

# Madeira UnderWater

madeiraunderwater.com

**IV OPEN**

**Photo and Video**

**Championship**

**26 October to 02 Novembre 2025**

**1 COMPETITION IN 2 ISLANDS**

<b>PORTO SANTO</b> 26 <sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER TO 29 <sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025	<b>MADEIRA</b> 30 <sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER TO 2 <sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2025
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ORGANIZATION: ANM  
GOLDEN SPONSORS: Madeira  
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**PORTO SANTO & MADEIRA**

# SPECIFIC RULES

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. These Specific Rules apply to the IV Madeira Underwater Photo and Video Open, which will take place in two Islands, Porto Santo and Madeira, Portugal, from October 26 to November 02, 2025:
  - 1.1.1. 26-10-2025 to 29-10-2025 – Porto Santo Island
  - 1.1.2. 29-10-2025 to 02-11-2025 – Madeira Island
- 1.2. The event is organized by the Madeira Swimming Association (Associação de Natação da Madeira - ANM), along with the Portuguese Underwater Federation (Federação Portuguesa de Actividades Subaquáticas - FPAS).
- 1.3. The IV Madeira Underwater Photo and Video Open is an international competition.
- 1.4. These Specific Rules will be applied for the IV Madeira Underwater Photo and Video Open.
- 1.5. The IV Madeira Underwater Open will include one stage of the Portuguese National competition and one stage of the National Portuguese Cup. These two competitions have they're on rules.

## 2. PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY

- 2.1. All Underwater Photographers and Videographers can participate in the IV Madeira Underwater Photo and Video Open. Registration form must be sent until **June 01, 2025**, to [geral@anatacaodamadeira.pt](mailto:geral@anatacaodamadeira.pt)
- 2.2. **The same team can compete in Photo and Vídeo.**
- 2.3. The list of participants must be finalised no later than **July 20, 2025**.
- 2.4. Registration fee must be sent along with the respective registration form to the ANM: [geral@anatacaodamadeira.pt](mailto:geral@anatacaodamadeira.pt). Deadline is **June 01, 2025**.
- 2.5. Also, with the registration form, athletes must send the following documents:
  - Diving Certification (Level II - NP EN 14153-2 - European norm or equivalent)
  - Nitrox certification
  - Diving insurance
- 2.6. Participation of any athlete and his/her assistant with diving certification from any recognized diving agency in Portugal is allowed.

### 3. COMPETITION PROCEDURES

- 3.1. The Organising Committee will hold a detailed briefing about the competition during the Technical Meeting on Sunday, 26th October.
- 3.2. Following people will take part in the Technical Meeting:
- The Head of the Hosting Organisation,
  - Persons in charge appointed by the Hosting Federation,
  - The Competitors for both video and photo,
- 3.3. The following subjects will be covered in the Technical Meeting:
- Distribution of the teams among the competition zones,
  - Information about the timetable and transport,
  - Safety measures,
  - Organisation of the dives,
  - Technical matters,
  - Handling of the photos and videos,
  - Clarification of the specific rules,
  - Guidelines for protocol and medal ceremony.
- 3.4. The IV Madeira Underwater Open will take place from 26<sup>th</sup> October until 2<sup>nd</sup> November of 2025.
- From 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October, the competition will take place in Porto Santo Island, with 2 dives on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 2 dives on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- From 29<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> November, the competition will take place in Madeira Island, with 2 dives on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 2 dives on the 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The Open Director retains the right to change the competition order and the dive times according to the prevailing conditions. It is advised for the competitors to take the shots (photo and or video) on the first day of the competition for all the categories. Should the second competition day be cancelled, they will have images for all the categories.
- 3.5. There are 8 competition zones for the Open, 4 in Porto Santo Island and 4 in Madeira Island. Detailed information about the eight zones will be given at the technical meeting. During the four competition days, every competitor must dive once, on each of the eight zones. It may be necessary to repeat some of the competition areas for weather conditions and/or safety.
- 3.6. The eight competition zones and all technical information will be announced on the
- Official website [www.madeiraunderwater.com](http://www.madeiraunderwater.com)
  - Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Madeiraunderwater>

### **3.7. Competition Zones in Porto Santo Island (27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October)**

Previewed competition zones:

- Wreck Corveta Pereira d'Eça
- Poio Pequeno
- Pedra do Ginja
- Pedra do Sol

Alternative competition zones:

- Baixa do Cotrim
- Maldivas and/or Furado

### **3.8. Competition Zones in Madeira Island (30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October)**

Previewed competition zones:

- Wreck Corveta Afonso Cerqueira
- Garajau
- Baixa da Cruz
- Baixa das Moreias

Alternative competition zones:

- Pitanga
- Blue Hole

### **3.9. There are 4 photo contest categories:**

- The evaluation between cameras (compact; DSLR; Mirroless) and mobile devices will be distinct

### **3.10. There are 3 video contest categories:**

- The evaluation between cameras (compact; DSLR; Mirroless; Action Cams) and mobile devices will be distinct

### **3.11. The submitted photos and videos will be judged by the Jury.**

#### 4. **PHOTOS - Categories**

- **Wide-angle:** Photo of the underwater environment, with fauna and flora, may or not contain a model.
  - **Fish:** Fish photography as the main element of photography. It can be a fish or a shoal.
  - **Close-up:** Detail of any underwater subject, including fish. Macro photography or close-up and detail photography.
  - **Edited and Creative:** Free composition photo, allowed to use all possible functionalities available on the camera. The composition is to be made underwater.
- 4.1. The procedures for the selection of photos are according to the present Specific Rules.
- 4.2. Double exposure, image overlay, and cropping “in-camera” are allowed.
- 4.3. It is allowed to use the FX or DX function of the cameras before taking the photo.
- 4.4. **Photos not allowed** – Participants are not allowed to submerge artificial objects underwater to be used in their photos. The Control Committee will disqualify those photos. Artificial objects used to enrich the image's quality can be used but must not be seen in the photo, like colour filters (can be used on lights and lenses), strobes mounted or remote etc. The filter (colour paper or else) cannot be seen in the shot. A photo is not disqualified if a remote flash has been used and a part of the flash or its cable appears in the shot because the photographer was not able to hide it properly. It is understandable that it was not his intention that this element was a part of the shot. In this case, the jury is free to give high points or not to this photo as they may think that the image is far from being a professional photo. The contest wants to show the natural environment and the living beings that inhabit it at its best.
- 4.5. The participant must make sure that he/she cancels the *copyright* function and any metadata on the camera so that the images sent to the Jury cannot recognize the photographer by the file names or metadata.
- 4.6. At the beginning and the end of both immersions, each day, the participants must take a "control photo" with the judge visible in the frame.
- 4.7. Number of photos is unlimited.
- 4.8. It is not allowed to delete pictures.

## 5. VIDEOS - Categories

- **Promotional film of Madeira and Porto Santo:** Film should contain land and underwater images, aiming to captivate non-divers to get to know Porto Santo and Madeira Islands and its underwater world. Maximum film length is 1'30".
- **Underwater world film:** Film only with images of the underwater world aiming to show the beauty of the underwater nature. Can include the human element. Maximum film length is 1'30".
- **Fish Film:** Film just from the fish and their interaction with other fishes or environment. Divers can't appear in the film.

In any category you can include animations, voice over, music and subtitles. Voice over and subtitles must be in English. It is the author's responsibility to have the authorizations for the use of music and all the necessary elements to be exhibited by the organisation.

- 5.1. Procedures for selecting videos are according to the present Specific Rules.
- 5.2. It is mandatory to record the infographics, video images (both under and above water) and photographs that will be used in the project during the days of competition. The participant will only be able to import into the project the following components that are not created during the editing time (free from copyright and previously registered by the organisation): sound effects, video effects, music, voice-overs and animations.
- 5.3. At the beginning and the end of both dives, each day, participants must film a "control take" with the Judge visible in the video.
- 5.4. For the non-underwater takes (land takes), the participants can have unlimited time filming. It will be allowed during the days of the Open (26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October). The memory card for the non-underwater takes will be different from the cards of the underwater takes. All these cards will be formatted, the date on the camera will be changed and cards will be marked, and a control take will be arranged before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Competition.
- 5.5. The non-underwater takes (land-takes) will be downloaded and verified by the Organisation in before being used and edited by the participants.
- 5.6. The post-production can be done in any moment, only by the Video Team. Editing done by others will be punished by the disqualification of the team. Competitors must start their project with a clean slate.
- 5.7. Competitors will work with their editing equipment; the lack of such equipment is not the responsibility of the Organisation.

- 5.8. **Drones** – It is possible to use drones to film on land, however it is mandatory to request the proper authorization to local authorities and to have the European Certification requested by law. Without these two conditions, it is forbidden to fly a drone.

**Mobile Devices:** The mobile devices will be control by the organization to check what images are captured during the competition. During the competition you need to have the equipment's in-flight mode and just work like a camera and memory card.

## 6. PROCEDURES REGARDING MEMORY CARDS

- 6.1. The following procedures apply to competition days:
- 6.1.1. Competitors go Athletes go to the place designated by the organisation for the control of their cameras.
- 6.1.2. In the designated area, Competitors should present their cameras and follow the organisation's instructions. Under the direct supervision of a Judge, they will:
- Change date and time
  - Check that there is only one memory card in each camera
  - Format the cards
- 6.1.3. After the camera housing is closed, it cannot be opened. It is not permitted to change the configuration, perform repairs etc. without the direct supervision of a judge. The camera settings, batteries and lenses are changed between dives under the supervision of judges.
- 6.1.4. Competitors will take their cameras to their assigned boats once the organisation instructs them to.
- 6.1.5. Competitors must make a control image (photo or/and video) in the boat, before entering the water and immediately after leaving the water.
- 6.1.6. Should a lens or battery need to be changed between dives or during the dive, this may only be done at a specially designated place, under the direct supervision of one of the judges.
- 6.1.7. After the two dives of the day, the camera housing is opened in a specially designated place under the Judge's direct supervision. The memory card is delivered to the judge.
- 6.1.8. Once back at the designated place, the Organisation will copy the files on the memory cards to an external drive. The memory cards are returned to the competitors (see program).
- 6.1.9. The underwater cases for the mobile devices can be open after the dives so their owners can use it, after taken the control image.

## 7. USE OF CAMERAS DURING THE OPEN

- 7.1. Competitors may use any type of camera, i.e., any equipment that allows you to photograph and/or film, like DSLR cameras, Mirrorless, Action cameras (GoPro type), tablets and cell phones. They must always be protected with waterproof housings.
- 7.2. The photographer or videographer can take more than one camera underwater. However, if necessary, the competitor can change the cameras, during the competition time of ninety minutes, on the boat. For this, the team must come together to the surface, change the camera and go back underwater.
- 7.3. Number of photos is unlimited.
- 7.4. It is not allowed to delete photos/videos at any moment.

## 8. ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS

- 8.1. Several sanctions will be applied to infractions. These sanctions, like other attitudes and behaviours, will be evaluated by the Competition Director.
  - 8.1.1. Not taking the control images before and after each dive: The correspondent dive images will not be accepted.
  - 8.1.2. Not making the safety stop to avoid exceeding the ninety minutes of the dive: The photos of that dive will not be accepted.
  - 8.1.3. Breathing from the buddy's air or from the safety bottle on the boat's cable: The dive is disqualified.
  - 8.1.4. Manipulate fauna/flora: Dive disqualified or even disqualification from the Open if the handling is considered very serious. Additionally, before the dive, the Competitors diving equipment can be inspected at any time to check that no captured specimen is being previously carried or have some kind of equipment to capture sea life. In case of detecting this kind of circumstances, the team will be disqualified from the Open.
  - 8.1.5. Manipulation of the diving computer (falsification of the diving data, removing it during the dive to not register the maximum depth or changing with the buddy's computer) or not to present it at the end of the dive: Disqualification from the Open.
  - 8.1.6. Losing the dive buddy more than 10 minutes: Dive is disqualified.



- 8.1.7. Manipulating the camera out of the water or at the surface without a Judge's supervision: The dive is disqualified. It is mandatory to notify the Judge to manipulate the camera for any reason.

## 9. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

- 9.1. The Local Organisation Committee is responsible for setting the Open Organisational Structure, which nominates, at least, the Open Director, Safety Director, and Logistic Director's positions and roles.
- 9.2. The LOC can define an infinite number of staff positions and roles.
- 9.3. All positions and roles created by the LOC, such as Boat Captains, Volunteers, Health Personnel, Transport, Dive Operators, etc., report to the Open Director.

## 10. PROGRAM

PROGRAM - 26 a 29 de october 2025 – PORTO SANTO

- 26 Oct. (sunday): Accreditation + Briefing: 16:00h à 20:00h
- 27 Oct. (monday): 1.º Dive (09:00h à 12:00h) e 2.º Dive (15:00h à 18:00h)
- 28 Oct. (tuesday): 3.º Dive (09:00h à 12:00h) e 4.º Dive (15:00h à 18:00h)
- 29 Oct. (wednesday): Dia Livre + Transfer - Porto Santo island – Madeira island

PROGRAM - 30 october a 02 november 2025 – MADEIRA

- 30 Oct. (thursday): 5.º Dive (09:00 à 12:00h) e 6.º Dive (15:00h à 18:00h)
- 31 Oct. (friday): 7.º Dive (09:00 à 12:00h) e 9.º Dive (15:00h à 18:00h)
- 01 Nov. (saturday): Jury + Award Ceremony (18:00h) + official dinner (19:30h)
- 02 Nov. (sunday): Return home of athletes

The schedules are provisional. They may vary according to the number of participants and the weather conditions. The Organisation will update the program on the official website: [www.madeiraunderwater.com](http://www.madeiraunderwater.com)

## 11. REGISTRATION ON THE EVENT

### 11.1. Open Packages:

Event prices per person include:

- 3 nights' accommodation at Hotel Vila Baleira in triple, double and/or single room;
- 4 nights' accommodation at Hotel, in triple, double and/or single room;
- Full pension (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
- Transfers from Hotel to the several diving locations in Porto Santo and Madeira Island, during the competition days.

- Two dives per day, during the 4 competition days (8 dives).
- Tanks and weights.
- Nitrox and/or Air for all competitors. For Nitrox you need to be certified Nitrox diver.
- Transfer of participants from Hotel in Madeira to the Cristiano Ronaldo airport.

## PRICES

Participants	Price per person in triple room	Price per person in double room	Price per person in single room
Competitors	380€	420€	490€
Non-Competitors *	330€	380€	----

(\*) - Dives not included

Other services, like extra night, several activities, dives, are mandatory to be booked on the official website: <https://www.madeiraunderwater.com> or by mail: [geral@anatacaodamadeira.pt](mailto:geral@anatacaodamadeira.pt).

11.2. The reservation is confirmed once LOC has received the payment. All payment must be received by ANM no later than 20<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

11.3. For bank transfers, account details are:

Beneficiary	Associação de Natação da Madeira
Beneficiary account	PT50 0018 0000 5468 5462 020 86
Beneficiary Bank	Santander
Swift code	TOTAPTPL
Mandatory description	“IV Madeira Underwater OPEN 2025” – “Name”/“Country”

## 12. PRIZES

- Prizes will be announced in due course, they will be in genres and by individual draw.
- Raffle of equipment related to diving and/or imaging.

## 13. ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES

13.1. Every competitor, as a certified diver, needs to know diving skills, techniques, and safety procedures, diving with the buddy, ascent speed, and bottom times without decompression and air management.

13.2. Every athlete dive with a BCD, pressure and depth gauge, regulator, alternative air source, dive computer and safety marker buoy.

13.3. By Portuguese law, all divers must carry a Deco Buoy.

- 13.4. During the Open, divers will not exceed ninety minutes (including safety stop) and will not do decompression dives.
- 13.5. If divers lose each other underwater, they must ascend to the surface. Only when they find each other on the surface, they can descend again. If they do not see each other, they must report this immediately to the Judge on the boat or the organisation.

## **14. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 14.1.1 Diving conditions this time of the year are excellent, water temperature around 20/21°C and visibility up to 40m.
- 14.1.2 We recommend diving with a neoprene 5/7 mm suit. Each diver will know better how he/she will feel more comfortable.

## **15. ORGANISATION AND JURI MEMBERS**

- 15.1. Organisation Committee during the Open is constituted by:
- Championship Director
  - President of the Jury for Photo and Video
  - Head of Judges
  - LOC Championship Directors

## **16. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

- 16.1. The Protection of the environment is regulated by governmental law.
- 16.2. The IV Madeira Underwater Photo and Video Open will take place in a Natural Reserve and several other places.
- 16.3. It is strictly forbidden to feed, remove, cut, or transport, collect, kill animals, plants or other forms of life and cause damage to the environment in general.

## **17. SAFETY AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

- 17.1. Safety on Land:
- Ambulance medicalized and prepared for evacuation
  - Doctor
  - Health personnel and auxiliary nursing
  - Communication: Channel Distress frequency 16 VHF; Other channels will be provided for communication on the technical meeting; Mobile phones

## 17.2. Safety on Sea:

- Dedicated boats with rescue mean
- Oxygen equipment on all the boats in the competition
- Communication: Channel Distress frequency 16 VHF; Other channels will be provided for communication on the technical meeting; Mobile phones

## 17.3. Evacuation to Hospital:

- Hyperbaric assistance – evacuation to Madeira Hospital to hyperbaric chamber - Hospital Dr. Nélio Mendonça.
- Medical assistance – depending on the injury can be evacuated for Madeira Hospital or to the nearest Health Centre.

## 17.4. Useful numbers

- Emergency call: 112
- Police: +351 291 980 010
- Firemen: +351 291 982 115

## 18. CONTACTS

18.1. For General Contacts and comments: [geral@anatacaodamadeira.pt](mailto:geral@anatacaodamadeira.pt)

18.2. For more information about the IV Madeira Underwater Photo and Video Open 2025 or other information, please contact:

[geral@anatacaodamadeira.pt](mailto:geral@anatacaodamadeira.pt)

and visit the official web site:

<https://www.madeiraunderwater.com>

**Follow the preparations and all the information on the Madeira Underwater Photo and Video OPEN on:**

- <https://www.madeiraunderwater.com/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Madeiraunderwater>



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