



The America Cup International Fly Fishing Competition Rules

The Competition Rules have been drawn up by The America Cup Event Committee in order to ensure consistency in the fly fishing championship. Rule modifications are permitted, to take in account of the laws, regulations, practices and particular needs of the venue area. Any such modifications will be circulated to all teams, competitors, controllers, and staff, upon approval by the Event Committee, well in advance of the 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, and authorized by the Event Committee.

BANK FISHING COMPETITIONS

- Competition waters must be divided into sectors, identified by name.
- The beats within sectors must be numbered consecutively starting from the upstream boundary in running waters. There must be the same number of beats within each sector as the number of participating teams.
- 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. A competitor may not fish from, nor use, any form of bridge during a Competition Session.
- If a hooked fish swims into a buffer zone, the competitor may play the fish from inside his own beat and it must also be landed within his beat. 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 either the buffer zone or his own beat.

DURATION OF EVENTS, AND SCORING AND PRACTICE SESSIONS

- Each Championship must provide at least five different scoring sessions. In all championships, competitors will have the right to fish an equal number of scoring sessions on each type of fishing area.
- 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.
- The hours for competition will be set by the Event Committee.
- A minimum of three hours practice for each type of fishing in the competition, on similar waters, for each competitor.

TEAM REQUIREMENTS

- The names of the members of each team must be communicated to the Event Committee, at least thirty days prior to the event.

- The team member designated as the reserve at registration may be substituted for a competitor, who may be reinstated for a subsequent session in the same group. The team captain must notify the Event Committee, or his representative, of any substitution in writing at latest thirty minutes prior to the start of a competition session.
- The reserve may only be substituted to fish on a sector on which he has already competed with the explicit authorization of the Event Committee present at the championship, which must be requested and justified by the team captain at least thirty minutes before the start of the competition session involved in writing.
- If a team does not contain a member who can interpret and translate from and to one of the official languages, then a translator/interpreter should be added by the team, who should accompany the team captain during competition sessions.

OBLIGATIONS OF COMPETITORS

- It is the responsibility of each competitor to take all appropriate safety measures, including the wearing of eye protection and life preserving equipment.
- Each team member, including the captain/acting captain, must wear a visible identification card or badge throughout every competition session. It must be supplied by the host organization.
- 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.
- 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.

TEAM CAPTAINS

- The team captain is responsible and accountable for the conduct of team members throughout the championship.
- An acting captain may be appointed by the original captain informing the Event Committee or its representative a minimum of thirty minutes prior to the start of a championship session.
- During a championship session, a team captain may move freely in the beats of his team members but he must not enter the water.
- 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.
- 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.
- During a championship session, the team captain may not give material help to any competitor.

JURY and DUTIES

- The Jury will consist of the Event Committee.
- The Jury Review any reports of infractions and take any appropriate action.
 - Disciplinary measures are:
 - Warning
 - Censure
 - Disallowing all or part of a competitor's catch
 - Disqualification of a team or individual

SECTOR JUDGES

- In all competitions, there must be a sector judge for each of the sectors or groups of competitors.
- The arrangements for ensuring that sector judges are knowledgeable, competent and conversant with these Competition Rules are to be reviewed and approved by the Event Committee.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECTOR JUDGES

- Sector judges are responsible for the proper conduct of the competition within their sector or group of competitors.
- Sector judges are responsible for supervising the training of all controllers in their sector and accepting only those who are properly qualified.
- Sector judges are responsible for the supervision of the controllers to ensure that they are keeping accurate records and are enforcing the observance of the Competition.
- Sector judges are responsible for assisting controllers in rule interpretation if there is any doubt about a possible infraction of the Rules.
- Sector judges are responsible for supervising the recording of suspected infractions of the Rules and reporting them to the Event Committee.
- In the event of a formal protest, the sector judge involved is required to assist the Jury by gathering information to resolve the protest.
- Sector judges 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.
- Sector judges may have other duties assigned to them by the Event Committee.

CONTROLLERS

- Controllers will be responsible for no more than two competitors at any one time.
- Controllers will be responsible for accurately recording on the competitor's score card details of each eligible fish, including the length to the nearest millimeter and the time of capture. All unused portions of the scoring section of the card must be crossed out by the controller at the end of the session. If it is feasible to have self-copying paper, the original of the scoring card will be given to the sector judge, the duplicate will be given to the competitor.
- Controllers will be responsible for warning competitors if any breach of the Competition Rules.
- Controllers must record any infraction of the Competition Rules and report this information to the sector judge or to the Event Committee.
- Controllers may have other duties assigned to them by the Event Committee or by the sector judge.
- The Event Committee is responsible for recruiting controllers.
- The arrangements for ensuring that controllers are knowledgeable, competent and conversant with these Competition Rules, are to be reviewed and approved by the Event Committee.
- Controllers will provide time keeping for their assigned competitor(s).

CARE OF FISH CAUGHT

- 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.
- The controller must measure, remove the hook, revive the fish and release it, taking care not to damage the fish. The Controller may ask the Competitor to assist with this process.
- If a competitor decides that a fish is ineligible or is undersized, he is not required to net it but must release it in the water, taking care not to cause it any damage, and ideally without touching it.

- 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 penalized 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.

ELIGIBLE FISH

- Eligible fish species and size limits must be 20cm minimum. For measuring purposes, the length will be from the tip of the nose to the furthest portion of the fish tail. Pinching the tail sections together is allowed.
- Only fish hooked in the mouth area, i.e. in front of the rear edge of the gill cover, will be eligible.
- A fish hooked inside a competition session is eligible if it is landed not more than ten minutes after the end of the session.

COMPETITION FLY RODS

- One fly rod, not more than twelve feet/three hundred and sixty-six centimeters in length, may be used at one time.
- Competitors may have up to three (3) spare fly rods with them and assembled.
- Competitors are responsible for carrying and protecting their own equipment.

COMPETITION FLY LINES

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

COMPETITION LEADERS

- A single leader may be used, of any length.
- Leaders may be knotted or knotless, and tapered or level.
- Leaders may not be braided.
- Neither sinking nor floating devices may be added to the leader.

COMPETITION FLIES

- Competitors may use floating or sinking artificial flies.
- Each fly must be dressed on a single hook, without limit as to size.
- The length of the dressed fly will be at the discretion of the competitor.
- 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.
- A maximum of three flies is permitted which must not be closer to each other than fifty cm, measured eye to eye, hanging freely.
- All flies must be attached to the leader in such a way that they do not move or slide.
- All flies must be dressed on hooks which are barbless, de-barbed or have the barb squeezed down flat.

LANDING NETS

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

PROHIBITIONS

- The fishing of competition sectors by competitors or their agents during a period of sixty days prior to the official start of the event.
- Lack of sportsmanship towards other competitors, organizers or officials.
- Any action by competitors, organizers or officials which would produce fraudulent or biased results.
- 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.

LOST FISH

- 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.

AWARDING OF POINTS

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

SESSION PLACINGS

- All competitors will receive a placing in their group according to the points they obtain on each sector and for each session of a championship
- Any competitor who fails to make a valid catch in any session will be awarded a placing equal to the number of competitors in the sector for that session. The same placing will be awarded to any competitor who fails to participate for any reason.
- 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.
- Any incomplete team will be awarded a placing equal to the number of competitors in a sector for each session for which a team member is absent.
- If there is a tie between competitors in the same sector 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 placing and the immediately following placing(s) will be blank.

TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL POSITIONS

- Team Scoring, the first position will be awarded to the team with the lowest cumulative number of placing of all its team members, and similarly for all other positions.
- Individual Scoring, the first position will be awarded to the individual with the lowest cumulative number of placing, and similarly for all other positions
- A reserve who fishes any sector more than once will not be eligible to be awarded any individual position within a championship, although his placing will be included in the calculation of team results.
- 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.
- If the tie persists, the tied teams or individuals will be awarded equal positions and the immediately following position(s) will be blank.

POSTING OF RESULTS

- The Event Committee must announce, at the first captains' meeting, the location for the posting of results.

- The session results, including individual and team positions, must be posted within three hours of the end of each session.
- The daily and cumulative results for both individuals and teams must be posted within three hours of the end of the last session each day.
- The final results including the individual and team positions must be posted within three hours of the close of the final session.

POSTED RESULTS AND OBJECTIONS

- Session, daily and final results will be considered as provisional for two hours after the official posting of the results of the final session of the day involved.
- The time of posting must be clearly marked on the result sheets.
- It is the responsibility of team captains to inspect the posted results.
- If there are no objections, which are subsequently sustained, within the provisional period, the posted results will stand.
- It is the responsibility of team captains to notify the Event Committee of any discrepancy as soon as possible.
- Only those objections made during the provisional period will be considered by the Jury in rectifying the results. After adjustment, if any, the official results must be signed by the Event Committee and posted.

FORMAL PROTESTS

- A formal protest may be made by a competition official, a team or the Event Committee regarding violations of the Competition Rules, and unethical or unsportsmanlike conduct or fraud.
- A formal protest must be in writing.
- A formal protest must be made within two hours after the official posting of the results of the final session on the day involved.
- A formal protest on behalf of a team must be made by the team captain or manager.

TITLES AND TROPHIES

- The team awarded the first position will be designated The America Cup Champion.
- The America Cup Champion Team will receive a trophy.
- The America Cup First, Second and Third placing Competitors will be recognized.
- There will be no monetary or substantial material prizes in any TAC authorized competition.

STATEMENT OF APPROVAL

- The Event Committee has the ultimate approval for all event related rules, rulings and processes.

