

Free Spirit Match Boddington Classic Rules

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1. The starting and finishing times for the match will be prominently displayed at match headquarters and on all literature relating to the match (5-hour matches)
2. Every competitor must setup within one metre either side of his/her designated peg. 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.

In an extreme situation e.g., snagged tackle or a snagged fish, an angler must seek permission from his/her neighbour/s before moving from his/her designated peg to try and remedy the situation.

A competitor must not cause annoyance to or seek to interfere with another competitor during the course of the competition and must act in a sporting manner at all times.

3. No competitor may move his/her peg or exchange his/her peg or draw card with another.
4. No competitor shall buy more than one entry ticket for himself/herself per qualifier and this must be strictly restricted to one draw. Tickets are not transferable and there is no secondary market for the sale of tickets. If competitors are unable to fish a qualifier, they must notify the Angling Trust via email **only at refunds@anglingtrust.net**. **Please note:** There is a 3-day policy for obtaining a refund which must be adhered to. Any cancellations not within the 3-day refund policy will not be entitled to a refund.
5. Competitors must retain all fish in keepnets which comply with the relevant EA (Environment Agency) Byelaws. Competitors must take every practicable step to keep their fish alive and, after weighing them, must ensure their careful return to the water. If, for any reason fish are seen to be in distress, a competitor or match official has the right to demand that they be weighed immediately and returned to the water during the course of the match.
6. Keepnets should be laid out on the bank and not positioned in the water until 15 minutes prior to the start signal. Fish must never be handled with gloves or towels.
7. Minimum of Four keepnets (one for silvers **ONLY**) with the other fish split evenly between the remaining nets. 6 carp or under 100lbs in a net, any net over 100lb will be knocked back (to 100lb) that has more than 6 carp in it

(NB it is suggested that six nets are taken to any summer qualifiers at Boddington)

8. 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 him/her.
9. Any bait, subject to local rules, can be used except live or dead fish, frogs spinning baits or artificial lures.
10. Before the starting signal no competitor must on any account groundbait or loose feed the swim but will be allowed to wet a line, plumb the depth and test the float, mix and wet groundbait, 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 at no time must the line be left in the water whilst continuing to set up other tackle.
11. All groundbait may be thrown in by hand, or by use of one or two handed catapults, throwing sticks, swim feeders, bait droppers and bait cups, but no other mechanical means of projecting groundbait is allowed. No bait shall be introduced with a pole cup or bait dropper attached to an extra rod/pole whilst continuing to fish. **NO SPODS TO BE USED. (This includes SPOMBS).**
12. All hooks on all waters should be Barbless (Maximum size 10)
13. Braid Hook lengths are not allowed
14. Maximum permitted length of poles is 16 metres
15. Floating poles are not permitted
16. Floating baits either hookbait or feedbait are not permitted (Pop ups are allowed BUT baits MUST be NO LESS than 18 inches below the surface).
17. A competitor must strike, play and land his/her own fish.
18. Hand lining fish is not permitted.
19. No bait/equipment to be passed between anglers during the match. Anglers' assistants may help them during setup, however, can play no part once the match has started.
20. 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.
21. 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 in unless he/she has been assigned for weighing in duties.

22. 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 fifteen minutes to land the fish.
23. All fish caught are eligible for weighing with the exception of Pike/Zander Game fish and crustaceans.
24. Weighing duties on the day will be allocated at the draw within the 8 peg sections. If an angler is unfit to perform such duties, they should notify the organisers of their condition at the draw and the re-allocation of weighing in duties will work its way up the section.
25. Each competitor will be responsible for ensuring the correct weight of their catch is recorded and sign the weigh sheet to that effect. In any dispute the decision of the weighing in team and the organisers will be final.
26. 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.
27. Any objection to an angler's conduct, for whatever reason, must be lodged in writing within one hour of the end of the match. In all cases the objector shall inform the offender of his/her intentions at the time in order that he/she may speak in his/her own defence. Should an offender after receiving such a warning leave the match scene, the objection shall be deemed to have been sustained and the match organisers must inform him/her of their findings and punishment (if any) within seven days.
28. All the foregoing rules are subject to the byelaws of the Environment Agency, and any local rules applicable to a fishery.
29. Any angler proved to have been in contravention of these rules will be disqualified.
30. Qualification to the final will take place across 6 x 8 person sections per qualifier, with the angler with the greatest weight from the 8 anglers proceeding to the 36-peg final. If an angler cannot make the final date, they should inform the Angling Trust within seven days of the final and the second place angler in the section will be offered the place.