



NORTHERN FLY FISHING FEDERATION



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Safety & Risk Assessment Statement.

It is the duty of the Federation to familiarise its members, officials and participating anglers with the principles of safety and risk assessment. All members, officials and participating anglers should make themselves aware of the risks they face in the surroundings they find themselves and carry out their own risk assessment which generally amounts to common sense and take appropriate action to ensure their own safety and that of others. However, **it is a requirement of partaking in any Northern Federation fly fishing event** that all anglers read, understand and accept this Fly Fishing Event; Safety & Risk Assessment Statement.

General and Specific Risks Associated With Northern Fly Fishing Federation Fishing Events

- Paths** Only use obvious paths along the bank, and to and from a jetty or platform.
- Banks** Beware of undercuts in banks especially near deep water.
- Wading** Take particular care when wading in deep or fast water and on rocky bottoms. **It is recommended that you use a wading staff and wading belt at all times.**
- Power lines** Beware of fishing under power lines and remember electricity can arc over considerable distances. You are ideally earthed in water to conduct electricity. Remember that graphite is an excellent conductor of electricity.
- Lightning** Again you are ideally earthed when in water and, if using a graphite rod, you have a good lightning conductor. If you are on a boat you and your rod may well be the highest point around and a prime target for a strike.
- Casting** Always show consideration to others users or a riverbank by avoiding contacting anyone with you back-cast. If you are on a boat take extra care if you have other occupants, as you can easily contact them whilst casting. **It is recommended protective glasses are worn when fishing to protect your eyes from hooks etc.**
- Hooks / Flies** Hooks by their design are sharp and easily penetrate the skin. Their use brings them into contact with germs etc. that can be injurious to health. Caution should be used when handling hooks, tying on or removing hooks. Rusty hooks should be avoided.
- Weighted Flies** Weighted flies cause unpredictable movement of the cast when casting. Extreme caution should be exercised when casting weighted flies to ensure they do not come into contact with you, fellow anglers or the public.
- Trees** Fishing under trees can be unsafe in windy conditions. Beware of falling branches.
- Animals** Do note that Bulls can be troublesome! As can Cows with Calves. Approach the river with caution.
- Wells Disease, sewage, effluent** This is transmitted in rat's urine. Never put wet lines in your mouth or any other items of tackle that has been in the water. Wear waterproof plasters on any cuts or abrasions. There may also be a risk in some waters from treated sewage effluent.
- Ticks & Lyme** Ticks and Lyme disease may be present on land around river & lake banks etc. Cover up exposed flesh wherever possible.
- Fishing Platforms** If platforms are floating then treat as Boat Pontoons below. Fishing platforms are constructed to gain access to deeper water. Hence take extra care not to fall in. They are inherently slippery, so care is needed at all times.
- Boat Pontoons** Beware that pontoons constantly move, and hence unstable, invariably wet and slippery. This makes walking on them difficult and possibly unsafe. Maximum caution is needed.
- Getting on, off Moving around** Like pontoons, boats also constantly move and are unstable when their balance is disturbed. The motion of boat and getting on, off and moving around on boats disturbs the balance, hence Maximum caution is needed when getting on, off and moving around on boats.
- On boats** Beware other boats can approach you from all angles and may be unpredictable in their direction, when 'on the motor' you should always give way to those drifting or under sail.
- Other boats** Beware other boats can approach you from all angles and may be unpredictable in their direction, when 'on the motor' you should always give way to those drifting or under sail.
- Falling inwater** Falling in the water may cause drowning, **it's recommended a buoyancy aid is always worn** when on, in or near water.
- Electric fences** Electric fences that are used for the control of animals periodically discharge high voltages. Contact with the wires may result in a painful electric shock, or worse.
- Weather** When boat fishing, the weather may change suddenly and cause unforeseen dangerous water conditions. Be constantly aware of changing weather and its consequences.
- Conditions**

Child & Young Person Protection Officer: - Paul Page

The ATTEFF maintains a policy for the protection of Children & Young Persons at ATTEFF organised events. The Northern Federation as part of the TEFF have adopted and comply with the requirements of this policy. **Paul Page is the designated person** for the Northern Federation to whom matters concerning Children & Young persons should be directed.

Other

You must have read and understood the risk assessment above for the event.

You must be in possession of a valid Environmental Agency Fishing Licence for the date of the event.

You must agree to comply with the rules governing the event you have entered.

It is recommended that entrants join the Angling Trust so that they are covered by the included insurance policy.

ATTEFF General & River Competition Rules etc.



Tradition

Fishing in any ATTEFF competition will be carried out in the spirit of, and with respect for, the traditions of the sport.

Betting

Competitors are not permitted to engage in any form of betting, including sweepstakes, connected with their competitions.

Eligibility

Where required in England, all competitors must be in possession of a valid Environmental Agency rod licence. To Participate in an ATTEFF national competition, an individual must have been born in England, or be a citizen thereof, or have resided therein for at least 3 years preceding the date of the competition. For this purpose, Monmouthshire is considered to be part of Wales. Anyone living within 5 miles of the border between England and Scotland is considered eligible to fish for either country. Entry is limited to those who will be at least 18 years old on May 1st of the following year. Only one entry per person per year is allowed in each ATTEFF national competition.

Disputes and Complaints

Any dispute or complaint must be reported to a match official within 30 minutes of the end of the match. A sub-committee is to be formed of the organiser and a minimum of two officials of the organisation responsible. They shall adjudicate within one hour. If the sub-committee considers that a competitor has not complied with the rules, it may disqualify. It may also refer the matter for further disciplinary action. In that case, a full report must be made to the appropriate authority within 7 days. A competitor may appeal against a decision to the ATTEFF, (or *Organising Body as appropriate*) in writing, within 7 days of being informed of any penalty. Any review must be concluded within 28 days.

RIVER RULES. Local rule variations may apply; these will be advised at entry confirmation and at the competition briefing

Matches shall be fished with artificial flies on barbless or de-barbed single hooks. Not more than three flies shall be mounted on a cast. Flies may be artificially weighted.

Fly irons will measure not more than five-eighths of an inch overall, including the eye. The overall length of the fly shall not exceed fifteen-sixteenths of an inch. Flies may be of any pattern and material and may be fished floating or sunk. Attractor chemicals and the use of light emitters are debarred.

A competitor may use only one rod at a time (maximum length 12 feet) but may have a second ready mounted as a spare. Any manufactured line may be used. Braided leaders, weighted or un-weighted, are allowed. Coloured sleeving may be used at the end of the fly line to improve visibility but no other bite indicators are permitted. A 'sacrificial' floating fly is not deemed to be a bite indicator provided it is one of the three permitted flies.

Competitors must provide for themselves landing nets made of knotless mesh.

Competitors may fish anywhere within their beats provided that they do not approach within 30 metres of another competitor who is fishing. They may fish the same spot for up to 30 minutes. After that, if requested by another competitor, they must move at least 30 metres and may not return to the spot for at least 30 minutes. At the end of each session every competitor must move at least 30 metres from the spot he/she is fishing, irrespective of how long he/she has fished there. Any angler whilst measuring a fish shall be deemed still fishing in the same place where he hooked the fish.

No competitor may walk or cast outside the beat. Should a fish move outside the beat, it must be played from and landed within the beat. If a fish is hooked at the end of a session, five minutes of the next session is allowed in which to net it.

Local Rules

The match organiser, hereinafter referred to as the 'organiser' will advise competitors of any local rules which augment or otherwise affect the following rules.

Hours of fishing

The organiser will fix the hours of fishing.

Species & Size of Fish

Trout and grayling are the only permitted species. The minimum size limit that may be set in England is 15cm from nose to the tips of the tail. The organiser will specify any further limitations for a particular event.

Beat Arrangements

The organiser will fix the beat arrangements.

Controllers

Each competitor will have a controller who will stay with the same competitor throughout the competition. Controllers will be responsible for ensuring that those on their beats comply with the rules. To be fair to all, they are not to give advice, net fish or in any other way give advantage to their competitors.

Catching & Recording

Catch and release will apply. All fish must be netted and presented to the controllers whilst still in the landing net. At the time of netting, the hook must be in the fish's mouth; if the fly drops out in the net, the fish will still count. The controller and competitor will agree the overall length of the fish and the controller will record it on the score card. The competitor will carefully return the fish to the river, making sure that it can swim away before releasing it.

Placings

Each qualifying fish will score 20 points plus 1 point for each centimetre or part thereof. For example, a fish of 30.3 centimetres will score 20 plus 31, i.e. 51 fish points. The scores for the four sessions will be recorded separately. At the end of each session, both the controller and the competitor will initial the scorecard. Competitors from each of the four beats will be 'placed' separately, according to the points they have scored in each of the four sessions, i.e. in each session, the top competitor on each beat will earn a '1 placing', the second a '2 placing' and so on. A blank will earn an '8 placing'. Individuals' placings in the four sessions will be summed and their totals will decide their positions in the competition. The top individual will have the lowest total of 'placings' and so on. A tie will be decided on highest fish points.

Assistance to the Competition Organisers If anyone sees anything which appears to contravene the competition rules, he/she is asking to notify the individual concerned if possible, and to report to the organiser under the procedure set out in the ATTEFF General Fishing Rules.

AT TEFF Child & Young Persons Protection Policy

The AT TEFF maintains a policy for the protection of Children & Young Persons at ATTEFF organised events. The Northern Federation as part of the ATTEFF have adopted and comply with the requirements of this policy. Paul Page is the designated person for the Northern Federation to whom matters concerning Children & Young persons should be directed.

Other

You must have read and understood the risk assessment for the Qualifier.

You must be in possession of a valid Environmental Agency Fishing Licence for the date of the Qualifier.

You must agree to comply with the rules governing the Qualifier you have entered.