

BY-LAWS TO THE CONSTITUTION of Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs

ATTACHMENT 1 – NEPTUNE AWARD INFORMATION

(As revised and updated through the Special Business Meeting held January 22, 2014)

HISTORIC INFORMATION – The Neptune Award has been presented to members of member clubs for over 30 years. Originally it was an annual point based competitive award for TGCC sanctioned events such as spearfishing contests and photography competition. In the late 1990s and early 2000s participation in TGCC sanctioned events such as Trashfest and SeaSpace were included in the point count. Beginning in 2008 TGCC wanted to emphasize educational classes, thus they were also included as a measure for this award. At this time the award now follows more closely the Purpose and Objectives outlined in Article II of the TGCC Constitution. The January 14, 2014 changes clarify the rules, changes the final reporting from the Deep Sea Digest to the TGCC Web-site, and the TGCC Awards Banquet date.

NEPTUNE AWARD

The Neptune award is designed to encourage participation in TGCC events, educational instructional programs, diving contests and member club events; and to promote education, safety, and recreation as it relates to diving or the aquatic environment. Prior to the annual Council banquet, the last Saturday in January, the honor roll of the top finalists will be announced on the TGCC web-site. At the banquet, recognition will be given to all on that honor roll, and the Neptune award winner will receive the engraved Neptune trophy.

To be eligible for Neptune points a TGCC event must be approved as part of the Neptune program. Activities that may be sanctioned include, but is not limited to educational classes, contests and environmental events such as Trashfest, spearfishing, photo shootouts, underwater Olympics, or other contests. Events may include giving lectures or seminars.

In general this award covers activities where our members are doing something positive for our general membership or the general diving public. It also includes any public service or show with scuba or aquatic-related activities. All underwater contests must fall within the boundaries of recommended safety for recreational diving. Consideration will also be given on a case by case basis to individual work by our members with schools, museums, scout troops or similar groups - if they meet the general objectives of the Council and are approved by the Council in advance.

TGCC requires that participation in the activity be open to all Council club members -- example, a contest cannot be restricted to the members of one club. We are interested in the participants and the level of their contributions. For example, in the case of an individual activity such as a lecture or class, then individual club members who attend will accrue one point for participation, and lecturer will accrue points as determined by the Council based on merit and suggested point schedule.

POINTS: The winner of the Neptune Award is determined by the number of points accumulated by an individual for active participation in any TGCC-sanctioned event or contest taking place between January 1 and December 31 of each year. Points will be awarded as determined at the time of sanctioning - based on (1) the schedule provided in this document, (2) recommendations by contest or event coordinators, and (3) the decision of TGCC voting reps.

Suggested point schedule: (these are maximum points allowable; lower values may be used and are recommended for events lasting less than 5 hours)

5 Points: Chairperson of a Council event or contest, and first place winner of an individual contest.

4 Points: Chairperson of an event or contest, Sub-committee head of a Council event, second place winner of an individual contest, and classroom Instructors.

3 Points: Sub-committee head of an event, Speakers, judges, third place winner of an individual contest, first place winning team members of a team event, and assistant classroom instructors.

2 Points: Second place team members of a team event, event volunteer.

1 Point: Third place team members and all registered participants of an event.

Information, responsibilities and guidance with respect to the Neptune Award and its points accruals:

- The TGCC First Vice President shall keep the records for the Neptune Award.
- The Neptune Award will not be presented if there are less than three Neptune Award qualifying events in the calendar year.
- If there is no Neptune Award for a particular year, but there were sanctioned events - then the Neptune points accrued to each individual involved in that year's events will be carried over to the next year and added to the points they receive for participating in the new year's sanctioned events.
- TGCC events that have been approved for the Neptune Award Program:
 - TGCC Annual Awards Banquet (Luncheon) with Neptune Points of:
 - Organizer = 3 points
 - Volunteers (caterer, projectionist, etc.) = 2 points
 - Participants = 1 point
 - TGCC Trashfest with Neptune Points of:
 - Chairperson = 5 points
 - Co-chairperson (s) = 4 points
 - Committee chairpersons (weigh-in, etc.) = 3 points
 - First place team = 3 points
 - Second place team = 2 points
 - Event volunteers = 2 points
 - Third place team = 1 point
 - All participants (Additional point for event winners, but not for staff members) = 1 point
 - The TGCC 1st Vice President is responsible to preparing the report of Neptune Award points for these events.
- TGCC member club events are sanctioned each year by that club's TGCC Representative. Sanctioning is in writing and the TGCC Board of Directors must approve both the request for sanctioning and the Neptune Points award schedule that has been requested. That club representative is also responsible for reporting the results (Neptune Points awarded by individual) to the TGCC's 1st Vice President.
- An individual may accrue up to, but not more than, 12 points in any one event or contest.

- Volunteers or event organizers may not count points for paid positions in an event or contest.
- Contestants or event organizers may accrue points up to the maximum allowable for the event or contest. (Example: 5 points as chair and 2 points for 2nd place in team event, 0 points for participation).
- In the event of a tie, the person with the largest number of participation points wins. If this does not break the tie, multiple awards will be made.
- To be eligible to accumulate points, participants must be a member in good standing of a TGCC club or an individual member of TGCC. In good standing means that at the time that the points awarded event took place, that individual's club dues had been paid; and from a club stand point – that the club's TGCC dues have been paid.
- It is the responsibility of the club TGCC Representative who requested the event sanctioning to make sure that all Neptune points earned during the event he/she sanctioned are approved and turned in to the TGCC 1st Vice President on a form or with an electronic file. It must be filled out properly and signed by appropriate designee of the club responsible for the event. This report should be turned in immediately after each event or contest, but must be in the TGCC 1st Vice President's possession no later than December 1st of the same year for contest before November 30th. For sanctioned events occurring in December, the deadline is five days after the event.
- The TGCC 1st Vice President is excluded from participation in the Neptune Award program during the year (s) that he/she serves. The TGCC 1st Vice President administers this award program and therefore it should be obvious that he/she has no vested interest in this award.
- For an instructional or educational sanctioned event - an individual is either part of the event staff, a volunteer, or a participant at the event. They can not be all of these at the same event.
- For events that include team or individual competition it is recognized that points awarded for the competition can be added to the points also awarded for one of the following aspects of the event – member of event staff, event volunteer, or event participant.
- The 1st Vice President reports to the TGCC Board at the November meeting, the results of the Neptune Award for that year. If an additional event has been approved before the end of that year, this report will be given at the meeting prior to the annual TGCC banquet (luncheon).
- Result disagreements:
 - Must be presented in writing, thru that Club Member's TGCC Representative, to the TGCC Board of Directors prior to the January meeting.
 - Will be reviewed at the January meeting by:
 - The TGCC 1st Vice President
 - The TGCC President
 - The TGCC Club Representative representing the member's results in question.
 - The individual whose results are being reviewed (If he/she is present).
 - Any changes agreed to will be documented with an amended sanction events report from the TGCC Club Representative who submitted the original report to the 1st Vice President.
- Reporting the results of the Neptune Award for the Year:
 - Will be posted on the TGCC Web-site.
 - Will be announced at the annual TGCC Awards Banquet (luncheon).
 - The number of participants that are reported is somewhat flexible:
 - The minimum report is the top three participants.
 - Additions mentions are fine as long as there is a meaningful separation in points accrued. (For example – top 4, 5 or 10 is OK; the 300 members tied at 1 point is not a reportable or news worthy occurrence.)

TGCC Sanctioned Event Recommended Form

To be eligible for Neptune points, an event or contest must be sanctioned by a majority vote of the TGCC. All of the following information must be submitted in writing by the Club Representative requesting sanctioning at a regularly scheduled Council meeting prior to the activity:

- Name of Event, Contest or Educational Class
- Sponsor of this activity
- TGCC Representative responsible for monitoring the activity and providing the final report to the TGCC 1st Vice President
- Event or contest information (Date, Time, Location)
- Description of the activity (i.e. lecture, charity benefit, SEASPACE, contest, etc.)
- Neptune points requested by the club for the event.
- The Neptune Award encourages participation in diving activities and promotes education, safety, and recreation as it relates to diving or the aquatic environment. If this activity does not obviously meet that criteria a justification must be given during the sanctioning process.
- If a contest - rules & regulations pertinent to location and the activity.

Approved and ratified on January 22, 2014 by:

TGCC 2014 Officers:

Todd Hasken President

Randy Widaman First Vice President

George Clark Second Vice President

Mark Leiserowitz Treasurer

Frank Burek Secretary

TGCC 2014 Full Member Representatives:

Mark Leiserowitz - City of Houston Underwater Mariners

Randy Widaman – Bay Area Divers

Frank Burek – H. Underwater Photographic Society

Tom Burns – Lunarfins