



Competition Rules

This document contains three sections. Please ensure you and your team members are fully aware of the rules.

1. General Rules
2. Match Rules
3. Rule Modifications

Section 1

General Rules

1. **Betting** – Competitors are not permitted to engage in any form of betting, including sweepstakes, connected with this competition.
2. **Eligibility** – Anglers must be aged 17 and above on the day of the competition to participate.
3. **Disputes & Complaints** – Any dispute or complaint must be reported to a match official within 30 minutes of the end of the match. A sub-committee of three people designated by the Angling Trust shall at once be convened to investigate the matter and adjudicate thereon. The decision of the sub-committee shall be final.

Section 2

Match Rules

1. **Flies** – By artificial only. Flies may be dressed on single or double hooks. Tandem flies are not permitted. In the case of the double hook, the angle between the bends shall not exceed 90 degrees and, when viewed from the side, the bends must lie one behind the other. No more than four flies, only one of which may be dressed on a double hook, may be mounted on a cast. The Bung must be a fish-catching fly and attached to the leader via a dropper. It is counted as one of your four flies.
2. Hooks must be barbless, manufactured barbless or crushed barbs. If it goes in and out of a garment without impediment, then it is legal. Suspected illegal flies should be put into an envelope and signed over the seal by the angler and boat steward. The envelope should be presented to a Match Official at the end of the session. Attractor chemicals and light emitters may not be used on flies.
3. **Lines & Leaders** – Lines, casts and leaders shall not be additional weighted. No form of shooting line, metal core line, or metal core braided leaders are permitted.
4. **Rods** – A competitor may use one rod not exceeding 12 feet in length and may have a spare rod of the same maximum length set up in the boat. The roly-poly retrieve is permitted and a competitor's rod must be above water level.
5. **Drifting** – Boats must be allowed to drift freely during fishing and must not be held on oars, drogues, or engines in such a manner as to interfere with, or gain advantage over, any other competitor. Flies must be out of the water whilst the engine is running, or the boat is in a forward or reverse motion. Trolling of flies behind the boat is not permitted, whether the boat is drifting or being driven by motor or oars. Side casting is permitted but flies must not be allowed to trail behind the boat. Anchoring is not allowed.
6. During a match no boat may encroach within 50 yards radius of any other boat engaged in fishing, nor disturb the water in front of or around any such boat by the



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- indiscriminate use of the motor. The water between the boats may be shared. The match organiser may extend the 50 yard separation as befits the venue.
7. **Fishing Zone** – Traditional zones do not apply because anglers will compete with their teammates.
 8. **Out of Bounds Areas** – Whilst a competitor may cast into an 'Out of Bounds' area, the boat may not enter these areas **whether fishing or not**.
 9. **Sitting & Standing** – Boat seats, thwart boards, and the use of tackle boxes as seats are allowed provided the height of the seat is not more than five inches above the gunwales. Note 'backrests' are also allowed on boat seats. Competitors must not stand in the boat when casting or retrieving line. Only when playing or landing a fish is standing in the boat permitted.
 10. **Command of the Boat** – Traditional rule will not apply as teams will compete in the same boat.
 11. **Drogues** – A single un-weighted drogue is permitted of no more than 60 x 60 inches or 25 square feet. It may be fitted with functional metal fittings such as small link rings and swivels. The only control device allowed in a 'G' clamp. The drogue may be fixed on either side of the boat such that the drift is square to the wind. The drogue must trail no more than 15 feet behind the boat. Sliding drogue ropes are not allowed.
 12. **Respect for Other Anglers** – In congested areas boats must not deny reasonable access to other boats by undertaking repeated short drifts. Special care must be taken in such circumstances, specially when manoeuvring the boat. Boats are to keep at least 50 yards from bank anglers.
 13. **Electronic Devices** – Competitors may not use electronic devices such as echo-sounders, fish finders, or radios during the competition. An angler may carry a phone in the boat, but it must be switched off. The boat stewards may carry a phone and it is allowed to be switched on, but only used by the steward in case of an emergency or the organiser needs to contact the anglers or stewards in the boat. The use of mobile telephones is only permitted in the case of an emergency or to report a breach of rules to an official.
 14. **Hours of Fishing** – Three 3-hour sessions per day with 30 minutes between sessions. In the event of dangerous weather, the organiser may make appropriate changes to session duration, start and end times. Competitors shall not fish before the start time and must begin from the designated start/finish zone. They must return to the start/finish zone in the boat in which they set out, no later than the session finish time. Prior to the start of the next session boats are permitted to stay in the designated start/finish zone until the session begins.
 15. **Species & Size of Fish** – Trout are the only permitted species. No minimum scoring size. All fish to be measured and rounded up to the nearest centimetre and released at the point of capture, e.g. 31.4cm will be rounded up to 32cm. Fish must be placed in an official measuring trough and measured from tip of the tail to the point of the nose. The measurement is recorded on the scorecard by the controller.
 16. **Scoring** – Eligible fish to be measured and released at the point of capture. Boat scorecards must be signed by both anglers and the boat steward at the end of each session and handed to the organiser by an angler (not boat steward) before the next



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session starts. Scorecards not submitted at the end of the session and before the start of the next session will be deemed to have a nil return.

17. **Placings** – Competition results will be decided by the team's combined length in centimetres at the end of the final session. If a tie exists, the greater number of trout will prevail. If there is still a tie, the longest individual fish will take precedence.
18. **Boatmen & Boat Pairings** – Boats and stewards shall be allocated by ballot and team pairings will apply. An angler from another team will become a boat steward for each team pair. Each team member must act as a boat steward on each day. Team Captains must provide Angling Trust with a team sheet listing angler names 1-3 prior to the event.

Before the briefing and upon signing in, Team Captains draw a card with the boat number which will apply for the competition i.e. boat 1. The team will compete in this boat all day. You will control for the boat number one higher than your team i.e. Team A draws Boat 1, they will control for Boat 2.

Competition Day

Session 1: Angler 1 & 2 fish	Angler 3 Boat Steward	9.00am – 12.00pm
Session 2: Angler 2 & 3 fish	Angler 1 Boat Steward	12.30pm – 15.30pm
Session 3: Angler 1 & 3 fish	Angler 2 Boat Steward	16.00pm – 19.00pm

After each session

- a. Boat steward transfers to their Team boat.
- b. Angler who will be steward for next session leaves jetty and hands Team scorecard to organiser.
- c. Steward then heads to the boat they will control.

Anglers are only permitted to leave the jetty area in-between sessions for a comfort break or to collect equipment from a vehicle.

19. **Emergencies** – If assistance is required, the boat steward may use their mobile phone to call for assistance. If your mobile phone cannot be used, an oar should be raised to alert officials. During competition hours a boat may be beached only in an emergency such as medical, boat, or severe weather problems.
20. **Safety** – Lifejackets are compulsory from the moment competitors step onto the jetty, enter the boat, and exit the jetty. We strongly recommend competitors use eye protection when either travelling in, or fishing from, boats.

Penalties

1. Failure to submit scorecard before start of next session will result in a nil return.
2. Failure to arrive at start and finish area by end of each session will result in a penalty
 - a. Up to 5 minutes – 50cm penalty
 - b. Up to 10 minutes – 100cm penalty
 - c. Over 10 minutes – nil return



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Penalties will not apply in the case of a breakdown. In the event of a breakdown, if a team is delayed in starting their next session, the team affected will have that time added to the end of their final session.

3. If a boat steward is late and delays a team leaving on time for the next session, the boat steward's team will have a penalty applied to their next session (as above), and the team affected will have the same score added to their next session score.
4. Flies – if illegal flies are used then all fish from that team's session will be disqualified.
5. Out of Bounds – disqualification from the session.
6. Distance from Bank and Bank Anglers
 - a. First offence is a warning
 - b. Second offence is a session disqualification
7. Drifting too close to other boats
 - a. First offence is a warning
 - b. Second offence is a session disqualification

Section 3

Rule Modifications

1. No fishing zones
2. No control of engine
3. No casting behind the boat in any circumstances
4. Use of mobile phone – see rule 13
5. Penalties
6. Roly-poly retrieve is allowed