



australian
freediving
association



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

Request for Proposal (RFP) Host Venue Australian Depth Freediving National Championships 2027

Indicative Dates: April–Jul 2027

Final dates to be confirmed in consultation with the selected host.

1. Introduction

The **Australian Freediving Association (AFA)** is the national governing body for freediving in Australia, governing competitions, athlete pathways, records, and international representation. The AFA is the recognised national federation for both **AIDA International** and, through its affiliation to the Australian Underwater Federation (AUF), **of CMAS**.

Australia has a strong history of national depth competitions, with Australian Depth Nationals held regularly prior to COVID-19 and successfully reinstated in 2023. Following a pause, AFA is now seeking to restart Australian Depth Nationals on a sustainable footing, with the ambition of re-establishing a recurring, high-quality national event.

The AFA invites proposals from freediving clubs, schools, operators, or locations interested in hosting the **Australian Freediving National Championships – Depth 2027**.

Proposals from locations within the Pacific region are strongly preferred, given ease of access from Australia, though all suitable proposals will be considered.

2. Event Overview

- **Event identity and branding**
 - The event name will contain the terms (A) **“Australian” or “Australian Freediving Association”**, and (B) **“National Championships”**
 - Subject to this requirement, the host venue may add supplementary wording or descriptors to the event name
- **Athletes**
 - Approximately **15–25 athletes**

- The event is open to Australian and international athletes
 - The host may promote the event internationally, provided that **25 athlete spots are reserved for Australian athletes until one (1) month prior to the event** (timeline subject to negotiation)
 - **Competition format**
 - Conducted under **AIDA International or CMAS rules**. The AFA acts as the national federation for both AIDA and CMAS in Australia and is open to either framework
 - Ideally, World Record Status (or equivalent)
 - **Disciplines**
 - Constant No Fins (CNF)
 - Free Immersion (FIM)
 - Constant Weight (CWT)
 - Constant Weight with Bifins (CWTB)
 - **One (1) official competition line** needed, more if athlete number exceeds 25
 - **Event duration**
 - **Four (4) competition days**
 - Preferred rhythm: **one competition day on / one day off**, weather permitting
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3. Roles & Responsibilities

Host Responsibilities

The host will be responsible for:

- Overall competition operations management
- Daily competition logistics and coordination
- Provision and management of:
 - Safety divers
 - Boats, platforms, and crews
- Securing all required local permits and regulatory approvals
- Appointment and management of judges
 - AFA reserves the right to provide judges if available
- Ongoing communication with AFA officials throughout the event

- Results management, including:
 - Submission of results to AIDA and/or CMAS systems
 - Daily transmission of results to AFA
- In the delivery of the Event, the selected Host Venue will be expected to uphold integrity and behavioural standards consistent with the [AFA-Code-of-Conduct-2022](#), the [AFA-behavioural-standards-complaints-regs-2022](#) and the [AUF National Integrity Framework Policies](#).

AFA Responsibilities

AFA will:

- Provide governance oversight
- Designate AFA officials for coordination and liaison
- Extract and manage results relating to Australian athletes for:
 - National rankings
 - Determination of Australian National Champion titles

Registrations & Pricing

- Pricing and registration structures will be set jointly by AFA and the host
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4. Location & Accessibility

Proposals should address the following, noting that accessibility from Australia will form part of the evaluation criteria:

- Location
 - Time zone relative to Australia
 - International airport access, including typical routes from Australia
 - Local transport options between airport, accommodation, and dive site
 - Visa requirements for Australian participants, if applicable
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5. Depth Site Requirements

The proposed competition site must demonstrate:

- **Unlimited depth**, with a **minimum operational depth of 120 metres**
- Safe and stable open-water conditions, including:
 - Predictable currents
 - Adequate visibility

- Manageable surface conditions
 - Suitability for:
 - Competition line rigging and anchoring
 - Counter ballast system deployment
 - Sonar diver detection system
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6. Infrastructure & Logistics

Please describe available infrastructure, including:

- Boats and/or platforms for:
 - Competition operations
 - Safety deployment
 - Oxygen availability, storage, and handling procedures
 - Equipment handling and storage
 - Communications infrastructure, including:
 - Radios
 - Mobile or satellite coverage
 - Backup systems
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7. Safety, Medical & Risk Management

Safety, medical preparedness, and risk management will be the **primary and most heavily weighted criteria** in the evaluation of proposals.

Proposals must clearly outline the following:

Safety Operations

- Provision of **safety divers**, which is the responsibility of the host
 - AFA will not provide safety divers
- Safety team structure, qualifications, and experience
- Safety procedures aligned with AIDA and/or CMAS standards
- Emergency action plans, including:
 - Incident escalation
 - Medical coordination

- Evacuation procedures

Medical & Emergency Management

- Access to:
 - Medical facilities
 - A recompression chamber, or a clearly defined emergency evacuation pathway
 - Information on how the local medical system typically manages freediving-related incidents, including Decompression sickness (DCS) and Cerebral arterial gas embolism (CAGE)
 - Confirmation that the host has an existing rapport with local hospitals, or is willing and able to establish such rapport prior to the event
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7. Accommodation & Local Amenities (Optional)

An official event hotel is not required, but bidders may include information on the following if they believe it strengthens their proposal:

- Accommodation options
 - Typical price ranges
 - Distance and transport time to the dive site
 - Availability of restaurants, grocery stores, and basic services
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8. Financial Considerations

Proposals should outline:

- Site access or usage fees
 - Indicative costs for boats, platforms, and local services
 - Costs for anti-doping procedures
 - Any in-kind support or sponsorship opportunities
 - Cost elements expected to be covered by the host versus AFA
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10. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by the AFA Board using the following weighted criteria:

- **50% – Safety**
 - Equipment and setup

- Safety team and procedures
- Medical and emergency considerations
- **30% – Financial**
 - Cost structure
 - Value for money
 - Financial sustainability
- **20% – Other Technical Factors**
 - Diving conditions not directly affecting safety
 - Logistics and accessibility
 - Operational feasibility

11. Selection Process & Timeline

The selection process and timeline set out below are indicative only.

The Australian Freediving Association (AFA) reserves the right to amend, suspend, or modify the process, timeline, or any aspect of this Request for Proposal at any time, including extending deadlines or seeking additional information from bidders, while acting fairly and consistently in its dealings with all bidders.

Indicative date	Step
Sun 1 March 2026	RFP published
Wed 11 March 2026, 6pm AEST	Expression of intention to bid and questions for clarification due
Sun 15 March 2026	Responses to questions and open Q&A call. All questions and answers will be shared with all bidders who expressed interest
Wed 8 April 2026	Proposals due
Sun 19 April 2026	Shortlisting (2 max)
	Follow-up discussions with shortlisted bidders
Sun 17 May 2026	Host venue selected

12. Submission Details

Proposals should include:

- Responses to all relevant sections of this RFP
- Photos, diagrams, or maps of the dive site
- Indicative availability in April–May 2027
- Primary contact details

All communications to AFA via committee@australianfreediving.org