



General Match Rules

1. All matches will be 5hrs in length.
2. Only SilverFish to count and F1's/Goldfish (No king/mirror/Koi/Grass Carp). In the unlikely event of any uncertainty, the fish will be held back and the Match Organiser will inspect and adjudicate, their decision will be final.
3. Local Rules will take precedent in all circumstances where a contradiction to these rules occur. I.E the use of bloodworm and joker or where a fishery has its own nets policy the venues/club's rules will take precedent.
4. One angler per section (targeted at 15 anglers) to qualify for the final.
5. Every competitor must fish from within one metre either side of his/her designated peg. On flowing water, the competitor may fish in the direction of the flow as far as the next peg. On still water, 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 is the line midway between each bank.
6. A competitor shall have in use one rod or pole, one line and one single hook at one time, but may have other rods or poles and tackle assembled for use in position behind them.
7. Any bait, subject to local rules, can be used except live or dead fish, frogs spinning baits or artificial lures. See officiating club rules or ring match organisers for further details
8. Before the starting signal no competitor shall groundbait or loose feed the swim, but will be allowed to wet a line, plumb the depth and test the float, clear his/her ground of weed or obstructions and position his/her equipment. On no account must a feeder be used before the starting signal. A ledger weight may be cast to find depth and distance etc, but a no time must the line be left in the water whilst continuing to set up other tackle.
9. No bait shall be introduced with a pole cup or bait dropper attached to an extra rod/pole whilst continuing to fish.

10. Floating baits either hookbait or feedbait are not permitted.
11. Maximum permitted length of poles is 16 metres and Floating poles are not permitted.
12. Hand lining fish is not permitted, this includes handling elastics and the line from the pole/rod tip to the fish. Pulla Kits and Bungs are allowed.
13. Keepnets MUST be dry when arriving to fish, nets also should be laid out behind the peg before the start and only put into the water with 15 minutes remaining. Fisheries may have additional net practice which must be adhered to.
14. A competitor may wade provided that the water does not extend above the knees unless he/she can touch the bank with fingertips, in which case the water can extend above the knees. When platforms are used, the water must not come over the knees when standing on a river / lake bed.
15. A competitor must cease fishing at the finishing signal. Should he/she still be playing a fish hooked before the signal is given, he/she will be permitted no more than fifteen minutes after time has been called to land the fish.
16. All fish caught are eligible for weighing with the exception of game fish and crustaceans. Pike and Zander don't count unless stated otherwise in local rules.
17. No competitor shall leave his/her peg at any time during the course of the match other than to answer the call of nature and then he/she must not leave his/her baited hook in the water. At the end of the match, a competitor must remain at his/her peg until his/her catch has been weighed unless he/she has been assigned for weighing duties. Any competitor so detailed must have a witness to the weighing of his/her own catch.
18. Each competitor will be responsible for ensuring the correct weight of their catch is recorded by the Steward and sign the sheet to that effect. In any dispute the decision of the weighers and the organisers will be final.
19. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their pegs are clear of litter and no competitor may have his/her catch weighed in who has litter lying on the banks of his/her swim.
20. All the foregoing rules are subject to the byelaws of the Environment Agency, and any local rules applicable to a fishery.