



DRM Ljubljana

Sneberska cesta 102, SI - 1260 Ljubljana - Polje, SLOVENIJA
Transakcijski račun št.: 3000-0000-7028-559 / Davčna številka 52587258

organises

OPEN COMPETITION IN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

DRM OPEN 26

That will be held on 17th of October 2026 in Piran



Underwater photographers will have **5 hours** for capturing best photos. After five hours memory cards with maximum **100 shots** must be handed to jury. After copying the cards are returned to authors who then choose photos for judging.

Competition will be held in **three categories**: Wide (W), Fish (F) and Macro (M).

Underwater photographers will compete in **two classes**: compact cameras and DSLR cameras.

COMPETITION

1. Right to participate

In the open championships all photographers of any nationality, with valid diving license of any diving schools are welcome to compete. Divers with basic diving certificates (P1, OWD or equal) are required to dive in pairs. At verification competitors need to submit:

- Diving certificate
- Signed statement of liability and medical capabilities
- Payment of the entry fee at verification.

2. Equipment

Only properly maintained and attested equipment with open circuit, filled with air or nitrox, is allowed to be used for diving at the competition. It is **ONLY** permitted to dive with open air or nitrox. For both a valid certificate is needed. Organizer has the right to check the safety of equipment and breathing gas mixture. Competitors have to bring their scuba tanks full.

It is allowed to use **ONLY** digital cameras of any type (DSLR or compact camera with or without housing). It is allowed to use all types of strobes and additional lighting, lenses and other photo equipment.

3. Competition rules

Before entering the water competitors must **format their memory cards and make the first photo in front of the judge**. The first photo must be of a predetermined item with a competitor's number. The item is determined by the organizer on the day of the competition. All competitors have to take pictures in **JPG** format (sRGB). Recording images in parallel formats (NEF, RAW, etc.) is allowed, but these images are not turned over for judging.

It is **permitted** to use crop, multiple exposures, overlapping images or any other photo post processing tools **available in camera**. All »in camera« post-processing has to be done while the camera **is still closed inside underwater housing**.

After diving competitors submit their cards with maximum **101 shots** to the organizer. Rough selection of photos has to be made on competitor's camera. In the event that competitor submits a card with more than 101 recordings (control image included), the organizer will remove all excess photos. The first photo has to include predetermined item with competitor's number. All competitors make selection of their images on their own computers. They have **2 hours for the selection**.

For easier management and reduced time lag, competitors are encouraged to bring their own computers as the organiser **will not** provide additional computers. To avoid possible compatibility problems between digital devices and computers, competitors are encouraged to bring along the USB cable for camera and software to download images.

Competitors submit **one photo for each category** (3 categories = 3 photos). The jury assesses individual photos in each category. Competitors submit to organizer only the file names of JPEG photos they choose. At submission competitors can check that names match selected images. Competitors can request to rotate and/or flip their photos.

Submission of photos that were not recorded at the competition is forbidden. Any violation of prescribed rules may result in immediate disqualification of the competitor.

Correction of the photographs (levels, crop, BW) is allowed within the limitations of the camera. Any correction to the photograph must be made while the camera is still in casing.

4. Categories

Competitors will compete in **3 categories**: Wide angle (W), Fish (F) and Macro (M).

Wide angle photo (W): The objective is to take a technically correct and artistically beautiful wide angle photography, made with lenses of **35mm** or less and angles of **62 ° up**, including the lenses of the type "fish eye". It is recommended to take a photo which highlights the natural beauty of the underwater environment, although photos of a diver will be considered as part of the natural underwater environment. Each competitor may have one diver-model that is present at the verification. It is allowed to take **half-half pictures** where at least 50% of the photo must be underwater.

Fish photography (F): The objective is to take a technically correct and artistically beautiful photography, which main object is **LIVE fish** (Fish). The photography can also display the school of fish, fish portrait, or a detail of a fish (eyes, scales ...). The use of all types of lenses, strobes and optical accessories are allowed (fore lenses, intermediate rings, teleconverters).

Macro photography (M): The objective is to take a technically correct and artistically beautiful photography of small creatures or details of underwater flora and fauna. It is forbidden to take pictures of fish. It is allowed to use all types of lenses and optical add-ons (fore lenses, intermediate rings, teleconverters). In this category the longer side of photo must not be larger than 100mm in nature.

5. Restrictions

In all categories it is allowed to use all types of strobes, additional lighting, different colored filters and effects-lenses.

In all categories it is **NOT allowed** to interfere with the natural environment, move organisms, shoot dead organisms, feed fish or destroy any part of the flora or fauna.

Any abuse of flora or fauna may result in immediate disqualification of the competitor. Same applies for disregarding any other rule.

It is NOT allowed to bring any artificial objects underwater or alter the natural environment in any way.

6. Scoring and ranking

In all categories the best rated photos will be:

- Technically correct (exposure, sharpness, minimal suspension, etc..) and
- Compositionally correct (diagonal, third, golden section, etc..).

The jury will assess each photo separately. Based on the assessment they will attribute each photography an appropriate number of points. The maximum number of points in each category brings the first place to the competitor in particular category. The overall ranking is based on the total number of points in all categories.

Competitor with the highest sum of points is the winner the winner of his group (compact or DSLR). In the case of a tie, the winner will be chosen by the jury on the base of the general impression of submitted photos.

Club ranking is determined by top 2 overall rankings of a particular team. Only 2 rankings of each team account for team title. The team title is open only to members of same diving club. Membership must be confirmed at the verification with a valid club card. In case of tied, same rules apply as for individual rankings.

7. Complaints

Jury's decision is final. Complaints on the assessment of photos are not possible. Appeals are possible only on errors of summing points and the miscalculated final ranking of the competitors.

The appeal must be submitted in writing form to the accountable person responsible for dealing with complaints. Name of the person in charge will be announced with publication of results. Appeals have to be submitted no later than 30 minutes after results are published and will be resolved before the award ceremony.

9. Copyright and responsibility

Photographers retain the copyright of photographs. DRM Ljubljana as the organizer retains the right to publish competition photos in any printed or web format, with a goal to present the winning images and photographers to the public, as well as the use of photos for promotional events in underwater photography. Winning photos can be printed and given to sponsors. The organizer retains the right of free publication of photographs on the website www.drm-drustvo.si and www.iupc.eu. All forms of publication include the authors' name and surname. Organizers have the right to use the competing photos for promotion of IUPC underwater photography under Creative Commons **Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives (cc by-nc-nd)** license.

Organizers disclaims any responsibility for damages which may arise as a result of this competition. All competitors and models are diving at their own risk and are fully responsible for their actions, what they are confirming by signing the statement of responsibility.

10. Accommodation

Accommodation is organized at Marine Biological Station (MBP). Bed in two to four-bed room is 25€ / night / person. Given the limited number of beds the competitors have to register as soon as possible. The number of beds and nights you want to stay has to be specified in the online application. The costs of accommodation have to be paid directly at the hotel.

11. Application

Send your application with:

1. name and surname
2. residence
3. camera (DSLR / compact apparatus, make, model)
4. model-assistant (yes / no, number of models)
5. accommodation (yes / no, how many persons, the date of arrival - date of departure)
6. contact phone

Entry fee for each competitor in the DRM Open is 30 €. Entry fee for each model is 30 €. In the event that two competitors are each other's models, each of them pays only the entry fee as a competitor. At the verification they have to register each other as a model.

The entry fee includes:

- One SCUBA Tanks Filling
- Brunch on Saturday morning
- Use of dive center facilities
- Use of hall for selection of photos
- Free parking during the day on Fornace parking

Applications for accommodation should be sent no later than **16. October**, applications for competition without accommodation should be sent no later than **16. October** to email: **drm-open@drm-drustvo.si**

For any additional information feel free to email on: drm-open@drm-drustvo.si

EVENT SCHEDULE

Location of competition:

Competitive area is northern site of cape Piran, at bathing area. The competing area is limited. It is limited only for entry and exit from the water, which must take place in front of the diving center. Assembly and verification of the competitors is in the facilities of diving center. Access to DC is possible by car with one hour limit. Near the DC there are no parking spaces so you have to park your car at Fornace parking area. Make sure you have enough time to get back in time.

Competitors have to come to the competition with a full cylinder. Charging is arranged on the day of the competition on the premises of DC Sub-Net.

In the event of bad weather or poor visibility, the organizer is allowed to change propositions or move the competition to an alternative location.

GPS: +46° 22' 7.30", +14° 5' 59.30"

Time table

8:00 to 9:00 Verification of the contestants and models (DC Sub-net Piran)

9:00 to 9:30 Opening of the Cup

10:00 to 14:00 Competition in all categories

14:30 to 15:00 Handing over the memory cards

15:00 to 16:30 Free time

16:30 to 17:30 Receiving memory cards with photos, selection of digital images and submitting the list of selected digital images. (Marine Biology Station)

18:00 to 20:00 Jury work and Calculating the results

20:00 to 21:00 Announcement of results, the projection of images, awards and prizes

21:00 End of Competition

* Organizer has the right to change program.

DRM Ljubljana (competition organizer) together with sponsors wishes you a pleasant stay in Piran and lots of success at competition!