

Competition rules Clarification:

The interpretation of some of the FIPS-Mouche rules was clarified at the 2008 world champs. Here is a summary of them. It is important that the FIPS rules are adhered to as these competitions select our national team to represent our country overseas. If you want any further clarification of the following points please contact someone from the SFFNZ board.

1. Weighted flies must have the weight hidden within the dressing. Copper wire is deemed to be weight so flies with exposed parts of solid wire are not allowed. This means flies such as copper johns, brassies and pheasant tails where there is at least one closely wrapped layer of wire showing are illegal. Wire ribbing is fine as long as there is a gap between each wrap. An exposed bead up to 4mm can be used.
2. A single continuous leader of any length can be used, so if fishing with more than one fly, the other flies have to be on dropper tags. Fishing “truck and trailer style” with the bottom fly tied on a separate piece of tippet off the other fly is not allowed. Also the use of any connectors such as swivels, clips or micro rings is prohibited.
3. Leaders can be level or tapered and knotted or knotless. If tapered, the taper must reduce from the flyline to the tip of the leader. So the taper can not get thicker towards the tip of the leader.
4. There can not be any loops in the leader. So loop knots, loop to loop connections and loops used to tie tippets onto, are not allowed. The only exception is at the flyline to leader connection where there can be a loop in the butt end of the leader so that it can be joined to the flyline loop to loop. You can nail knot or splice your leader onto the flyline so that there is no loop, but this does not mean that you can then have a loop somewhere else in the leader. A loop on the end of the flyline is allowed. This fly line loop can be made out of braid as many fly lines come with these supplied in their box. Braided leaders and braid are not allowed to be used in the leader, but poly leaders (both floating and sinking) are fine. However, most poly leaders come with a loop on both ends. The butt end loop is fine (it can be used to loop to loop it onto the flyline), but the nylon loop on the tip end must be cut off, and your leader must be joined with any knot that does not form a loop.
5. The flies must be solidly attached to the leader so they do not move or swivel, so use of a non slip loop knot to attach them is prohibited.
6. Once the competition water is closed neither competitors or their “agents” can fish this water. So this means that not only can the competitors not fish the water, but they can not get someone else to fish it for them. This also means that competitors can not guide on these waters when they are closed as their client would be classed as an “agent”, as the competitor is telling them how, what and where to fish. Exceptions could possibly be made for someone who is a full-time registered guide that normally guides on these waters if it is going to affect their livelihood, but they would have to get written approval from the SFFNZ board first.