

ABRIDGED COMPETITION RULES

Revised June 2007

The Abridged Competition Rules have been abridged from the full "Competition Rules" of FFA and include provision for special rules approved by the executive of FFA for individual events at the end of the document.

If there is any doubt or dispute over any aspect of a competition, they will be resolved by the competition jury by reference to the unabridged "Competition Rules" of FFA, the "Constitution" of FFA, the spirit of those documents and common sense.

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE?

Any person may compete in a State championship. To be eligible to progress to 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 finish in the top 1/3 (rounded up) of competitors in the state event.

ARTICLE 1: INTRODUCTION.

1.3. Competition sport of fly fishing is angling with a conventional fly rod, fly line, fly reel and artificial flies.

ARTICLE 4: COMPETITION RULES AND MODIFICATIONS.

4.1. The "Competition Rules" of FFA apply to all FFA competitions. Subject to approval by the executive committee of FFA those rules can be changed or modified to take account of the laws, regulations, practices and particular needs of the host state or particular fishery.

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 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 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. Barbless hooks will fall out and common sense shall prevail.
- 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.
 - a) A fish hooked inside a competition session is eligible if it is landed not more than ten minutes after the end of the session.
 - b) 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 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 (sometimes two depending on state laws) 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 that 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.

SPECIAL RULES (EXAMPLES ONLY – PLEASE DELETE THOSE NOT APPLICABLE OR ADD SPECIAL RULES THAT ARE TO APPLY)

- A. No wading in the lake is permitted
- B. Life Jackets must be worn in all boat sessions
- C. Life Jackets must be worn in all river sessions