



Angling Trust Marine Committee Festival and Model Competition Rules and Guidelines.

A1 Angling Trust Festivals and Open Competitions.

A1.1 Angling Trust Festivals.

The Angling Trust Marine Competitions Committee will normally arrange, each year; a National Boat Festival, National Pier/Shore Festivals, a National Junior Pier/Shore Festival and any other National Festivals it may consider appropriate. These National Festivals may be held in conjunction with a Festival operated by an Angling Trust member club. Dispensation to hold the Boat and Pier/Shore events on the same date can be given by the Competitions Committee.

A1.1.1 Dates & Venues.

The Competitions Committee shall fix the dates and venues for Angling Trust Festivals each year and all members, clubs and regions shall be informed by the publication of this information on the Angling Trust website. No member club or Region should fix a festival date that coincides with an Angling Trust Festival date with the exception that a Pier/Shore Festival may be held on the same day as the Angling Trust Boat Festival or vice versa.

A1.2 Other Festivals & Open Competitions.

Angling Trust recognises the following other Festivals and Open Competitions:

(a) **AT Member Clubs & Regions.** Those held by member clubs, groups of member clubs and Regions.

(b) **Non AT Clubs.** Those held by other bona fide organisations, who are not affiliated to Angling Trust, with the proviso that the Angling Trust Festival Rules are observed.

A1.3 Festival Planning.

Each Region should hold a Festival Delegates Meeting in early September every year. Each Angling Trust member club in the Region, or connected to it by request, shall inform the Regional Secretary of the proposed date, venue and address of the Festival Secretary for any Festival or Open Competition they intend to organise.

The Regional Secretary should forward to the Competitions Committee, not later than the 30th September, a complete list of Festivals and Open Competitions registered with that Region. Each AT member club not resident in a fully operational Region or connected to one by request, and intending to hold a Festival or Open Competition, should inform the Competitions Committee in writing by the 30th September. (Shore competitions need to be provided one year prior to the date of staging the competition where possible), and (Boat competitions two years prior to the date of staging the event where possible), with the proposed date, venue and address of the Festival Secretary. The regions and National Competition Group need to provide their calendar of events, and any open matches to the AT Competitions Department HQ (Nottingham office).

A1.3.1 The Competitions Committee will consider the Festival and Open Competition fixture list at the first Competitions Committee meeting after 30th September.

A1.4 Delegation of Powers.

The organising committee may, at its discretion, delegate all or any of its powers to Judges, Stewards and Other Officials.

A1.5 Accidents.

Under no circumstances shall a Competitor hold the organising Committee, any of its members, or officials, responsible for any accident or loss that they may sustain during any event.

A1.6 Results.

Every AT member club and Region shall forward to the Competitions committee, and the AT Competitions Department HQ (Nottingham office) the results, reports and photos within 5 working days of any AT competitions held. (Preferred within 24 hours, but 5 days will be the maximum).

A1.7 Festival Heaviest Fish/Specimen Medal.

AT member club's and regional Festivals and Open Competitions registered, and subsequently published in the Angling Trust Fixture List, will be entitled to receive one Bronze Medal. If an AT member club or Region is organising more than one event in any one year, application may be made to the Competitions Committee for a second medal, the award of which will be at the discretion of the Competitions Committee.

A2 TROPHIES AND AWARDS.

A list of Angling Trust Trophies is available from the Competitions Committee Secretary, (The word 'trophy' also implies cups, medals, shields etc.)

A2.1 Awards Of Prizes.

The decision of the Organisers on the award/presentation of trophies and prizes, shall be final. In the event of bad weather, the Organisers have the power to make awards on the results of one or two days' fishing only.

A2.2 Challenge Trophies.

The winner of any challenge trophy shall be presented and photographed with the trophy by the Organisers. The trophy will then be returned to safe custody with the Angling Trust. A small memento shield may be awarded to the winner to be kept in perpetuity.

A2.3 Team Trophy.

If a team trophy is offered, all team members and reserves shall be nominated before the commencement of the event.

A2.4 Cash Prizes.

Cash prizes may be awarded where the rules of the organising club permit.

A2.5 Ties.

In Angling Trust Festivals, competitors who tie for any trophy shall hold it for an equal period, and duplicate medals or replicas shall be awarded. This may also apply in AT member club competitions or other Festivals, unless an alternative method is specified.

A3 MISCELLANEOUS RULES.

A3.1 Insurance.

Angling Trust insists that all competition organisers must ensure that they are insured against any third party public liability risks. All Competition organisers must carry out a

risk assessment and where applicable an Environment Assessment must be completed. The assessments must be logged with the organiser and a copy sent to the AT Competitions Department HQ (Nottingham office).

A3.2 Charter Boats.

Angling Trust insists that all competition organisers should ensure that all boats that they charter are registered with the Marine Charter Association (MCA), and insured.

A3.3 Change Of Registered Addresses.

All members of the Marine Committee, Regional Secretaries, individual Members and Secretaries of member clubs must inform the CE of a change of address within four weeks.

A3.4 Privileges.

All Angling Trust members are entitled to the privileges of Angling Trust, including competitions for trophies and prizes offered by Angling Trust. Angling Trust **Members** may enter any AT Member Club Festival or open competition on an equal basis with all competitors.

A3.5 Overseas Residents. Anglers not resident in the UK may not take Angling Trust trophies out of the country and, in consequence, overseas members winning competitions will be presented with a suitable memento.

Rule A4 FESTIVAL AND COMPETITION RULES.

These Angling Trust Festival and Competition rules set guidance for competitions and organisers, and they are in four sections: General (G); Shore (S); Boat (B); and Minimum Sizes (M). Please note that sections (S) and (B) are designed as a set of rules which can stand alone and be used as Competition Sheets by Organisers. Therefore, there will be a majority of items that are common to both, although it does not necessarily mean that the same wording has been used. The wording considered to be most appropriate to each application has been used.

GENERAL (G)

G 1 DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS.

G 1.1 The name of the organisation is Angling Trust.

G 1.2 A club is a properly constituted sea angling organisation having not less than ten fully paid up members.

G 1.3 An Angling Trust member Club means a club whose current subscriptions have been paid to Angling Trust.

G 1.4 A Region means a regular Marine Model Rules recognised by Angling Trust and using the AT Model Region Rules.

G 1.5 A Festival is the major competition of the year at which anglers compete for a Club's or Region's major trophies. Within these rules, for simplicity, the term Competition also implies Festival or Championship.

G 1.6 The Committee means: in the case of the Angling Trust, the Marine Committee; in the case of member clubs, the Committee of the member club; and in other cases the Committee in charge of the Festival.

G 1.7 For the purposes of the Rules, events held on piers, harbour walls, breakwaters (including pontoons and marina pontoons) and shore, are all termed shore competitions. If a boat is moored to a pontoon it is still classed as a boat competition.

G 1.8 Throughout the Rules, where the context so admits the singular includes the plural and vice-versa and the masculine includes the feminine.

G 1.9 Chief Executive Officer (CEO) The Chief Executive Officer of Angling Trust.

G.1.10 The Organisers means the Competition Organisers which should be a Committee.

G 2 APPLICATION.

These Rules came into force on the 9th March 2013. These rules supersede all previous Festival and Model Competition Rules.

G 3 FESTIVALS, COMPETITIONS, INFORMATION, OBLIGATIONS & GUIDANCE.

G 3.1 Festivals. The dates of all AT member clubs, and Regional Festivals and Open Competitions shall be fixed in accordance with Rule A1. When such dates are fixed, no other AT member club or Region shall hold its own event at the same venue on the same date excepting:

- a. Shore events may be staged on the same day and venue as a boat event and vice versa.
- b. A 'lesser' club event may take place at the same time and venue providing that those taking part are also taking part in the main Festival or Open competition.

G 3.2 Competitions.

AT member clubs and Regions are encouraged to arrange their own Competitions and attempt to avoid fixture clashes. Refer to the Angling Trust website.

G 3.3 Designated Matches.

Angling Trust is dedicated to the development of performance and excellence in competition angling. In conjunction with all member clubs and other sea angling organisations, Angling Trust is committed to the provision of 'Designated Matches', at which a competitor will compete within an approved match format of an approved Organisation. The results of the 'Designated Matches' will be made available to the Competitions Committee by the Organisers. Match organisers from such member clubs and other sea angling organisations can apply to host such events that will require formal approval from the Competitions Committee. Designated matches will be official Angling Trust Festivals.

G 3.4 Festival & Open Match List.

Festivals and other National Competitions should be notified to the Competitions Committee, if possible, 12 months prior to such an event, and also notified to the AT Competitions Department (Nottingham office) for inclusion on the AT website and calendar of events. If during the year extra events are arranged the Competitions Committee, and the AT Competitions Department HQ (Nottingham office) should be notified in order that the date and other information can be included on the AT website.

G 3.5 Competition Match Pack.

If any member club or Region requires further information about running a competition, or requires advice on recommended match formats, they should contact the Competitions Committee which can provide guidance and further information, including the following:

- (a) Master Zone Sheets size A3 and an A4 sized copy of these Rules and Size Limits for photocopying purposes. The size limits as recommended by Angling Trust, or as appropriate to accommodate geographical area (i.e. dispensation taken up), should be provided at all matches with rule sheets.
- (b) Advice sheets on measuring fish, weigh-in procedures, measure and return matches and organising competitions.
- (c) Explanation of results sheets and simple points systems.

(d) Copies, as required, on codes of safety for organisers of small dinghy competitions, Do's and Don'ts at Sea, and the current match list.

G 4 COMPETITIONS GENERAL.

G 4.1 Entry Conditions.

When competition entries are pre-booked, entry forms, together with applicable entry fees, shall be submitted by the specified date to the Organisers. After the acceptance of the entrant, the Organisers have no obligation to return the entry fee or in the event of a bait-supplied match, bait money, should the entrant wish to withdraw from the competition. If entry cannot be accepted because of lack of space the entrant shall be notified and the entry fee returned.

G 4.2 Right to Refuse Entry.

The Organisers reserve the right to refuse entry without explanation and shall in such a case return all entry fees.

G 4.3 Late Entries.

Late entries may be accepted; however, this will be at the discretion of the Organisers and may incur extra fees.

G 4.4 Abandonment.

In the event of bad weather and/or in the interests of safety, the Organisers shall have the power to abandon the competition. In such a case, entry fees, less any legitimate competition expenses such as boat or other hire charges and printing costs etc. which may have been incurred, will be returned to the Competitors.

G 4.5 Duration.

The duration of each competition will be notified by the Organisers.

G 4.6 Weigh-in.

If a competitor is disqualified for fishing, or arriving ashore after time, they shall, if practicable, be notified before their catch is weighed-in/recorded. Every competitor who has not been previously disqualified must weigh-in/record their catch when required or, if they have caught nothing, report accordingly. Failure to comply without adequate cause on any occasion may, at the discretion of the Organisers, lead to disqualification for the whole event.

G 4.7 Eligible Species.

Skate are classified scientifically as "round" fish and therefore they are barred from any class for "flat" fish. Octopus, Crustacea, Squid and Cuttlefish are ineligible. However, the competition organisers may also bar the catching of other species of fish. The Mako, Porbeagle, Thresher, Hammerhead and Blue Sharks are ineligible except in a Shark Festival; but if there is a special class for them, they can be recorded for that class only. Refer to the document 'Recommended Retention sizes for sea Angling Matches and Competitions' on the AT website.

G 4.8 Licensed Angling Boats.

Marine Charter Association (MCA) Licensed angling boats must not have more persons on board than the boat's licence dictates.

G 5 ENCOURAGEMENT AND DISPENSATION FOR THE DISABLED.

G 5.1 Use of Electric Reels and Winches.

Electric reels and winches are not permitted in competitions unless dispensation is given by the Organisers to accommodate a disabled angler who otherwise would not be able to compete.

G 5.2 Close/Easy Access Pegs.

The Organisers have the right to provide close or easily accessible pegs to accommodate disabled anglers who otherwise would not be able to compete.

G 5.3 Casting Assistance.

A competitor may cast for another angler who is deemed incapable of casting due to physical disability provided that such an arrangement is requested from the Organisers, and agreed, prior to the commencement of the competition.

G 6 CONSERVATION AND SCOPE FOR COMPETITION ORGANISERS.

These Rules set guidance for competitions and minimum size limits. Organisers may vary the Rules by raising size limits, or indeed seek dispensation for reduction, provided that they are equal to, or above minimum legal limits. Organisers may introduce a points system for catch and return competitions; however, notification shall be given to the competitors and Competitions Committee.

SHORE COMPETITION RULES (S)

S 1 Duration.

The start and finish of a competition will be signalled by the Organisers. Anglers are permitted to wet their line with a plain lead up to 20 minutes prior to the commencement of the match.

S 2 Equipment.

An angler is permitted to have up to three rods set up with reels, lines and traces attached but can only have one line in the water at one time. Reels must be operated by hand (Subject to Rule G 5.1, Electric Reels); and reels designed to be cranked by both hands at the same time are prohibited. The use of fishing poles is permitted.

S 3 Terminal Tackle.

Spare baited traces are allowed and no more than three hooks may be attached to any trace. A treble hook counts as one hook but no more than one treble hook and two single hooks may be used in a rig, with the exception of plug type spinning lures which are permissible when used alone.

S 4 Baits.

All baits, feathers and/or lures may be used, unless notified otherwise by the Organisers.

S 5 Restrictions.

Organisers may draft rules prohibiting the use of any tackle or method that is likely to cause danger, damage or discomfort to any competitor or other persons. Such rules must be submitted to the SC for approval after which they must be notified to all participants.

S 6 Casting.

Anglers wishing to use 'power casting' styles must use a minimum of 50lb breaking strain shock leader. Furthermore, it is recommended that the breaking strain of shock

leader should be a minimum shock leader of 10lbs per oz of weight being used. In the interests of safety competitors are advised that any form of dangerous casting is prohibited. Anglers are permitted to cast immediately after landing a fish. However, in pegged matches, the retrieval of this cast is not permitted until the angler's catch is recorded by the steward or adjacent angler on the official bag label if issued.

S 7 Assistance.

Assistance may be given to land a fish but no-one other than the competitor may handle the rod. In pier competitions, assistance to land fish with a drop net is permitted, as is hand-lining the fish up the pier or promenade wall, provided that it can be lifted clear of the surface and not pulled through the water towards the competitor.

S 8 Hooked Fish.

The deliberate foul hooking of fish is not permitted; however, accidental foul hooked fish are allowed at the discretion of the Organisers, if specified before the start of the competition. In the event of fish being hooked by two or more competitors or caught on lost traces, they shall not be eligible for recording.

S 9 Undersized Fish.

It is each angler's responsibility to ensure all undersized fish are returned immediately to the water. A competitor's fish may be kept in water but any physical attempt to extend their length will lead to disqualification.

S 10 Minimum Sizes.

The Marine Committee shall fix the Recommended Retention Size Limits (or weights) of fish eligible to be included in the competitors catch; however, these need not be applicable in 'measure and return' or 'points-calculated' competitions. Organisers may fix sizes and weights different than those fixed by the Marine Committee, in which case all competitors will be notified. Fish below the minimum sizes shall not be brought to the scales. It is each anglers responsibility to ensure all fish brought to the scales are sizeable. The Organiser may provide a Master Measure and adjudicator for anglers to have their catch checked, at the anglers request, by the Organisers prior to presenting the fish to the scales; however, the onus of responsibility is on the angler. Undersized fish brought to the scales/measure may result in disqualification. Any undersized fish submitted will not count for submission. Refer to the document 'Recommended Retention sizes for sea Angling Matches and Competitions' on the AT website.

S 11 Compulsory Weigh In.

At the end of the competition competitors have one hour, or a period specified by the organisers, for bringing their own catch, peg, and completed bag label (if applicable) to the weigh in. The bags, if used, must be identified by a number or competitor's name. The Organisers may retain all fish until after the weigh-in.

S 12 Protests.

Any complaints must be submitted to the Organisers in writing within one hour of the end of the competition. A Protest Fee of £50 must accompany the complaint and be payable to the AT, and is returnable if the objection is upheld. The decision of the Organisers will be final in the event of any dispute not covered by these rules.

S 13 Entry & Disqualification.

The Organisers reserve the right to refuse entry without explanation and shall in such a case return the entry fees. Any angler found breaking the rules will be disqualified.

S 14 Loss and Damage.

The Organisers shall not be held responsible for any loss, accident or damage occasioned to any competitor, official or member of the public.

S 15 Litter.

Any angler found leaving litter or throwing litter into the sea during or after the competition will be disqualified.

S 16 Position.

Fishing should be from a peg and / or zone, allocated by means of a draw. Anglers must fish from no other peg number or zone. The redrawing of pegs is not allowed. It is recommended that there is 20 metres minimum spacing between pegs and that peg 1 is always to the left looking seawards of the stretch to be pegged. In zones, it is recommended that there are a maximum of 45 competitors. This rule is not applicable to roving matches.

S 17 Fair Play.

As well as the aforementioned rules, the rules of fair play will apply. Competitors must conduct themselves in a manner within the spirit of the sport.

BOAT COMPETITION RULES (B)

B 1 Duration.

The duration of fishing will be fixed by the Organisers. To cover differences in boat speeds, times to start 'lines in' and times to stop 'lines out' may be used; competitors are expected to adhere to those times honestly.

B 2 Equipment.

An angler may use only one rod, unless notified in advance that two rods, at the same time, may be used, with reel and running line. A maximum of two rods may be assembled with a reel attached, line through the rings/rollers, attached to a line swivel equivalent. Reels must be operated by hand (subject to Rule G 5.1, Electric Reels); and reels designed to be cranked by both hands at the same time are prohibited. The use of fishing poles is permitted.

B 3 Terminal Tackle.

Spare baited traces are allowed and no more than three hooks may be attached to any trace. A treble hook counts as one hook but no more than one treble hook and two single hooks may be used in a rig, with the exception of plug type spinning lures which are permissible when used alone. If allowed in the particular competition's rules, two rods are used at the same time, a maximum of three hooks between the two rods can be used. Subject to the above, only one set of terminal tackle will be in use at any one time.

B 4 Baits.

All baits, feathers and / or lures may be used, unless notified otherwise by the Organisers.

B 5 Restrictions.

Organisers may draft rules prohibiting the use of any tackle or method that is likely to cause danger, damage or discomfort to any competitor or other persons. Such rules

must be submitted to the Competitions Committee for approval after which they must be notified to all participants.

B 6 Casting uptide

Unless prohibited by the Organisers or Boat Skippers, casting is permissible. Anglers on charter boats wishing to cast must use a shock leader of a minimum of 35lbs (15kgs) and a maximum of 60 lbs (27.25kgs) breaking strain, and all casts should be made with the terminal tackle outside the boat.

B 7 Assistance.

No other person may touch an angler's rod, reel or line after his fish is hooked or give any assistance to an angler which would be to the detriment of the fish except that another person(s) may gaff or net fish when it is brought within range. Anglers may not rest their rods on the gunwales of the boats or other such structure whilst winding fish in. Crew may unhook fish.

B 8 Hooked Fish.

The deliberate foul hooking of fish is not permitted; however, accidental foul hooked fish are allowed at the discretion of the Organisers, if specified before the start of the competition. In the event of fish being hooked by two or more competitors or caught on lost traces, they shall not be eligible for weighing in.

B 9 Undersized Fish.

It is each angler's responsibility to ensure all undersized fish are returned to the water. Competitor's fish may be kept in water but any physical attempt to extend their length will lead to disqualification.

B 10 Minimum Sizes. The Marine Committee shall fix the Recommended Retention Size Limits (or weights) of fish eligible to be included in the competitors catch; however, these need not be applicable in 'measure and return' or 'points-calculated' competitions. Organisers may fix sizes and weights different than those fixed by the Marine Committee, in which case all competitors will be notified. Fish below the minimum sizes shall not be recorded. It is each anglers responsibility to ensure all fish brought to the scales are sizeable. The Organiser may provide a Master Measure and adjudicator for anglers to have their catch checked, at the anglers request, by the Organisers prior to presenting the fish for recording however, the onus of responsibility is on the angler. Undersized fish brought for recording may result in disqualification.

B 11 Compulsory Weigh-In.

Every competitor must record their daily catch, or if they have caught nothing, shall report to the weigh-master accordingly. Failure to comply with this rule on any occasion may at the discretion of the Organisers lead to disqualification. Bags of fish must be delivered to the weighing/recording station by the time specified by the organisers. No bags of fish will be returned to competitors until the expiration of that time. The bags must be identified by a number or competitor's name. Organisers may retain all fish until after the weigh-in.

B 12 Protests.

Any complaints must be submitted to the organisers in writing within one hour of the end of the competition. A protest fee of £50 must accompany the complaint payable to the AT, and is returnable if the objection is upheld. The decision of the Organisers will be final in the event of any dispute not covered by these rules.

B 13 Entry & Disqualification.

The Organisers reserve the right to refuse entry without explanation and shall in such a case return the entry fees. Any angler found breaking the rules will be disqualified.

B 14 Loss or Damage.

The Organisers shall not be held responsible for any loss, accident or damage occasioned to any competitor, official or member of the public.

B 15 Litter

Any angler caught leaving litter or throwing litter into the sea during or after the competition will be disqualified.

B 16 Boats.

All boats used in the competition shall be adequate in size and carry safety equipment for all persons on board as specified in the Seaway Code. In addition to boat crew and any stewards, only competitors shall be allowed on the boat and there should be at least two competitors on board. If flags are issued to each boat they shall be kept flying from the start of the event until the return to the landing place.

B 17 Boat Positions.

Prior to the start of fishing, unbiased draws for positions shall be made. The drawer of number one shall fish as near the bow of the boat on the starboard side, and the numbers shall be from the starboard to, and across the stern or transom, with the highest number drawn fishing as near the bow of the boat on the port side.

B 18 Fair Play.

As well as the above rules, the rules of fair play will apply. Competitors must conduct themselves in a manner within the spirit of the sport.

In the event there is conflict between AT Rules and these rules and guidelines the AT Rules will prevail.

Amendments.

Amendments to the Competition Rules, Specimen Fish and Festival guidelines will be proposed and provisionally approved by the Angling Trust Competition Committee and ratified by the Marine Committee.

In the event of concerns being raised the Competition Committee must review those concerns and seek to overcome them.