



*Fédération Internationale
de Pêche Sportive Mouche*

SFFNZ Inc COMPETITION RULES 2015

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ARTICLE 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Since sport and competitive angling encompasses such diversity, specifically in the areas of awards and techniques, the Olympic Ideal is used to carry out the mission of FIPS-Mouche. As defined by FIPS-Mouche, “Competition Sport Fly Fishing” is angling among competitors, who are observing a standard approved set of rules with a conventional fly rod, fly reel, fly line, leader, and artificial flies for no financial reward.
- 1.2. Also, as with the Olympic Ideal, FIPS-Mouche Competition Sport Fly Fishing is a doping-free sport in order to promote health, fairness and equality for all competitors worldwide. The championships are designed to foster a spirit of good will and international friendship between all nations.

ARTICLE 2: GENERAL INFORMATION

- 2.1. Competitions may be organised for competitors of either sex, competing together or separately.
- 2.2. Competitions may take place on running or still water.

ARTICLE 3: COMPETITION RULES AND MODIFICATIONS

- 3.1. The latest published version of SFFNZ Inc rules will apply during a championship. . Certain additions/enhancements/changes to the rules may be specified in Rule Modifications to take into account the regulations, practices and particular needs of the venue.

ARTICLE 4: BANK FISHING COMPETITIONS

- 4.1. Competition waters shall be divided into Sectors identified by name,
- 4.2. The beats within sectors must be numbered consecutively starting from the upstream boundary in running waters. On still waters, the beats must be numbered clockwise. There must be the same number of beats within each sector as the number of competitors.
- 4.3. It shall be the prime objective of the organisers to provide all competitors with equal fishing opportunities. They shall insure that no competitor is either advantaged or disadvantaged by the quality of the beat allocated. In any case, beats shall be a minimum length of two hundred meters on running waters and one hundred meters on still waters. Buffer zones will be provided where possible and must be marked between adjacent beats.
- 4.4. The beats shall be selected in the way that will provide conditions for the controllers to maintain continuous visual contact with the competitor.
- 4.5. The organisers are responsible for properly marking all beats on all of the sectors.
- 4.6. A competitor may only cast or fish his flies within the marked boundaries of his beat, and he must remain within the boundaries of the beat during the whole competition session. A competitor may not fish from, nor use, any form of bridge during a Competition Session.

- 4.7. If a hooked fish swims outside of the boundaries of the competitor's beat, the competitor may play the fish from inside his own beat, and it must also be landed within his beat. If a hooked fish swims into the adjacent beat, and the angler in that beat does not object, then the competitor may play the fish from inside his own beat. If the angler in the adjacent beat does object, the competitor has a maximum of five minutes to bring the fish out of the adjacent beat.
- 4.8. During a championship "bank fishing" session, wading allowed, only the competitor may enter the water within the boundaries of his beat. (Subject to 11.5). Bank fishing means that there is always contact with the ground, Lake Bottom or river bottom. Deliberately swimming or floating is forbidden.

ARTICLE 5 : BOAT FISHING COMPETITIONS

- 5.1. There must be the same number of competitors in each boat.
- 5.2. Each competitor will act as the controller for the other competitor in the same boat for the duration of the session.
- 5.3. Each competitor has the right to be in command of the boat for an equal amount of time. The decision as to which competitor is initially in command of the boat will be decided by the toss of a coin.
- 5.4. The competitor in command of the boat may take all tactical decisions including where the boat should be positioned; and whether a drogue is used or not. The competitor in command of the boat must ensure that the boat is positioned so each angler has equal fishing opportunity as much as possible. Positioning the boat deliberately to disadvantage the other angler will be considered un-sportsman like behaviour.
- 5.5. Boats must be launched at least ten minutes before the start of the session to give competitors time to arrive by the start time of the session at a position from which they will commence fishing.
- 5.6. No boat may approach within fifty meters of another boat from which a competitor is at the time fishing, except for reasons of safety or necessity. (Note this distance may be amended by the organiser's prior to the competition starting)
- 5.7. Competitors while fishing must be seated on the provided seats. A seat cushion may be used if desired. However, ten centimeters is the maximum thickness allowed for a seat cushion.
- 5.8. Netting of fish is the responsibility of the competitor who will measure the fish and have the measurement confirmed by the other competitor (controller) before releasing it. However, the controller may if he wishes to do so net a fish if requested to by the competitor.
- 5.9. The competitor will enter on their scorecard details of each eligible fish, including the length to the nearest millimeter which will be initialed by the controller
- 5.10. A competitor may stand only while netting a fish. But, if the competitor has asked the controller to net the fish, he must remain seated.
- 5.11. All competitors must wear a life preserver/personal flotation device (PFD) at all times during a boat fishing session.

- 5.12 A competitor may only cast or fish his flies within the quarter of the boat he is seated on, i.e. from a line 90 degrees to the centre of the boat in the direction it is drifting and around their side to a line down the center of the boat. Once the line goes past the center line of the boat it must be retrieved.
- 5.13 Competitors may not fish whilst the motor is running; any fish hooked while the motor is running will be deemed ineligible. The competitor in charge of the motor shall warn the other competitor before starting the motor.

ARTICLE 6: DURATION OF EVENTS AND SCORING

- 6.1. At least three scoring sessions must be provided for all championships. In all championships, competitors will have the right to fish an equal number of scoring sessions on each type of fishing.
- 6.2. Each scoring session must comprise at least two hours of fishing. If, for reasons beyond the control of the competitor, the scoring session amounts to less than the announced period, the exact start and finish time will be advised to the organisers and they may make an adjustment to the scoring on a pro rata basis.
- 6.3. The hours for each competition session will be set by the organisers and included in Rules. The session start and finish time will be measured using a stop watch where possible.
- 6.4. Scoring shall be recorded on the appropriate SFFNZ forms provided by the organiser. Each fish must be measured on an official SFFNZ measuring tray handed out by the organizers prior to each session starting. Each fish shall be signed for by the competitor immediately after it is measured and before fishing can recommence. Where a competitor is controlling another competitor they must verify the length of the fish and sign for the fish along with the catching competitor

ARTICLE 7: WHO MAY PARTICIPATE

- 7.1. Any SFFNZ Inc paid-up member

ARTICLE 8: OBLIGATIONS OF COMPETITORS

- 8.1. Participants in competitions authorised by SFFNZ must respect the Competition Rules and Rule Modifications.
- 8.2. It is the responsibility of each competitor to take all appropriate safety measures, including the wearing of eye protection and life preserving equipment.
- 8.3. Each competitor is responsible for checking the accuracy of his score card and for confirming this by signing it at the end of each session. After signature, the score card will become a final official document.
- 8.4 Any competitor who, during a competition session, requests advice relating to fishing or accepts any material help relating to fishing will be disciplined. (ref 10.5) .
- 8.5. Each competitor must observe the principles of the World Anti-Doping Code and all anti-doping regulations set-up for the Championships.
- 8.6. A competitor is always responsible and accountable for his equipment, and once a session has started, he is the only person to handle it.

ARTICLE 9: PROTEST COMMITTEE

- 9.1. In order to investigate a complaint / protest against a competitor or SFFNZ member the Board shall appoint a subcommittee of not less than three members.
- 9.2 Members chosen to form the subcommittee should where possible currently serve or have previously served on the SFFNZ Board.

ARTICLE 10: RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS OF THE PROTEST COMMITTEE

- 10.1. It is the subcommittee's responsibility to hear all available evidence, including oral or written submissions, of witnesses and or the competitor / member subject of the complaint / protest and any other information the subcommittee considers relevant to the investigation.
- 10.2 Where a competitor / member who is the subject of a complaint / protest refuses to cooperate with the subcommittee appointed to investigate a complaint, the subcommittee may proceed in his or her absence.
- 10.3 After examining the evidence, if the subcommittee considers that a competitor / member has not complied with the rules and or the code of conduct, it will supply its findings in writing to the competitor / member and ask for their submission before determining the disciplinary measures to be taken.
- 10.4 The competitor / member has 48 hours to provide their submission in writing to the committee, who will then consider this submission and if appropriate determine the disciplinary measures to be taken. The committee will then inform the competitor / member of this in writing with a copy to the full SFFNZ board.
- 10.5 Possible disciplinary measures include but are not limited to,
- warning,
 - censure,
 - disallowing part or all of a competitors catch,
 - disqualification from the event,
 - suspension from a team,
 - elimination of funding and other benefits,
 - banning from participation in future events and or banning from SFFNZ membership (subject to section 9 of SFFNZ constitution)
- 10.6 A competitor / member may appeal against the subcommittee's decision to the board of SFFNZ in writing, within 7 days of being informed of any proposed penalty. The board will then review the appeal within 28 days and make its determination which shall be final.
- 10.7 Any penalty against a competitor/member will be kept on record and may also be taken into consideration in determining a future penalty if there are further proven protests against the individual.

ARTICLE 11: CONTROLLERS

- 11.1. Controllers will be responsible for only one Competitor during bank fishing sessions
- 11.2. Controllers will be responsible and accountable for accurately recording on the competitor's scorecard details of each eligible fish, including the length to the nearest millimeter. The Controller must cross out all unused portions of the scorecard at the end of the session. He must ensure that the Competitor signs the scorecard at the end of the session.
- 11.3. A Controller must measure each fish handed to him by the Competitor, and he does not have the authority to release a fish before measurement
- 11.4. In case of a dispute, the Controller must keep material evidence for presentation concerning (size, species, etc.) eligibility. A dispute regarding a fish must be recorded on the Competitor's scorecard.
- 11.5. Controllers are not allowed to enter the water during a bank fishing competition session.
Controllers may only enter the water to cross the river if expressly authorized to do so on that beat by the organisers. Or for safety reasons if it's considered necessary by the controller, then the controller may enter the water for rescue
- 11.6. Controllers are responsible for warning competitors for any violation of the Competition Rules and their Modifications.
A verbal warning must be the first course of action, except for serious violations or repeated offenses.
Controllers must record (in writing) any serious infraction of the Competition Rules or Rule Modifications and report this information to the competition organiser immediately after the session has ended. The Controller should record a rule infraction on the Competitor's scorecard if possible or a separate piece of paper.
- 11.8. During boat fishing sessions each competitor will act as the controller for the other competitor in the same boat for the duration of the session.
(Ref Article 5)
- 11.7. The arrangements for ensuring that controllers are knowledgeable, competent and conversant with these Competition Rules, and any Rule Modifications, are to be reviewed and approved by the SFFNZ Board.

ARTICLE 12: RANDOM DRAW PROCESS AND ASSIGNMENT OF BEATS AND BOATS

- 12.1. Before the assignment of beats to competitors, all beats and buffer zones must be clearly defined and should not be altered during the competition.
- 12.2. The beat of each competitor must be determined by a random draw. The random draw is designed to ensure that anglers will not fish any beat in any sector more than once, nor, if mathematically possible, an adjoining beat.
- 12.3. The random draw for boat assignment for each competitor must minimize the frequency, ideally to nil, with which competitors will fish in the same "boat number" during the competition.

ARTICLE 13: CARE OF FISH CAUGHT

- 13.1. If a Competitor wishes a fish to score, he must land it in a net and pass the fish in the net to the Controller for measurement and recording (Article 20.2. refers). If a competitor has netted the fish he must bring it immediately to the controller for assessment of eligibility and for measurement. Once a fish was netted the competitor may not handle it in any way, nor alter the equipment used for capture of this fish. In case the competitor does not follow this Article 23.1. his fish will be registered as invalid catch.
- 13.2. The Controller is responsible for removing the hook, reviving the fish and releasing the fish and shall take care not to damage the fish in any way. If a fish is hooked in such way that it cannot be easily and safely unhooked, the leader shall be cut as close as is practical to the fish, leaving the hook in the fish. The controller shall then release the fish with the least harm possible.
- 13.3. When the Controller is not able to release the fish in the normal way e.g. due to their inability to access the water, the Controller may (for the benefit of the fish) authorise the competitor to release the fish in a suitable place as indicated by the Controller.
- 13.4. If a controller or any other competition official determines that a competitor has negligently injured a fish, that fish will not be scored and the competitor will be penalised the number of points attributable to a fish of minimum valid length. The incident must be reported to the Jury for consideration of further action.

ARTICLE 14: COMPETITION BOATS

- 14.1. Boats used during the championships must be of appropriate stability, allowing for safe fishing
- 14.2. Boats must carry life preservers/personal flotation devices (PFDs) for each occupant and a two means of signaling /calling for help in case of emergency; one being an emergency flare.

ARTICLE 15: ELIGIBLE FISH

- 15.1. The only Eligible fish species is trout, size limits must be specified in the Rule Modifications.
For measuring purposes, the length will be from the tip of the nose to end of the tail lying naturally.
- 15.2. Only fish hooked in the mouth area, i.e. in front of the rear edge of the gill cover, will be eligible.
- 15.3. A fish hooked inside a competition session is eligible if it is landed not more than ten minutes after the end of the session.
- 15.4. For a fish to be eligible, it must also be properly cared for and unharmed by the Competitor.

ARTICLE 16: COMPETITION FLY RODS

- 16.1. One conventional fly rod, not more than twelve feet/three hundred and sixty-six centimeters in length, may be used at one time. Competitors may have spare fly rods with them (carried on their body or bank side assembled), as long as only one line is in the water. However, when boat fishing, these must not be assembled nor the reel attached.
- 16.2. Competitors are responsible for carrying and protecting their own equipment during the competition sessions.

ARTICLE 17: COMPETITION FLY LINES

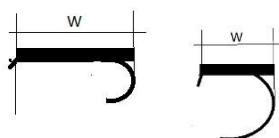
- 17.1. Any factory made floating, sinking or sink tip Fly Line may be used, except for lead core lines. Every fly line used in a FIPS-Mouche competition shall have a minimum coated diameter of 0,55 mm (0.22").
- 17.2. Competition fly lines must be a minimum length of twenty-two meters.
- 17.3. Shooting heads are not allowed.
- 17.4. Neither sinking nor floating devices may be added to fly lines.
- 17.5. One single loop is allowed at the end of the fly line, if desired. If a braided or monofilament loop is used to connect the leader to the fly line, the maximum overall length of such a connector may not exceed 10 cm.

ARTICLE 18: COMPETITION LEADERS

- 18.1. A single monofilament or poly leader, tippet included, may be used, with a maximum total length of twice the length of the rod used.
- 18.2. Leaders may be knotted or knotless, and continuously tapered down or level. A single loop of max 10 cm length may only be used to connect a leader to a fly line. If the leader is knotted, the minimum distance between the knots is 30 cm, hanging freely.
- 18.3. Neither sinking nor floating devices may be added to the leader
- 18.4. A maximum of 3 micro rings (leader rings) of a maximum outer diameter of 3 mm can be used. A maximum of 3 knots can be joined at a micro ring, they are considered as 1 knot.

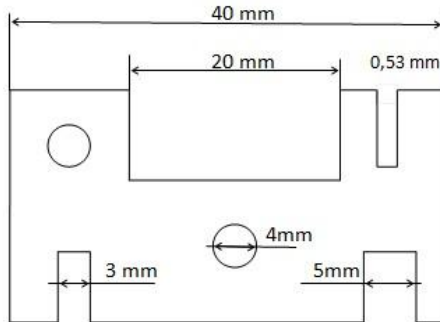
ARTICLE 19: COMPETITION FLIES

- 19.1. Competitors may use floating or sinking artificial flies
- 19.2. All hooks must be connected directly to the leader/tippet/dropper.
- 19.3. Weighted flies are permitted, provided the weight which must be hidden within the dressing and may not exceed the bend of the hook. The maximum length of added weight (w) is the distance from the eye of the hook to the farthest point of the bend in the hook. A single visible bead, not more than 4 mm maximum dimension, is also permitted. Painting alone does not constitute dressing.



19.4. If one fly is used, the length and width of the dressed fly will be at the discretion of the competitor (Articles 29.2. & 29.3. apply).

19.5. If more than 1 fly is used on a leader, all weighted flies must comply with the measuring gauge, as demonstrated in the following diagram:



If the hook length fits within the 20 mm horizontal slot, then the maximum body thickness must fit in the 5 mm vertical slot.

The 4 mm round/circular hole is the maximal diameter allowed for a bead

If the hook length is longer than the 20 mm horizontal slot, then the body thickness must fit between the 3 mm vertical slot.

The maximum hook length cannot be longer than 40 mm, the horizontal length of the gauge at its longest part.

Line diameter will be tested in the 0,53 mm slot. The fly line may not fit in.

19.6. A maximum of three flies is permitted which must not be closer to each other than fifty cm, measured eye to eye, hanging freely. The number of flies allowed will be specified in competition Rule Modifications.

19.7. All flies must be attached to the leader in such a way that neither they nor their droppers move or slide along the leader material.

19.8. All flies must be dressed on barbless single hooks, tandem flies are not allowed.

19.9. If the equipment used and/or flies used are assessed by the controller as repeatedly causing excessive harm to the fish, the use of such flies/equipment may be disallowed by the Controller (after agreement by the organiser)

19.9. Attractor chemicals and the use of light emitters in flies is forbidden.

19.10. Appendages that alter the original concept of an artificial fly or bodies made of moulded/shaped plastic, moulded/shaped silicone or moulded/shaped rubber are banned (moulded/shaped imitations of worms, eggs, baitfish, maggots, twisters...). Round material is acceptable, as it is extruded.

ARTICLE 20: LANDING NETS

20.1. The mesh material of a landing net must be rubber/silicon (preferred) or a non-abrasive synthetic or soft cotton material. Nets must now be of knotless construction.

20.2. Landing nets must not exceed seventy one inches / one hundred and eighty centimeters in overall length, when fully extended.

ARTICLE 21: PROHIBITIONS

21.1. The following are prohibited:

- The fishing of competition sectors by competitors or their agents prior to the official start of the event during the period stipulated in the competition rules.
- Unethical, rude behavior, lack of sportsmanship towards other competitors, organisers, officials or the general public.
- Any action by competitors, organisers or officials that would produce fraudulent or biased results.
- A competitor, during a competition session, requesting advice relating to fishing from anyone
- A competitor accepting any material help relating to fishing from anyone.
- Fishing outside the competition session times
- The use of a fish/depth finder during a championship.
- Drinking of alcohol during a session.
- Use of any prohibited substance(s) constituting doping, according to the anti-doping regulations.

ARTICLE 22: LOST FISH

22.1. In the event of the loss of a fish by a controller before measurement, the competitor will be awarded the average of the points for all valid fish caught in that sector in that session.

22.2 A fish lost in boat fishing session while the other competitor (controller) is netting the fish, at the competitor's request, will not be awarded any points.

ARTICLE 23: AWARDING OF POINTS

23.1. For each eligible fish caught, a competitor will score one hundred points.

23.2. In addition to Article 23.1. , competitors will also receive twenty points per centimeter length of each eligible fish. The recorded length will be rounded up to the next complete centimeter for scoring purposes

23.3. An under-sized fish (under the eligible size limit) is not eligible to be scored and should not be recorded on a competitor's scorecard.

ARTICLE 24: SESSION PLACINGS

24.1. All competitors will receive a placing in their group according to the points they obtain on each sector and for each session of a championship.

24.2. A competitor who fails to make a valid catch in any session will be awarded a placing equal to the number of competitors in the sector for that session. The same placing will be awarded to any competitor who fails to participate for any reason.

24.3. A competitor who is forced to retire for any reason from a session of a championship shall have his catch scored up to that time of departure included in the results. His scorecard needs to be documented at time of departure and signed

24.5. If there is a tie between competitors in the same sector and session in the number of points received, the tiebreaker will be the largest number of valid fish caught. If the tie persists, the competitors will receive equal placings and the placing(s) immediately following will be left blank.

ARTICLE 25: INDIVIDUAL POSITIONS

25.1. The positions of individuals will be determined as follows:

The first position will be awarded to the individual with the lowest cumulative number of placings, and similarly for all other positions

25.2. If there is a tie for positions, the first tiebreaker will be the largest number of points received, the second will be the largest number of valid fish caught, and the third will be the largest fish.

25.4. If the tie persists, the individuals will be awarded equal positions and the position(s) immediately following will be blank.

ARTICLE 26: POSTING OF RESULTS

26.1. At the end of the day, after all of the day's results /scorecards have been given to the Organiser, the daily and cumulative results for individuals will be posted within three hours wherever possible.

26.2. A delay in the posting of results may occur in the event of an unresolved dispute/ protest during a particular session(s). In such a case, resolution will occur as soon as possible. A possible change in previous score postings may occur after resolution.

ARTICLE 27: POSTED RESULTS AND OBJECTIONS

27.1. The results of the last competition session and final results of the Championship will become final 2 hours after posting with the exception of an unresolved dispute/protest

27.2. The time of posting must be clearly marked on the result sheets.

27.3. If there are no objections, which are subsequently sustained, the posted results will stand as final.

27.4. It is the responsibility of competitors to notify the Organiser of any discrepancy in the posted results, immediately after the discovery within the provisional period.

ARTICLE 28: FORMAL PROTESTS

28.1. A formal protest may be made by a competition official, a controller or a competitor regarding violations of the Competition Rules, the Rule Modifications, or the SFFNZ rules.

28.2. A formal protest must be in writing, to the competition organiser within 60 minutes of the end of the competition or to the SFFNZ president or vice president in writing with 24 hours of the end of the competition.

28.3 The Board may refuse to accept any protest / complaint if it considers it to be trivial or vexatious in nature

ARTICLE 29: ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS

- 29.1. All members of SFFNZ must abide by New Zealand's Sports Anti-Doping Rules. These rules reflect the World Anti-Doping Agency's World Anti-Doping Code. (more info can be found here (www.drugfreesport.org.nz)
- 29.2 By entering a SFFNZ event all competitors agree they will at the request of the SFFNZ board they will participate in random drug tests or undertake a drug test at the request of the SFFNZ board if in their opinion they have reasonable grounds to request it.
- 29.3 Where a test proves positive, disciplinary action will usually be taken, (ref 10.5).
- 29.4 Drug testing will not be carried out without the competitors consent on each occasion
- 29.4 If the competitor refuses the test the competitor will have the opportunity to offer an explanation as to the reason for refusal and this explanation will be taken into account.
A refusal will be treated as a potential disciplinary matter.