



Swiss Masters in UW-Photography 2025 – Rules

RULES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. These rules form the basis of the Swiss Masters in UW-Photography, which will take place from September 10-13 in the Verzasca Valley in Switzerland.
- 1.2. The event is organized by CMAS swiss diving, visual commission.
- 1.3. The Swiss Masters in Underwater Photography is an international competition. As the dive sites are not large and the number of divers in the river is limited, the Swiss Masters in Underwater Photography is not an open competition. Well-known underwater photographers with a track record as world champions, multiple national champions or winners of international underwater photography competitions may be invited by the committee. The committee may also award blue cards to up-and-coming photographers.

2. PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY

- 2.1. One year before the competition the committee selects uw-photographers and invite them to participate.
- 2.2. 6 months before the competition the participants have to send in their bio, a portrait and 7-9 of the best photos. This will be published on the website of the Swiss Masters in Underwater Photography (www.photo-swissmasters.ch) and on social media like Facebook, Instagram etc.
- 2.3. The list of participants must be finalised no later than 3 months before the competition.
- 2.4. The registration of the photographers will be held before the opening ceremony. At the registration is needed the following for photographers and models/buddies:
 - Diving Certification
 - Medical attest / confirmation
 - Signed datasheet of participant
 - Entry fee
3. Participation of any athlete and his/her assistant with diving certification from any recognized diving agency in Switzerland is allowed.

4. COMPETITION PROCEDURES

- 4.1. The Organising Committee will hold a detailed briefing about the competition during the Technical Meeting before the Opening Ceremony.

4.2. Following people will take part in the Technical Meeting:

- The Head of the Organisation
- Persons in charge or appointed by the committee
- The Competitors and models/buddies
- Head of judges/jury

4.3. The following subjects will be covered in the Technical Meeting:

- Security / how to dive in rivers / dangers of diving in rivers / security lines and markers at entry and ending point at the dive site
- Distribution of the teams among the competition zones,
- Information about the timetable and transport,
- Organisation of the dives,
- Technical matters,
- Handling of the photos
- Clarification of the specific rules,
- Guidelines for protocol and medal ceremony.
- At the opening ceremony, the dive sites and dive times will be assigned to the teams by lottery.

4.4. Dive sites:

There are 3 competition zones in the Verzasca river and several alternative dive sites (in river, mountain lakes or lake of Lugano)

Competition zones are (each team dives on all competition zones):

- Pozzo dei Salti / "Roman bridge"
- Pozzo delle Posse (near Hotel Posse / access without car)
- Pozzo delle Misura

The head of security and the 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 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.

5. **PHOTOGRAPHY**

5.1. Photo categories:

There are 3 photo contest categories. The evaluation between cameras (DSLR; Mirroless) and mobile devices will be distinct.

- Wide-angle:
Photo of the underwater environment, without model. Photo must be taken 100% underwater. Cropping of photo is not allowed, editing under water is allowed
- Wide-angle with model:
Photo of the underwater environment with model. Photo must be taken 100% underwater. Cropping of photo is not allowed, editing under water is allowed
- Creative:
Free composition of the photo. Allowed to use all possible functionalities available on the camera. Half-Half is allowed. Double exposure, image overlay, and cropping "in-camera" are allowed.

In all categories it is allowed to use the FX or DX function of the cameras before taking the photo.

5.2. 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.

5.3. Preparation of camera:

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.

5.4. At the beginning and the end of each immersions the participants must take a "control photo" with the judge/security at the entry/end point of the dive site. The person must be visible in the frame but there is no need to do an master shot.

5.5. Number of photos is unlimited.

5.6. It is not allowed to delete pictures.

5.7. Photos must be taken in jpg and RAW. Only photos in jpg can be given to the Jury.

5.8. In each category can be sent in one photo.

6. PROCEDURES REGARDING MEMORY CARDS

6.1. The following procedures apply to competition days:

6.2. Competitors go to the place designated by the organisation for the control of their cameras.

6.3. 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

6.4. 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.

- 6.5. Competitors will take their cameras to their assigned cars once the organisation instructs them to.
- 6.6. Competitors must make a control image (photo) at the entry of the dive site, before entering the water and immediately after leaving the water.
- 6.7. 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.
- 6.8. 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.
- 6.9. Once back at the designated place, the Organisation will copy the files on the memory cards to an external drive. The memory cards will be returned to the competitors 1 h later.
- 6.10. The underwater cases for the mobile devices can be opened after the dives so their owners can use it, after taken the control image.

7. ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS

- 7.1. Not taking the control images before and after each dive: The correspondent dive images will not be accepted.
- 7.2. As the dives sites are not deep, as there is also nearly no fauna or flora the committee does not impose any further rules. But please be kind to the few trout. They already have a hard life without you, with cold water and little food.

8. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

- 8.1. The Organisation Committee (OC) is responsible for setting the Swiss Masters in UW-Photography organisational structure. It nominates the Director, Safety Director, and Logistic Director's positions and roles. At the first Swiss Masters in UW-Photography the head of CMAS swiss diving / visual acts as director and builds the organisation up.
- 8.2. The OC can define an infinite number of staff positions and roles.
- 8.3. All positions and roles created by the OC, such as safety divers, volunteers, health personnel, transport, dive operators, etc., report to their superiors, or the OC director.

9. PROGRAM

1st Swiss Masters in UW-Photography / 10. to 13 September 2025 in Lavertezzo
 (some parts are still in process)

- 09. Sept.: Arrival of participants / Accreditation
- 10. Sept.: Ceremony / Technical Meeting / Training dives
 - 10:00 Opening Ceremony in city hall Vogorno / lottery of dive sites and time
 - 11:15 Security briefing / Technical Meeting / Restaurant Posse
Lunch
 - 13:30 Training dives (with / or without camera)
 - 19:30 Dinner / Restaurant Posse
- 11. Sept.: 1st competition day (2 dives)
 - information about the schedule will be provided at the technical meeting
 - 19:30 Dinner / Restaurant Posse
- 12. Sept.: 2st competition day (1 or 2 dives)
 - information about the schedule will be provided at the technical meeting
 - 15:00 The jury judges the photos
 - 17:00 Presentation of photos / winner ceremony (city hall Vogorno)
 - 20:30 Photographers-Dinner / Restaurant Posse
- 13. Sept.:
 - 08:00 Photo session on remain brigde / all
 - 10:00 Departure home

The schedules are provisional. They may vary according to weather or river conditions. The organisation will update the program on the official website: www.photo-swissmasters.ch

10. REGISTRATION

10.1. Masters package for the Swiss Master in UW-Photography:

Event prices per person include:

- Transfer from airport Zurich or Milano to the hotels in the Verzasca Valley
- 3-4 nights' accommodation at Hotel Posse in Lavertezzo or Hotel Pizzo Vogorno in Vogorno in double and/or single room;
- Full pension (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
- Transfers from Hotel to the several diving locations
- Transfer to lunch/dinner in Hotel Posse
- Transfer to opening and medal ceremony
- Diving / tanks (air, no Nitrox) / weights
- DAN insurance during the event. This is for those who do not have DAN insurance.

Price per photographer / EUR 200

Price per assistant / EUR 100

Thanks to our sponsors, we can keep the costs for hotel, food, transportation and security low.
 The participants pay a small contribution towards expenses.

10.2. Prizes for winners

They will be announced at the opening Ceremony. There will be a great prize to win.

11. ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES

- 11.1. Every participant, as a certified diver, needs to know diving skills, techniques, and safety procedures, diving with his buddy, ascent speed, bottom times and air management.
- 11.2. Every participant dive with a BCD, pressure gauge, dive computer and one regulator
- 11.3. During the Swiss Masters, dives will not exceed 60 minutes
- 11.4. 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 safety divers in water or to security at start/end point.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS / DIVING / TRANSPORTATION

- 12.1. Diving conditions this time of the year are excellent, water temperature around 20/21°C and visibility up to 50m.
- 12.2. We recommend diving with a neoprene 7 mm suit or dry suit. Each diver will know better how he/she will feel more comfortable. At the start point there will be warm water to put in the wet suit.
- 12.3. Storage of diving material / cameras:
All diving equipment is stored at Hotel Posse. The compressor system and tanks are also located there. Cameras are to be stored in the hotel room.
- 12.4. Transportation
There is a shuttle bus between the two hotels. The transport team will take you to the dive sites.

13. ORGANISATION AND JURY

- 13.1. Organisation Committee during the Swiss Masters is constituted by:
 - Swiss Masters Director
 - President of the Jury
 - Head of judges
 - Head of safety
 - Head of helpers
 - Head of transportation

14. SAFETY AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- 14.1. Safety on Land:
 - Ambulance with decompression chamber medicalized and prepared for evacuation (stationed at Romain bridge)
 - Doctor (stationed at Ambulance)
 - DAN Europe Suisse
 - Health personnel and auxiliary nursing on stand-by
 - Security personnel
 - Air rescue / helicopter from REGA 1414 on stand-by

14.2. Safety in/at the river:

- Safety personnel at entry/exit point
- Rescue divers in the water
- Oxygen equipment at all dive sites
- Sherpa-team on stand-by

14.3. Useful phone numbers

- Event director (+41) 79 727 28 11 / Assistant: +41 79 727 28 28
- Hotel Posse (+41) 91 746 17 96 / +41 76 713 76 01
- Hotel Pizze Vogorno (+41) 91 745 12 56
- Police (+41) 117
- Fire brigade (+41) 118
- Air rescue / REGA (+41) 1414

15. CONTACTS

Follow the preparations and all the information on the Swiss Masters on UW-Photography on:

www.photo-swissmasters.ch

mail: info@photo-swissmasters.ch