

# **COMPETITION RULES**

---

Revised June 2007

## **BACKGROUND.**

### **WHO MAY PARTICIPATE.**

**ARTICLE 1: INTRODUCTION.**

**ARTICLE 2: GENERAL INFORMATION.**

**ARTICLE 3: ORGANISATION OF CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

**ARTICLE 4: COMPETITION RULES AND MODIFICATIONS.**

**ARTICLE 5: MEDICAL AND INSURANCE COVER.**

**ARTICLE 6: BANK FISHING COMPETITIONS.**

**ARTICLE 7: BOAT FISHING COMPETITIONS.**

**ARTICLE 8: RANDOM DRAW FOR BEATS AND BOATS.**

**ARTICLE 9: SPARE BEATS.**

**ARTICLE 10: DURATION OF EVENTS, AND PRACTICE VENUES.**

**ARTICLE 11: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF HEAD CONTROLLERS.**

**ARTICLE 12: CONTROLLERS.**

**ARTICLE 13: AWARDING OF POINTS.**

**ARTICLE 14: SESSION PLACINGS.**

**ARTICLE 15: TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL POSITIONS.**

**ARTICLE 16: OBLIGATIONS OF COMPETITORS.**

**ARTICLE 17: TEAM CAPTAINS.**

**ARTICLE 18: DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS OF THE JURY.**

**ARTICLE 19: CARE OF FISH CAUGHT.**

**ARTICLE 20: ELIGIBLE FISH.**

**ARTICLE 21: LOST FISH.**

**ARTICLE 22: COMPETITION BOATS.**

**ARTICLE 23: COMPETITION FLY RODS.**

**ARTICLE 24: COMPETITION FLY LINES.**

**ARTICLE 25: COMPETITION LEADERS.**

**ARTICLE 26: COMPETITION FLIES.**

**ARTICLE 27: LANDING NETS.**

**ARTICLE 28: PROHIBITIONS.**

## **BACKGROUND.**

The Competition Rules have been drawn up by the Committee in order to ensure consistency in the conduct of Fly Fish Australia's National and State championships.

Rule modifications are permitted to take account of the laws, regulations, practices and particular needs of the host State. Any such modifications must be circulated to all participating competitors, after approval by the Committee, well in advance of the relevant event.

If there is any doubt or dispute over any aspect of the Competition Rules, they will be resolved by interpreting the spirit of the Rules.

## **WHO MAY PARTICIPATE.**

Any person may compete in a State championship, to be eligible for the National championship the person must be a paid –up member of Fly Fish Australia prior to the commencement of the State event, and must attain qualification through his nominated State event.

## **ARTICLE 1: INTRODUCTION.**

- 1.1. Sport fishing is angling with rod and line, by amateur anglers.
- 1.2. Competition sport fishing is angling among competitors, who are observing a standard, approved set of rules.
- 1.3. Competition sport fly fishing is angling with a conventional fly rod, fly line, fly reel and artificial flies among competitors who are observing a standard, approved set of rules.

## **ARTICLE 2: GENERAL INFORMATION.**

- 2.1. Competitions may be organised for competitors of either sex, competing together or separately.
- 2.2. Competitions may take place on running or still water.
- 2.3. Competitions may be organised for different age groups as follows:
  - (a) Category A- Over 18 at any point during the year of the competition - Senior
  - (b) Category B- Aged 14-18 at any point during the year of the competition - Junior
  - (c) Category C- To be established – Masters
- 2.4. These Competition Rules apply equally to all categories and to National as well as State Championships, except when otherwise specified within these rules or changed in Rule Modifications (see Article 4.1).
- 2.5. For convenience, the words "he" and "his" are used throughout this document to include the words "she" and "her" respectively.

### **ARTICLE 3: ORGANISATION OF CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

- 3.1. Each States Fly Fish Australia chapter is responsible for the following:
- (a) Providing to all competitors, details of the proposed venue, championship waters, dates, eligible species, fishing methods and all other relevant information along with a formal application form to participate in the championship.
  - (b) Appointing a suitably qualified and experienced organiser or a competition committee to manage the preparations for, and running of, the championship.
  - (c) Selecting and training controllers who will uphold the ideal of fair and honorable sportsmanship.
  - (d) Providing a computer-based program for the random draw for beats and/or boats and for results.
  - (e) In the event that the particular State chapter is hosting the National championship it is a requirement that a submission of full accounts of the event be presented to the Executive Committee of Fly Fish Australia, within one month of the conclusion of the championship.

### **ARTICLE 4: COMPETITION RULES AND MODIFICATIONS.**

- 4.1. In all championships authorised by the Executive Committee of Fly Fish Australia, these Competition Rules apply, except when otherwise specified within these rules or changed in Rule Modifications to take account of the laws, regulations, practices and particular needs of the host state.
- 4.2. Any changes arising from the application of Article 4.1 must be included in the Rule Modifications.
- 4.3. A draft of the Rule Modifications must be prepared and submitted to the Executive Committee of Fly Fish Australia within two months of the event.
- 4.4. The Executive Committee of Fly Fish Australia must review, modify if considered necessary and approve the Rule Modifications ideally no later than one month prior to the event.
- 4.5. The organiser or competition committee must send or explain the Rule Modifications to all competitors prior to the commencement of the event.

### **ARTICLE 5: MEDICAL AND INSURANCE COVER.**

- 5.1. The State chapter must arrange adequate medical assistance, whereas the Executive Committee of Fly Fish Australia will provide liability insurance cover during the official competition period.
- 5.2. Members are responsible for providing their own health, travel, and any other insurance.

## **ARTICLE 6: BANK FISHING COMPETITIONS.**

- 6.1. The beats must be numbered consecutively starting from the upstream boundary in running waters. On still waters, the beats must be numbered clockwise. There must be the same number of beats within each venue as the number of participating competitors.
- 6.2. Beats must be established with the prime objective of providing all competitors with equal fishing opportunities; further, they should endeavor to be a length of two hundred metres on running water and one hundred metres on still waters.
- 6.3. A competitor may only cast or fish his flies within the marked boundaries of his beat and he must remain within the boundaries of the beat during the whole competition session.
- 6.4. If a hooked fish swims into the adjacent beat, and the angler in that beat does not object, then the competitor may play the fish from inside his own beat and it must also be landed within his beat. If the angler in the adjacent beat does object, the competitor has a maximum of five minutes to bring the fish out of the adjacent beat, and into his own beat.

## **ARTICLE 7: BOAT FISHING COMPETITIONS**

- 7.1. There must be the same number of competitors in each boat.
- 7.2. Each competitor has the right to be in command of the boat for an equal amount of time. The decision as to which competitor is initially in command of the boat will be decided by the toss of a coin.
- 7.3. The competitor in command of the boat may take all tactical decisions, including: on which seat in the boat each competitor sits; where the boat should be positioned; whether a drogue is used or not.
- 7.4. Boats must be launched at least ten minutes before the start of the session to give competitors time to arrive by the start time of the session at a position from which they will commence fishing.
- 7.5. No boat may approach within fifty metres of another boat from which a competitor is at the time fishing, except for reasons of safety or necessity.
- 7.6. Competitors while fishing must be seated at all times (but see Article 7.8).
- 7.7. Netting of fish must be done by the competitor or an independent Controller if requested by the competitor. No competitor will net another competitors fish.
- 7.8. A competitor may stand only while netting a fish, but if he has asked the independent Controller to net the fish, the competitor must remain seated.

## **ARTICLE 8: RANDOM DRAW FOR BEATS AND BOATS.**

- 8.1. All beats must be clearly defined before beats are assigned to competitors and must not be altered during the competition
- 8.2. The beat of each competitor must be determined by random draw.
- 8.3. Boat partners for each session must be determined by random draw.

## **ARTICLE 9: SPARE BEATS.**

- 9.1. Spare beats can be utilised if available under the following circumstances, when a competitor arrives at his designated beat and discovers that the allocated beat is unfishable due to it being occupied by a person/s fishing, swimming, camping. Or any interference from person/s that would prevent the competitor from fishing the allocated beat.

## **ARTICLE 10: DURATION OF EVENTS AND PRACTICE VENUES.**

- 10.1. Each State and National Championship must provide at least four different scoring sessions in all championships, competitors will have the right to fish an equal number of scoring sessions on each type of fishing.
- 10.2. Each scoring session must comprise at least three hours of fishing. If, for reasons beyond the control of the competitor, the scoring session amounts to less than the announced period, compensatory time must be allowed.
- 10.3. The hours for competition will be set by the State chapter hosting the event.
- 10.4. The State chapter hosting the event is required to arrange practice venues for each type of fishing in the competition, on similar waters, for each competitor prior to the event.

## **ARTICLE 11: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF HEAD CONTROLLERS.**

- 11.1. Head controllers are responsible for the proper conduct of the competition within their group of competitors.
- 11.2. Head controllers are responsible for the supervision of the controllers to ensure that they are keeping accurate records and are enforcing the observance of the Competition Rules and their Modifications.
- 11.3. Head controllers are responsible for assisting controllers in rule interpretation if there is any doubt about a possible infraction of the Rules or the Rule Modifications.
- 11.4. Head controllers are responsible for supervising the recording of suspected infractions of the Rules or Rule Modifications and reporting them to the organizer or competition committee.
- 11.5. In the event of a formal protest, the Head controller involved is required to assist the Jury by gathering information to resolve the protest.
- 11.6. Head controllers are responsible for ensuring that no person, other than the team captain, has access to competitors during competition sessions. All observers should be kept well away so that they do not interfere or communicate with competitors.

## **ARTICLE 12: CONTROLLERS.**

- 12.1. Controllers will be responsible for no more than two competitors at any one time.
- 12.2. Controllers will be responsible for accurately recording on the competitor's score card details of each eligible fish, including the length to the nearest millimetre and the time of capture.
- 12.3. Controllers will be responsible for warning competitors if any breach of the Competition Rules and their Modifications appears probable.
- 12.4. Controllers must record any infraction of the Competition Rules or their Modifications and report this information to the Head controller the organizer or committee.
- 12.5. The State chapter hosting the event is responsible for recruiting controllers.
- 12.6. The arrangements for ensuring that controllers are knowledgeable, competent and conversant with these Competition Rules, and any Modifications, are the responsibility of the organiser or competition committee.

## **ARTICLE 13: AWARDING OF POINTS.**

- 13.1. For each eligible fish caught, a competitor will score one hundred points.
- 13.2. Competitors will also receive twenty points per centimetre length of each eligible fish; the recorded length will be rounded up to the next complete centimetre for scoring purposes.
- 13.3. The length of a fish which is under the eligible size will not be rounded up, so such a fish will not be scored.

## **ARTICLE 14: SESSION PLACINGS.**

- 14.1. Competitors will be divided into four groups and will receive a placing in their group according to the points they obtain in each session of a championship
- 14.2. If the number of competitors in any National competition is less than eighty, then the points awarded to any competitor in their group who fails to make a valid catch in any session will be equal to a placing of twenty. The same placing will be awarded to any competitor who fails to participate for any reason.
- 14.3. In State competitions the organizers may if they wish score in the following manner, any competitor who fails to make a valid catch in any session will be awarded a placing equal to the number of competitors in their group in that session. The same placing will be awarded to any competitor who fails to participate for any reason.
- 14.3. Any competitor who is forced to retire for any reason from a session of a championship shall have his catch up to that time included in the results.
- 14.4. If there is a tie between competitors in the same group and session in the number of points received, the tie breaker will be the largest number of valid fish caught. If the tie persists, the competitors will receive equal placings and the immediately following placing will be blank.

## **ARTICLE 15: TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL POSITIONS.**

15.1. The positions of teams and individuals will be determined as follows:

(a) Teams:

The first position will be awarded to the team with the lowest cumulative number of placing points of all its team members, and similarly for all other positions.

(b) Individuals:

The first position will be awarded to the individual with the lowest cumulative number of placing points, and similarly for all other positions

15.2. If there is a tie for positions between teams or individuals, the first tie breaker will be the largest number of points received, the second will be the largest number of valid fish caught, and the third will be the largest fish.

15.3. If the tie persists, the tied teams or individuals will be awarded equal positions and the immediately following position(s) will be blank.

## **ARTICLE 16: OBLIGATIONS OF COMPETITORS.**

16.1. Participants in competitions authorised by Fly Fish Australia must respect the Competition Rules and Rule Modifications.

16.2. Out of courtesy to the host organisation, and any event sponsors, all registrants are required to attend all official functions listed in the final official programme.

16.3. It is the responsibility of each competitor to take all appropriate safety measures, including the wearing of eye protection and life preserving equipment.

16.4. Each competitor is responsible for checking the accuracy of his score card and for confirming this by signing it at the end of each session.

16.5. Each competitor must travel to and from all official events during the competition by official transport if provided unless the permission of the organizer or the competition committee has been obtained to use alternative transport.

16.6. Any competitor who, during a competition session, requests advice (except from his captain) relating to the fishing or accepts any material help relating to the fishing will be disciplined. If anyone involved with a team, other than its captain, communicates with a competitor during a competition session, this will be considered as a case of the competitor requesting advice relating to the fishing.

## **ARTICLE 17: TEAM CAPTAINS.**

17.1. The team captain is responsible and accountable for the conduct of team members throughout the championship.

17.2. An acting captain may be appointed by the original captain informing the Organiser or his representative a minimum of thirty minutes prior to the start of a championship session.

17.3. During a championship session, a team captain may move freely in the beats of his team members but he must not enter the water.

- 17.4. A team captain may enter the beat of a competitor of another team only to gain access to the beat of his own team member and only on condition that his presence does not disturb the waters or the activities of a competitor from another team.
- 17.5. During a boat fishing session, the team captain will not have access to team members.
- 17.6. During a championship session, the team captain is the only person (other than competition officials) allowed to communicate in any way with a competitor. It is the responsibility of team captains and competition officials to identify themselves to controllers before communicating with competitors during a competition session.
- 17.7. During a championship session, the team captain may not give material help to any competitor.

#### **ARTICLE 18: DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS OF THE JURY.**

- 18.1. It will be the duty and responsibility of the Jury to:
  - (a) Review any reports of infractions and take any appropriate action.
  - (b) Receive any formal written protest, and take any appropriate action.
- 18.2. Disciplinary measures are:
  - (a) Warning      (b) Censure
  - (c) Disallowing all or part of a competitor's catch
  - (d) Disqualification of a team or individual

#### **ARTICLE 19: CARE OF FISH CAUGHT.**

- 19.1. If a competitor wishes a fish to score, he must land it in a net and pass the fish in the net to the controller for measurement and recording (Article 12.2 refers).
- 19.2. The controller must remove the hook, revive the fish and release it, taking care not to damage the fish.
- 19.3. If a competitor decides that a fish is ineligible or is undersized, he is not required to net it but must try and release it in the water, taking care not to cause it any damage, and ideally without touching it.
- 19.4. If a controller or any other competition official determines that a competitor has negligently injured a fish, that fish will not be scored and the competitor will be penalised the number of points attributable to a fish of minimum valid length. The incident must be reported to the Jury for consideration of further action.

#### **ARTICLE 20: ELIGIBLE FISH.**

- 20.1. Eligible fish species and size limits must be specified in the Rule Modifications. For measuring purposes, the length will be from the tip of the nose to the base of the fork of the tail or as specified in the Rule Modifications.
- 20.2. Only fish hooked in the mouth area, i.e. in front of the rear edge of the gill cover, will be eligible.
- 20.3. A fish hooked inside a competition session is eligible if it is landed not more than ten minutes after the end of the session.

## **ARTICLE 21: LOST FISH.**

- 21.1. In the event of the loss of a fish by a controller before measurement, the competitor will be awarded the average of the points for all valid fish taken in that sector in that session.
- 21.2. A fish lost in boat fishing while the independent controller is netting the fish, at the competitor's request, will not be awarded any points.

## **ARTICLE 22: COMPETITION BOATS.**

- 22.1. The number of occupants in each boat must not exceed the rated boat capacity.
- 22.2. Boats must carry life preservers for each occupant and a means of attracting attention in case of emergency.
- 22.3. When the use of drogues is allowed each boat must have an appropriate drogue. Should a drogue be lost or become unserviceable, a competitor's drogue may be substituted.

## **ARTICLE 23: COMPETITION FLY RODS.**

- 23.1. One fly rod, not more than twelve feet/three hundred and sixty-six centimetres in length, may be used at one time.
- 23.2. Competitors may have spare fly rods assembled with them but when boat fishing, these must not be assembled nor the reel attached.
- 23.3. Competitors are responsible for carrying and protecting their own equipment.

## **ARTICLE 24: COMPETITION FLY LINES.**

- 24.1. Any factory made floating, sinking or sink tip lines may be used, except for lead core lines.
- 24.2. Competition fly lines must be a minimum length of twenty-two metres.
- 24.3. Shooting heads are not allowed.
- 24.4. Neither sinking nor floating devices may be added to fly lines.

## **ARTICLE 25: COMPETITION LEADERS.**

- 25.1. A single leader may be used, of any length
- 25.2. Leaders may be knotted or knotless, and tapered or level
- 25.3. Neither sinking nor floating devices may be added to the leader.

## **ARTICLE 26: COMPETITION FLIES.**

- 26.1. Competitors may use floating or sinking artificial flies.
- 26.2. Each fly must be dressed on a single hook, without limit as to size.
- 26.3. The length of the dressed fly will be at the discretion of the competitor.

- 26.4. Weighted flies are permitted, provided the weight is hidden within the dressing. A single visible bead, not more than 4 mm in its maximum dimension, is also permitted. Painting alone does not constitute dressing.
- 26.5. A maximum of three flies is permitted which must not be closer to each other than fifty cm, measured eye to eye, hanging freely.
- 26.6. All flies must be attached to the leader in such a way that they do not move or slide.
- 26.7. All flies must be dressed on hooks which are barbless, de-barbed or have the barb squeezed down flat.

#### **ARTICLE 27: LANDING NETS.**

- 27.1. The material of the landing net must be soft cotton or other non-abrasive material and preferably of knotless construction.
- 27.2. Landing nets must not exceed forty-eight inches/one hundred and twenty-two cms in overall length, when fully extended.

#### **ARTICLE 28: PROHIBITIONS.**

28.1. The following are prohibited:

- (a) The fishing of competition waters by competitors or their agents during a minimum period of 48 hours or such other longer period as stipulated by the organizer or competition committee prior to the official start of the event.
- (b) Lack of sportsmanship towards other competitors, organisers or officials.
- (c) Any action by competitors, organisers or officials which would produce fraudulent or biased results.
- (d) The use by a competitor of radio, mobile phones or other electronic communication methods during a competition session unless used for a emergency
- (e) A competitor, during a competition session, requesting advice relating to the fishing from anyone (other than his captain) or accepting material help relating to the fishing from anyone.
- (f) The use of sounders or other depth or fish location electronic equipment on competition water by competitors or their agents during a minimum period of 48 hours or such other longer period as stipulated by the organizer or competition committee prior to the official start of the event.