

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

ATTACHMENT 1 –NEPTUNE AWARD INFORMATION

(As revised and updated through the General Business Meeting held September 4, 2008)

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 last 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.

NEPTUNE AWARDS RULES

The Neptune award is designed to encourage participation in TGCC club educational instructional programs, diving contests and events, and to promote education, safety, and recreation as it relates to diving or the aquatic environment. Prior to the annual Council banquet, the first Saturday in February, the honor roll of the top 10 finalists will be announced in the Deep Sea Digest. If there is a tie at the tenth position, the number of honor finalists may exceed ten to include all ties. At the banquet, recognition will be given to all on the honor roll, and the Neptune award winner will receive the engraved Neptune trophy.

To be eligible for Neptune points, an educational, contest or event must be sanctioned by the Council. All underwater contests must fall within the boundaries of recommended safety for recreational diving. The following requirements must be submitted to the Council by a club rep or officer prior to the event:

- A. Date, time, and location of the contest or event
- B. List of events or activities and a description of each
- C. Rules & regulations pertinent to location and activity

This may 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; working with schools, museums, or scout troops; or any public service or show with scuba or aquatic-related activities. An event or contest must be open to ALL TGCC club members at the same time.

POINTS: Points will be accumulated by individuals 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 the schedule provided in this document or recommendations by contest or event coordinators and the decision of TGCC voting reps.

Suggested point schedule: (these are maximum points allowable; lower values may be used)

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

- 4 Points: Sub-committee head of an event, second place winner of an individual contest, and classroom Instructors.
- 3 Points: 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.
- 1 Point: Third place team members, volunteers, and all registered participants of an event.

Suggested point accrual:

An individual may accrue up to, but not more than, 16 points in any one event or contest. Volunteers may not count points for paid positions in an event or contest. Contest or event organizers may accrue points up to the maximum allowable for the event or contest. (Example: 5 points as chair, 2 points for 2nd place in team event, 1 point 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 of a TGCC club or an individual member of TGCC.

It is the responsibility of the club TGCC Representative who requested the event sanctioning to make sure points are approved and turned in to the TGCC 1st Vice President on a form or an electronic file. It must be filled out properly and signed by appropriate designee of the club responsible for the event. Any intentional discrepancies (cheating) will not be tolerated. The TGCC First Vice President shall keep records for the Neptune Awards.

TGCC Sanctioned Event

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 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...If the activity is a contest, attach rules)
- Points will be assigned by Neptune point schedule; UNLESS a lower scale is recommended when the event is proposed for TGCC sanctioning.
- 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.

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. 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.

TGCC Neptune Point Report

The TGCC Representative must report the point results to the TGCC first Vice President and make a report to the Council. The point report must identify event and be in writing or by electronic file. This report should be turned in after each event or contest, but must be turned in no later than December 31st of the same year.

Approved and ratified on September 4, 2008 by:

TGCC 2008 Officers:

Frank Burek

President

Todd Hasken

First Vice President

George Clark

Second Vice President

John Ringrose

Treasurer

Todd Rushing

Secretary

TGCC 2008 Full Member Representatives:

Todd Hasken - City of Houston Underwater Mariners

Mark Leiserowitz – Houston Underwater Club

John Ringrose – H. Underwater Photographic Society

George Clark – Lunarfins