rules that apply to men's competition shall also apply to ladies.
- (f) Minimum number, or teams, or divers, in each category, to comprize competition, shall be at the discretion of the Contest Committee.
- (g) Novice-----any diver, man or woman, who has not won at least three (3) trophies or placed where trophies are optional; a Novice shall be recorded as a Novice for a full year, and at the end of that year if he or she has won three placements, that person shall no longer compete in the Novice Division.

ARTICLE XI, CONTEST COMMITTEE AND JUDGES

- (a) The Contest Committee shall consist of the Presidents, or their designated representatives, of each participating club. Their decision on the infractions shall be final, subject to appeal.
- (b) Contest Judges shall be at the discretion of the club sponsoring the event, subject to approval of the Contest Committee.
- (c) Timekeeper shall not only start and stop the contest at the set time, but should be alert to late arrivals of divers after contest dead-line. If a period is allowed for weighing fish, timekeeper shall rule as to which diver in line is the last acceptable entrant by standing at the end of the contest with all fish to be weighed. All fish not present in line at the end of the contest will not be counted.

ARTICLE XII, FISH

- (a) In the interest of conservation, no game or protected fish will be allowed to be taken in Sanctioned Competition. Prevailing state law at contest site shall determine what are game and what are rough fish.
- (b) Sale of speared fish is absolutely forbidden.
- (c) At least one (1) fish must be entered for each trophy or prize presented on an individual basis.
- (d) Fish speared must conform to fish and game laws.

ARTICLE XIII, BASIC DIVING RULES

- (a) Divers must be completely submerged while engaged in spearfishing competition. He must bring his catch to the surface, and only his team member and/or boat driver may help in actually boating in large fish. No other help of any kind will be allowed. This includes the lending of extra spearguns and taking fish off spears.
- (b) Unsafe equipment or practices will not be condoned. No extra aids of any kind will be permitted, such as: Oxygen for free divers, narcotics, powered tows, or sleds.
- (c) There shall be no electronic devices, or chemical for stunning fish, used in any contest. If any contestant has any of the above in his or her possession during the hours of the contest, he or she shall be automatically disqualified, regardless of whether or not they have been in use.
- (d) Divers will wear safety flotation equipment of the horse collar type and the Southwest Council recommends snorkels, extra safety precautions will be taken to assure the safety of all divers. Example: checking in and out when leaving boats or in some way to keep up with the divers.

ARTICLE XIV, DISQUALIFICATION

- (a) Any act of unsportsman like conduct, such as using a Scuba unit while free diving, baiting fish holes, hiding fish out, exchanging fish between team members, accepting outside help, or in any other way taking unfair advantage of the other contestants, will result in disqualification of either a team or individual from Council Sanctioned events and contest for a period of up to two (2) years.

NOTE: the above specific examples are to be construed as limiting the application of this definition, as stated.

- (b) Any infraction of the competition as determined by the Contest Committee.

ARTICLE XV, PROTEST AND APPEALS

- (a) Protest of any sort, by or for any contestant or teams, should be brought out at the event, at the time of the infraction of the rules. Once the event is officially closed, the results will stand and no other protests will be aired thereafter. Contest Committee and Judges' decision will be final.

- (b) Matters arising, which are covered by these rules, will be ruled upon by the Contest Committee, after consideration is given to all concerned.
- (c) Appeals to the Appeals Committee shall be conducted under the provisions of Article XI, Section 1, of the Council Constitution.

ARTICLE XVI, TIES

- (a) In case of a tie of the largest fish caught by an individual, the second fish will break the tie.
- (b) A tie in the total weight, aggregate of an individual or team shall be broken by the largest number of fish taken.
- (c) A most fish tie shall be broken by the largest fish.
- (d) Other condition of ties shall be ruled upon by the Contest Committee or Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XVII, POINT SYSTEM

The point system for Skin and Scuba Divers will be as follows:

MEN'S, LADIES', AND NOVICE DIVISIONS:

- 4 points -- largest fish caught, any species
- 3 points -- second largest fish caught, any species
- 2 points -- third largest fish caught, any species
- 1 point -- fourth largest fish caught, any species

- 4 points -- most fish caught, any species
- 3 points -- second most fish caught, any species
- 2 points -- third most fish caught, any species
- 1 point -- fourth most fish caught, any species

- 2 points -- each member entering competition

GUIDE FOR SOUTHWEST COUNCIL SANCTIONED CONTEST

This is a guide only, not rules, and is to be used as an aid for clubs who wish to hold Council Sanctioned events. It is in the interest of standardization that it is written. The club that sponsors a contest is responsible for its' operation. Contest success or failure is up to you, but in the interest of success the Council helps your club wherever possible. Coordination of contest dates is one way to keep down conflicting events, there by assuring the maximum attendance possible, and awarding Council points are aids in which assured fair play and sportsmanship are very important. This is the stepping stone up the ladder to National and World events, as Council Sanctioned Contest come under the auspices of the Underwater Society of America. Also the fact that you are part of an organized group, with a common aim, is an important part of your membership.

- (a) Contest rules should be set up with exact location, rules, entry fee, time to start and stop, trophies and prizes, and any specific details. Contest should start early in the morning and end around noon, or early afternoon. More fish can be caught during this period and it gives an early start to divers who have to drive a long way to return home.
- (b) Review and understand the spearfishing rules, and rules on trophies.

- (c) Designate responsible club members to handle different details of the contest, such as; Time Keeper, Field Judge, Weighing Judge, Contest Co-ordinator, Registration Committee, and etc. Weighing Judge usually handles disposal of speared fish. SALE OF FISH IS FORBIDDEN.
- (d) Request from the Secretary, the Council folder. It has all the necessary registration blanks, release of liability, fish catch records, point awards, and etc. This is the record of the contest. Be accurate.
- (e) Use contest check-list, to be sure all details are taken care of.
- (f) Advertise the contest. Handbills are usually your best bet. Mail to all clubs, sporting good dealers, and diving equipment dealers. Special gimmicks of some sort usually adds to your contest; free beer, parachute jumps, free cold drinks, hot dogs, free or the like.

ARTICLE XVIII, FILM CONTEST AND RULES

Rules for Council Sanctioned Photography Contests.

The purpose for this set of rules is to provide a basis for the selection of the outstanding Underwater Photographers in our Council. This provides an additional source of revenue to the Council, an additional activity for Council members, and offers members the opportunity to have a quantity of photos judged for entry into other competitions.

A. RESPONSIBILITY:

1. The general management, operation and keeping the point standings for the photo contests will be that of the Executive Vice President of the Council.

B. GENERAL RULES:

1. A Council representative must be present at each event.
2. Contest season shall start the 2nd full week-end in February, and run through the 1st full week-end in February of each year.
3. Contest judging is to take place all in one day.
4. A limit of six (6) contests may be held, with the final contest being held at the Council Convention each year, and will be the responsibility of the host club.
5. Contests may be held in conjunction with other events. Example: Mid-year Convention, I.D.A. Film Festival, etc.
6. Contests shall be a minimum of sixty (60) days apart.
7. Notice of contest must be published in the Slate, or by direct mailing, to all Council members at least thirty (30) days prior to entry deadline.
8. Results of each contest and point-standings shall be published in the first available Slate, following contest.
9. Judging must consist of a minimum of three (3) persons with a high degree of photographic knowledge and background, preferably with underwater experience.
10. All judgments must be open to all entrants, free of charge. Non-entrants may be charged.
11. Contests shall be open to all S.W.C. members, and all members of any other Diving Council that is a member of the Underwater Society of America (only S.W.C. members are eligible to receive points leading to annual awards).
12. Entry deadline is ten (10) days prior to judging (host club must have entries ten (10) days prior).
13. No commercial picture, or one made or produced for compensation, or made at the same time and the same set as a commercial picture shall be eligible in any contest. A commercial picture includes one made by or for one's employer.

14. Commercial or professional photographers are not allowed to submit entries in the same film media in which they are or can be classified as commercial or professional. That is, a still photographer entering the slide or print category; a movie or T.V. set cameraman entering the movie category. This makes unfair competition and discourages growth of the contest. It is permissible that a still photographer enter the movie category and vice versa, as these two fields are very different. It is the intent that the contests of the S.W.C. be amateur.
15. No picture winning an award in any previous S.W.C. contest shall be eligible for entry in any subsequent contest.
16. Contest films shall be the work of the contestant (or two or more persons jointly) except use of an amateur cameraman is permissible only when the contestant appears in scenes.
17. Subject must pertain to diving. (No fishing, hunting, boating, flying, etc., except that it supports the subject of under water diving.)
18. Slides and prints must have been taken while the diver is submerged. No aquarium shots; all entries must be the work of the contestant. Movies must be at least 50% underwater scenes and must be titled and the container of the film must bear the contestant's full name.
19. No copies of existing pictures, slides made from prints, or slides made from another photographer's slides will be accepted. Violations of this rule will mean automatic disqualification from all categories. Violators will not be allowed to enter the contest for the next two succeeding years. There will be a provision for appeal, but the Contest Director must be present.
20. Any violation of these rules will subject the contestant to disqualification. It will be the decision of the judges whether the contestant will be disqualified from all categories, with the exception of #13, which carries an automatic disqualification.
21. A special Novice award will be made for the best print entered by a Novice. A Novice is to be defined as one who has never entered an underwater photographic contest in a prior year. Statement of such MUST be included with entry.

C. METHOD OF SELECTION

1. Method of selecting photo contest host will be by drawing at the annual Convention, beginning February 1976. Drawing to follow the drawing for spear-fishing contests.

D. ENTRY FEES

1. Entry fee shall be a maximum of \$2.50 per unit or a grand total of \$15.00 which ever is least.
2. Disbursement of entry fees shall be as follows:
 - a. A minimum of 50% of all entry fees shall be spent on awards.
 - b. 30% to host club to defray costs (publicity, judges, profit, etc.)
 - c. 20% to S.W.C. as Sanction fee for annual awards.

E. CATEGORIES

1. Categories that may be entered are as follows:
 - a. Color transparency (slide) mounted 2x2", cardboard or plastic mount.
 - b. Prints - Black and White - minimum of 8x10" Or 11x14", on larger mount.
 - c. Prints - Color - same as black and white.
 - d. Macro-Color Prints or Macor-Color Slides - same as black and white.
 - e. Fresh water slides - same as A.
 - f. Motion pictures - 8 or 16 mm sound - maximum 600 ft.
 - * g. Motion pictures - 8 or 16 mm silent - maximum 600 ft.
 - * h. Slide series.
 - i. Surface slides.
 - j. Novice color prints only.

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- + To be one category with same awards - judging to be on photography not on commentary.
 - * Optional with host club.
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2. A unit shall consist of: a maximum of four (4) slides or prints, two movies, one slide series of not less than eight (8) or more than fifteen (15) slides.
3. A contestant may enter up to five (5) units in each category, except movies, one (1) unit may be entered in each movie category only. Also, prints may not have been made from an entry that is entered in any other category.
4. Slides and prints must be consecutively numbered from one (1) and each must be titled. Full name of entrant must be on each slide or print. Slides must be spotted on lower left hand corner on side opposite the emulsion. Include as many details as may prove helpful in judging - ie: film, camera, exposure, lights, etc.
5. Prints must be mounted on 11x14" or larger mounting board. Framed prints will not be accepted.

F. AWARDS FOR CONTESTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

1. Awards may be of any of the following type: camera gear, and related supplies, trophies, plaques or ribbons, or any combination of the above.
2. Awards must be given for the top two (2) entries in all categories. Also the top two (2) in any optional category the host club wishes to offer for competition. All additional places are optional with the host club.
3. Points are to be accumulated throughout the year for the annual awards to be furnished by the Council, and given at the Convention.

G. ANNUAL AWARDS: (FURNISHED BY COUNCIL)

1. "Outstanding Overall Photographer" will be awarded to the individual with the highest three (3) different categories during the year's competition.
2. Outstanding Runner-up, 2nd total over all points (same requirements as #1).
3. Outstanding Honorable Mention, 3rd total over all points (optional).
4. First and second in all categories - Trophies or Plaques.
Third and Fourth in all categories - optional or ribbons.
5. Since surface slides and slide series are optional categories throughout the year, there will not be an annual award for these categories.
6. A total of 16 mandatory annual awards - spending no more than Sanction fees collected throughout the year.

H. POINT SYSTEM

1. Points will be awarded as follows: 4-3-2-1 for the top four (4) winners in all categories.
2. Points shall be maintained by category for each individual for the purpose of annual awards.
3. Host club Contest Chairman or Council Representative must forward a list of all contest entries, winners, judges, etc., to the Council Executive Vice President within seven (7) days after the contest date.

ARTICLE XIX, TROPHIES AND AWARDS

1. Permanent award: A permanent award will be given by the Council for outstanding feats in any number. Nominations should go to the President, for voting on by the Executive Committee. Time limit for submitting nominations will be thirty (30) days, to the annual Convention.

2. For Southwest Council Sanctioned Diving Events, the size and type of award is to be left to the discretion of the host club, provided they submit a detailed description of such awards to the Southwest Council President, thirty days or more in advance of the contest, for his approval. Awards should bear inscription indicating place and division.
3. A typical description of suitable awards is as follows:
 - a. For individual awards; trophies, plaques, or a quality award of any size may be given.
 - b. For team awards, medals may be appropriate.
 - c. If colors are used to designate place, gold should be first, silver for second, and bronze for the remaining places.

ARTICLE XX

- A. The Council will sponsor an event and promote an additional contest to be known as the "Texas Gar Rodeo, Jim Clark Memorial Tournament", and shall be held the first full week-end after the first Monday in December, under the same rules as other Sanctioned contest. The location shall be the decision of the East Texas Aquanauts, on a year to year basis. Host club for this contest will be the East Texas Aquanauts. The host club shall receive \$50.00 or 50¢ per entry or which is greater, approved by the Executive Committee and paid by the Council.
- B. There will be one additional award given, the largest trophy at the dive. This will be known as the "Jim Clark Memorial Trophy", and will be awarded for the greatest aggregate weight. This is not a team trophy, it is for the individual with the greatest aggregate weight.
- C. PERMANENT DIVE DATES:
 1. Les Hommes De Mer - 3rd week-end in March
 2. Inland Divers Association - 1st week-end in April
 3. Texins Divers - 2nd week-end in May
 4. Whitney Divers - 1st week-end in June
 5. East Texas Aquanauts - 1st week-end following the 1st Monday in December
 6. No further Permanent Dates set.
- D. DISABILITY FUND:

The Council shall appropriate a separate fund for disabled divers from the Gar Rodeo proceeds, as a Disability Fund. The Board of Directors shall distribute funds according to degree of tragedy.

ARTICLE XXI, SCUBA SKILLS

Scuba Skills contest, Council approved in accordance with the Consitution and By-Laws of the Council, and using the spearfishing rules as a guidline, shall set up a point system for National teams as follows:

- 5 points -- first place
 - 4 points -- second place
 - 3 points -- third place
 - 2 points -- fourth place
 - 1 point -- fifth place
 - 2 points -- for entering
- A. Maximum entry fee shall be \$3.00, the Council fee shall be \$1.00.
 - B. Events that may be approved for competition: Underwater Navigation, Scuba Exchange, and Buddie Breathing.
 - C. Any event, and awards must be approved by the Executive Board before the contest notice.
 - D. Sanctioned Scuba Skills events shall require registration, and a roll call of contestants prior to starting the event, and shall include a drawing to set the order in which the divers shall compete.

- E. The Council shall award the top four (4) winners at the Convention each February, provided all rules have been followed.
- F. Area Vice President, or his representative shall be present and shall file a report along with the club who hosted the contest, with the Council Secretary, no later than fifteen (15) days after the contest.
- G. The Secretary shall keep an active list of points, and persons entering these events.
- H. Non-Southwest Council members (provided they are a member of some Council) may enter and win prizes but will not receive any points.

ARTICLE XXII

The nomination and election of Diver of the Year, and Service Award shall be held during the Convention, by secret ballot of delegates present. Appropriate awards shall be presented at the Awards Banquet.

Annual Awards shall be as follows:

- Service Award - awarded for outstanding service or achievements in the Council.
- Diver of the Year - awarded for diving achievements in the Council.
- Area Vice President Award - awarded for the "Outstanding Vice President", being the Area V.P. with the highest points for the year.
- Men's Spearfishing Division - four awards, first through fourth place in point-standings in Council competition.
- Women's Spearfishing Division - four places, first through fourth place in point-standings in Council competition.
- Novice Award - first place, highest in Novice Division point-standings in Council spearfishing competition.
- Scuba Skills Division - four awards, first through fourth place in point-standings in Council competition.
- Photography Awards: "Outstanding Overall Photographer" - first place in point-standings in Council Competition.
 "Runner-up" - second place in point-standings in Council comp.
 "Honorable Mention" - third place in point-standings in Council competition.
 First and Second place in all categories. (See Photography Contest Rules, Section G. ANNUAL AWARDS, for category descriptions and optional awards.

POINT SYSTEM FOR AREA V.P. AWARD:

- A. One point for each individual diver entering a Sanctioned event. Individual diver being one not in the top 25 of Men's Spearfishing, top 4 of Women's Spearfishing, or from the top 5 of the Scuba Skill Division from the previous year. The Area Vice President must enter the dive that the diver from his area entered in order for him to receive the points for that dive.
- B. Five points shall be given for the publication of the most Slate reports, beginning with the first edition of that year, through and including the January edition of the following year.
- C. Two points for each new club brought in from his area, not including clubs recorded by the Secretary from the previous year.

The V.P. Award shall be an annual award to be presented at the awards banquet. The point system above shall be used to designate the outstanding V.P. for the year by grading each Area Vice President on achievements of his duties.

The purpose of this award is to promote competition among the V.P.'s in hopes of creating additional activity and building membership in each area.