



Juergen Warnecke
President VISUAL COMMISSION

Explanations of the CMAS General Rules relating to the design of photos and their processing in the camera § 8.4 and 8.9 / manipulation of images.

You can download the General Rules for Underwater Photography on www.cmas.org.

The CMAS General Rules were confirmed in 2011 by the CMAS and are valid since that time. The technology in the cameras, the additional parts / lenses and their possibilities have improved dramatically during the last years. Therefore, the VISUAL COMMISSION would like to explain to the participants of the World Championships how to interpret the rules § 8.4 and 8.9.

§ 8.4 Only original images without any manipulation are allowed

This means: The design or redesign of photo subjects is prohibited.

No foreign elements or from other place taken, can be inserted in the photo. (See also § 9.1)

Tripods or other constructions as connection of the camera with the sea floor are not permitted.

§ 8.9 The improvement of images during the time of shot done by the firmware of the cameras are no manipulation of images.

This means: Photos can be edited and adjusted in any way that is possible with the software of the camera below the surface. Please consider the general task of the categories and think long and hard about how far you want to go with the processing.

Double exposures, half- and half-recordings are permitted if the picture or a part of the picture were shot beneath the water surface.

§ 8.9 Additional improvements of images done after the time of shot, are manipulations which will be punished with disqualification.

This means: Photo editing after breaking the surface/ diving time is not allowed.

Editing as explained above, is allowed only during the dive below the surface.

Explanation of the categories.

The rules of the World Championships do not contain a creative category, as years ago.

This category had to be cancelled because the underwater environment protection has not been met.

The CMAS expects lifelike photos that reflect our beautiful underwater world. Thus the category "Wide Angle with Diver" shall also insert models into the underwater world and illustrate our sport.

You are particularly required in your creativity, the nature offers you artistically uncountable possibilities.

The jury will consider these criteria particularly and align the awarding of points accordingly. Especially photos that are designed by over-sharpness or color changes (HDR) are endangered.