

Angling Trust & Canal & River Trust Pairs Canal Championship Rules

Updated February 2020

1. The Angling Trust (AT) & Canal & River Trust (CRT) will organise the Canal Pairs Qualifiers & Final Championship each year. The elected Officers will appoint a Committee who will be responsible for supervising the arrangements. Clubs/Associations will be invited to nominate venues in their local waterways, and the Committee will make the final decision.
2. The Sections to be used in the Championship will be closed for fishing to all competitors in that Championship from midnight on the Sunday prior to the Championship (as a minimum)
3. The Championship will be "pegged down" competitions, pegs to be preferably 20 yards (18 metres) apart, or more where practicable.
4. No person will be allowed to fish the Championship if he/she is below the age of 18 on the day of the Championship.
5. Organising clubs will provide Senior Stewards for weighing in and recording, therefore no teams will need to provide Stewards.
6. The Senior Stewards will have the right to examine all containers carried by competitors prior to the Championship at their pegs.
7. Stewards will do their utmost to prevent spectators approaching or interfering with the competitors.
8. ALL Pairs shall report to the event Registration Steward prior to the Draw whether or not they have any changes to make listed on the event entry form. Where any such change is made the incoming angler MUST fish the drawn Section and peg of the angler he/she is replacing. In the event of the final this will only apply in exceptional circumstances and is approved by the AT/CRT Canal Pairs organising committee.
9. There will be one member of each Pair in each Section. In all qualifiers they must draw from each bag A & B, but in the final, there will be a randomly drawn peg set for each pair.
10. A Pair representative will draw a peg set on the day of the Championship. Pairs MUST fish the Section/Peg shown in the peg set as drawn for him/her.
11. No competitor will change his/her Section. Any angler who commences fishing at the wrong peg will be disqualified.
12. Competitors must plan to use private transport in every case to transfer from HQ to his/her Section and return.
13. Any angler may bring a caddy to help carry his/her tackle to his/her peg. Consent must be obtained from the organiser on the morning of the Championship. Once at the peg no further assistance will be allowed.
14. No competitor will have live or dead fish in their possession before the Championship.
15. The signal to commence and cease fishing will be given by the Senior Section Steward in each Section.
16. The duration of the pairs event will be 5 hours. Organisers reserve the right to move match times around by up to an hour in exceptional circumstances (road closures etc)
17. Before the starting signal no competitor must on any account ground bait or loose feed the swim but will be allowed to wet a line, plumb the depth and test the float, mix or wet ground bait, clear his/her fishing ground of weed or obstructions and position his/her equipment. On no account must a feeder be used prior to the starting signal.
18. A competitor may wade provided that the water does not extend above the knees, unless he/she can touch the bank with their fingertips, in which case the water can extend above the knees. When platforms are used, the water must not come over the angler's knees when standing on the river/canal/lake bed.
19. Every competitor must fish from within one metre either side of his/her designated peg. On flowing water he/she will fish from their position in the direction of the flow as far as the next peg. On canals he/she may fish as far as half the distance between his/her peg and the pegs on either side. Where competitors are drawn on opposite banks the limit of the swim will be the middle line between either bank. The competitor will restrict their activities completely to these boundaries, neither his/her person, tackle, bait, ground bait or hooked fish may intrude into

- his/hers neighbours swim. In an extreme situation e.g. snagged tackle or a snagged fish, an angler must seek permission from his neighbour/neighbours before moving this from his/her designated peg to try and remedy the situation.
20. No competitor may leave his/her peg during the event other than to answer the call of nature. However, in the event of an emergency and/or severe weather conditions, a competitor may leave their peg but only with the express permission of the Senior Section Steward. In such circumstances the Senior Steward may decide in the best interests of the competitors that fishing should be suspended. In the worst-case fishing may be terminated by the Senior Steward upon an instruction from the Championship adjudicators.
 21. A competitor shall have in use, one rod or pole, one line and single hook at one time, but may have other poles or rods and tackle assembled behind them where possible, providing that tackle is not baited.
 22. Any bait, subject to the local rules appertaining at the time of acceptance as an event venue, may be used during the event, except live or dead fish, spinning baits and artificial lures.
 23. Maximum length of poles permitted is 16 metres, floating poles are not allowed
 24. Floating baits either hook or feed are not permitted
 25. The use of electronic fish finders is forbidden.
 26. No competitor shall present their baited hooks into their swim by any means other than the pole or rod to which the line is attached.
 27. All feed may be thrown in by hand, or by the use of one or two-handed catapults, throwing sticks, swim feeders, bait droppers, bait cups and bait shuttles, but no other mechanical means of projecting feed is allowed. No bait shall be introduced with a pole or bait dropper attached to an extra pole or rod whilst continuing to fish. Anyone drawn opposite moored boats are advised not to use catapults to feed and must be by pole pot.
 28. Competitors must strike, play and land their own fish from the confines of their own peg. (See Rule 19)
 29. Competitors must retain all fish in a keepnet that complies with the relevant Environment Agency bylaws.
 30. All fish caught are eligible for weighing except Game Fish, Pike, Zander and Crustaceans and all non-native fish species must not be returned to the water if caught.
 31. Competitors must, if practicable, keep all fish caught alive. If for any reason competitors cannot keep fish alive the Stewards shall have the power to weigh in during the Championship and return the fish alive to the water.
 32. Competitors must cease fishing at the signal. Should a competitor still be playing a fish hooked before the signal is given, they will be permitted no more than 15 minutes after time has been called to land the fish.
 33. All competitors will remain at their pegs until details of their catch have been recorded by the Steward, even if they have caught no fish, except for the purpose of clearing litter from their swims (as defined in Rule 20).
 34. Competitors are responsible for ensuring their pegs are clear of litter, and to clear peg numbers and skewers from pegs and no competitor shall have their catch weighed in who has litter on the banks of their swim.
 35. Both the competitor and Scales Steward MUST ensure that the correct procedure for transferring fish from a keepnet to weigh net and back to the water is followed.
- Keepnet to weigh net: -**
- (a) Swim the fish from the bottom of the Keepnet to the top, ensuring that the top ring is out of the water, and gather the rings up from the bottom as the fish move up. Once the fish are between the top ring and the 2nd or 3rd ring (depending on the number of fish in the net), remove the keepnet from the water and gently slide the fish into the weigh net. Should the number of fish require more than one weigh only slide sufficient fish into the weigh net for the first weigh. Whilst the weigh is taking place hold the remaining fish back in the water until required for weighing and repeat until all fish have been weighed.

(b) Remove the keepnet from the water collapsing the net down, until the 2nd or 3rd ring from the bottom can be reached from inside. Pull the chosen ring through the top ring and then gently slide the fish into the weigh net. Should the numbers of fish require more than one weigh, only slide sufficient fish into the weigh net for the first weigh. Whilst the weigh is taking place, hold the remaining fish back in the water until required for weighing and repeat until all fish have been weighed. After each competitor has been weighed in at their peg, it will be the duty of the Scales Steward to return all the fish to the water.

36. The individual weight of each competitor will be recorded to the nearest 10 grammes rounded up (Where 10Kg scales are used) and 25 grammes, rounded up (Where 20Kg scales are used). Equivocal accuracies are required for Imperial scales.
37. Each Pair will be responsible for ensuring that the weight of his/her catch is correctly recorded by the Record Steward on the Weigh Sheet. He/she MUST sign to state that it is an accurate record and cannot be queried.
38. After being weighed, any dead fish are to be returned to the HQ by the Scales Steward and suitably disposed of.
39. Any fish about which the Stewards have any doubt must be brought before the Championship adjudicators and the competitor's weight will not be confirmed until a ruling has been obtained. Even if Steward recommends the disqualification of a competitor, they MUST weigh the fish in case their ruling is not upheld.
40. Any objections must be made in writing and lodged with a member of the Championship adjudicators or Senior Section Steward no later than one hour after the end of the Championship on the official form contained in the Record Stewards' Book. Irregularities which are brought to notice at a later date may be dealt with only by and at the discretion of the Championship adjudicators.
41. Qualification for the final. All qualifiers have at least 2 pairs to go through to the final on the following sliding scale (note: no fasters losers' positions)

The structure for qualifying pairs for 2020 is as below:

Numbers are based on pairs fishing on the day of the match

- 7 pairs & under - qualifier cancelled
- 8-10 pairs - 2 pairs qualify
- 11-15 pairs - 3 pairs qualify
- 16-20 pairs - 4 pairs qualify
- 21-25 pairs - 5 pairs qualify
- 26-30 pairs - 6 pairs qualify
- 31-35 pairs - 7 pairs qualify
- 36-40 pairs - 8 pairs qualify
- 41-45 pairs - 9 pairs qualify
- 46-50 pairs - 10 pairs qualify
- 51 plus pairs - 11 pairs qualify
- 11 pairs maximum to qualify

Anglers shall be confirmed that they have qualified after their match. Anglers are asked to notify organisers if they attend any further canal pair matches after they have qualified.

The result of the Pairs Championship shall be determined on a points system (in the case of a draw the deciding factor will be the combined weight) If a pair cannot attend the final, they must notify The Angling Trust providing 2 weeks' notice prior to the final date.

If a pair can't fish the final, then their place will be given to next qualifying pair from their qualifier. No one will be allowed to swap partners for the pairs final, unless it is exceptional circumstances and approved by the AT & CRT Canal Pairs organising committee.

42. All competitors must conform to Environment Agency bylaws. Any competitor reported by the Environment Agency for being unable to produce a valid license shall be deemed to be in contravention of the Rules and shall be disqualified. All pools, entry fees etc. in respect of the said competitor shall be forfeited.
43. The use of lead, including any alloy or compound of lead, in the form of split shot or any other suitable items for weighting fishing lines is prohibited. The prohibition does not apply to weights of lead, alloy or compound of lead, of 0.06g or less or of more than 28.35g or to weights of lead, alloy or compound less than 28.35g if the said lead, alloy or compound is incorporated in the construction of swim feeders or self cocking floats.
44. If in the opinion of the Championship adjudicators, any pairs or Individual is in breach of these rules or is guilty of behaviour which is contrary to the best interests of the sport, or upon complaint being received by the Championship adjudicators that there has been an alleged breach of the rules, the Championship adjudicators shall make a decision on

all available facts and that decision will be final and binding.

45. Any pair or competitor proved to be in contravention of these rules will be disqualified.

46. Any pair or individual angler deemed to be bringing the sport into disrepute will be dealt with by the Championship adjudicators.