



W W W . A Q U A S H O T . N L

## **THE DUTCH OPEN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY CHAMPIONSHIP RULES 2011**

### **I Introduction**

The Dutch Open Championship and the Zeeuws Underwater Photography Championship is on Sunday 15th May and Sunday 26th June 2011, organized by Aquashot

The Zeeuws Championship is open for beginners of all nationalities.

The Dutch Open Championship is open for all underwater photographers of all nationalities.

You can also participate in only one or possibly more categories of the Dutch Open Championship. You can also win this category. You can only become Dutch Open Champion by submitting one photo for each of the 5 categories to be judged.

The best Dutch national across all 5 categories in the Dutch Open Championship, will represent the Netherlands in the World Championship.

Competition entry can be done via the Aquashot website ([www.aquashot.nl](http://www.aquashot.nl)) or on the day at the location.

The competition start point is the Dive Centre "De Grevelingen", Elkerzeeseweg 34 in Scharendijke, Tel. +31-(0)111-671500. You can sign-in at the centre, located on the right-side as you face the entrance of the Dive Centre, "De Grevelingen." You can sign-out on the day of competition between 4 – 6pm, at the same location. When you sign-out, your camera memory card will be copied by the competition organizers.

The cost of participation for the Dutch Open Championship is € 30.

The submission of the selected competition photos to the competition organizers can occur up to 1 week (7 days) after the last competition day.

The competition results will be announced at the Aquashot Meeting on Friday, 23th September 2011 at 't Veerhuis, Nijemonde 4 in Nieuwegein-Zuid. The evening commences at 8pm.

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## II Dutch Open Championship

### A General Conditions

1. The Dutch Open Championship is open for underwater photographers, regardless of their nationality.
2. Dives can be made in the Oosterschelde, the Grevelingen Lake and the Veerse Lake, in accordance with the on the site applicable rules.
3. Dives can only be made from the shore. Dives are not allowed to make use of a boat, underwater scooter, canoe, surfboard or any similar vessels.
4. The competition organizers recommends that everyone dives with a buddy and stays within the limits of the lowest dive certification. Safe diving is the responsibility of each competitor and not the responsibility of the competition organizers or Aquashot.
5. The competition organizers or Aquashot cannot be held responsible nor liable for injury or accidents as a direct or indirect result of participation in the Dutch Open Championship.
6. Through registration, competitors declare not to damage the underwater environment and to respect the (marine) life.
7. Participation can only occur after the payment of € 30.
8. The use of more than one camera is permitted.
9. The Dutch Open Championship comprises of the following 5 categories:
  - 1 macro
  - 2 fish portrait
  - 3 wide-angle with model
  - 4 wide-angle without model
  - 5 themes
10. The subject for the themes category shall be explained during the kick-off meeting.
11. A macro portrait cannot be a macro photo from a fish
12. The portrait standard for macro must be a minimum 1:3
13. A fish portrait is a photo of a fish where the head from the fish is clearly visible.
14. With a wide-angle photo you can make use of a wide-angle objective with a focus distance with is smaller or equal to 28mm ( converted to full frame chip). Lens attachment with a comparable focus distance is allowed.
15. Photos where the underwater life is or has been disturbed, (held, caught, moved) will be excluded from further participation in the competition.
16. The camera's consecutive number function must be in the modus ON.

### B The Competition Days

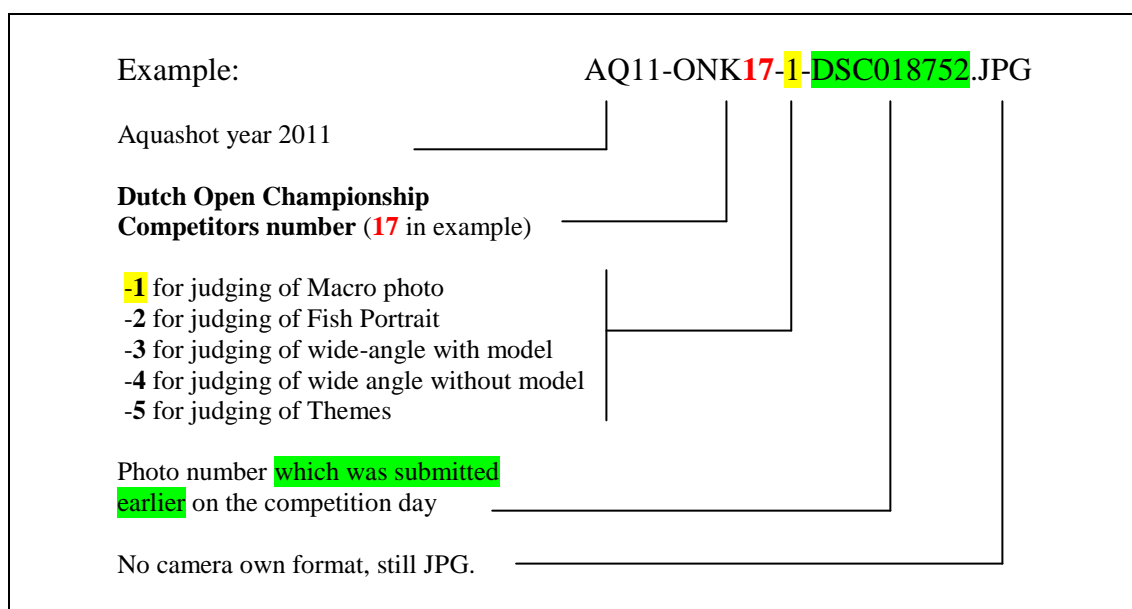
17. The Dutch Open Championship comprises of 2 days. The competitor can also compete on only one of the two days.
18. The minimum age for participation is 16 years.
19. The minimum level required for a competitor is 2\* CMAS or a equivalent level.
20. The location for registration is in the Grevelingen Dive Centre, Elkerzeeseweg 34, Scharendijke
21. The competition briefing will occur on each competition day at 9.00am. The collection of the competition number or registration on the spot will occur after the briefing.
22. Each competitor may commence up until 10.30am on the day of competition. He/she is required to request a kick-off meeting with the competition organizers before he/she may start.
23. Competitors who also participate in the second day of competition will receive in some way or another deviating competition number.
24. The competitors may use their own empty memory card. Upon registration, the competition organizers may check if the memory card is empty.
25. The first photo on the memory card should have the competition number and date on it.
26. Photos on memory cards with no competition number or competition date will be excluded from further participation in the competition.
27. Photos must be in JPEG or RAW format.
28. The memory card can only be submitted between 4-6pm by the competition organizers at the same address where registration occurred.

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29. Photos on memory cards not submitted on time will be excluded from further participation in the competition.
30. A competitor can submit a maximum of 2 Gigabytes per competition day. Any extra photos submitted, will be excluded.
31. After submission of the memory card, the competition organizers will make a copy of the memory card and return it to the competitor.
32. If the memory card cannot be directly copied due to technical problems, the competition organizers will copy the card and return it to the competitor as quickly as possible.

### C Judging

33. A competitor should at the latest 1 week (7 days) after the last competition day, submit 1 photo per category to be judged. Besides, the photo of the competition number should also be submitted.
  34. The following editing of photos is allowed: contrast, white balance, saturation, shadow/light, clarity and sharpness. All remaining editing such as cropping and paint brushing of imperfections are NOT allowed. Photos that have been illegally edited will be banned from further participation in the competition.
  35. The photos may only be made on the day(s) of competition
  36. Half-half photos are allowed as follows: maximum 50% above water and minimal 50% below water.
  37. Digital photos must not be protected when submitted.
  38. For judging the photos must be submitted in JPEG format.
  39. Photos for judging must be mailed to the competition organizers on a CD or downloaded on your own website accompanied by an email to the competition organizers as to how the photos can be downloaded or sent via a download site (e.g. *wetransfer.com* or *yousendit.com*), accompanied by an email to the competition organizers. The postal address and email address will be announced during the competition day.
40. The coding on the competitors selected photos must be in accordance with the example:



**Should the submitted material not correspond with the given coding, the consequence can be exclusion from the competition.**

41. An independent, professional and representative jury will judge the photos on technique (sharpness, composition, lighting), originality, expression and ethical aspects.
42. The winner for each category is the competitor who has been awarded the most points.
43. The Dutch Open Champion is the participant who has been awarded the most points across the 5 categories.

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44. A competitor who has not submitted one photo in all 5 categories cannot be awarded Dutch Open Champion. This competitor can be awarded winner of the category.
45. A competitor where one or more of their photos does not meet the competition rules cannot be awarded Dutch Open Champion. It is possible for this competitor to be awarded winner of one of the five categories with a photo that has not been excluded.
46. The highest classed competitor in the final result with Dutch nationality is Dutch Champion. The Dutch Champion has the right to be sent to the next World Championship Underwater Photography. This World Championship is a CMAS Championship and is only for CMAS members. In the case where the Dutch Champion is not a CMAS member (e.g.; Padi member) he/she is able to gain entrance to this Championship through becoming a NOB Service member (ASA membership) or NOB Association member by the end of the current calendar year. The certificate must also be converted to a 2 star certificate in order to take part in the World Championship.
47. In the situation where the highest classed competitor in the final result with Dutch nationality (Dutch Champion) does not make use of the right to be sent to the World Championship than this right shall be transferred to the 2nd place getter in the classification of the competitors with Dutch nationality.

### **D Remaining Rules**

48. The jury's decision is binding and cannot be contested.
49. The organization holds rights over the submitted photos to be used in the Dutch and International Dive publications and as promotion of the competition without payment to the photographer. The photographer's name will be published with the photo. In other situations, publication will only occur after conferring with the photographer.
50. The competition organizers have the right to make decisions over situations that are not specified in these regulations.
51. The competitor (who has not yet received digital post from Aquashot) should register his/her email address on the Aquashot web-site, [www.aquashot.nl](http://www.aquashot.nl), so that he/she is kept informed with regard to the competition days such as the selection and submission of the photos and the prize presentation. It is the competitors responsibility to report their email address.
52. Participation in this competition, automatically confirms that you are in agreement with the competition regulations and therefore all decisions from the competition organizers.
53. These rules are a translation from the Dutch "Reglement Open Nederlandse Kampioenschappen Onderwaterfotografie 2011". Although the translation is done very accurate, mistakes can occur. Therefore the rules in Dutch are leading.