



General Match Rules 2023-24

1. All matches will be 5hrs in length.
2. Only SilverFish count, Crucians and Brown/Orange Goldfish are included in this. No F1s, F2's or any other hybrid carp, 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. Pike and Zander also do not count.
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 then the venues/club's rules will take precedent.
4. One angler per section (targeted at 15 anglers) to qualify for the final.
5. Anglers may fish as far as half the distance between their peg and the pegs on either side (not the next angler). 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 or artificial lures.
8. Before the starting signal anglers cannot groundbait or loose feed the swim, but will be allowed to wet a line, plumb the depth and test the float, clear their ground of weed or obstructions and position their 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.
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 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 practices (such as weight limits) which must be adhered to.
14. A competitor may wade provided that the water does not extend above the knees, unless they can touch the bank, in which case the water can extend above the knees. The same principles apply to platforms and knee depth is to be taken at the front of the platform.
15. A competitor must cease fishing at the finishing signal. Should a competitor be playing a fish hooked before the signal is given, they will be permitted fifteen minutes to land the fish.
16. Each competitor will be responsible for ensuring the correct weight of their catch is recorded and sign the sheet to that effect. In any dispute the decision of the weighers and the organisers will be final.
17. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their pegs are clear of litter and no competitor may have their catch weighed in who has litter lying on the banks of their swim.
18. All the foregoing rules are subject to the byelaws of the Environment Agency and any local rules applicable to a fishery.
19. All anglers require a valid EA rod licence.