



2022 INTERNATIONAL BANK FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

(Including FIPS Mouche amendments 2013, 2014, 2015, 2019 & 2021)

Introduction:

- 1.1 The Bank International was established at the beginning of 2010, by National Organisations CEFF (now ATTEFF), SANA, WSTAA & TAFI to provide a Fly-Fishing Championship of International standard for the many bank anglers who participate in Local, Regional and National Stillwater Bank Competitions.

Competition Rules and Modifications:

- 2.1 The Championships Rules will be of a recognisable World Class Standard and hence are based on those rules published from time to time by FIPS-Mouche for World & European Championships, amended as follows, and subject to local Rule Modifications that will be generated by the host organisation and published in advance of the Championship.

The Bank Fishing Championship:

- 3.1 The Bank International Championship is for teams of 6 competitors from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland who have been nominated by a participating National Organisation.
- 3.2 Competition water(s) will be divided into beats and numbered by pegs. The boundary of each beat will be between the two adjacent pegs i.e., Beat 1 will be between peg 1 and 2 and so on, the end of the last beat being marked with a peg.
- 3.3 It shall be the prime objective of the host organisation to provide all competitors with equal fishing opportunities. They shall endeavour to ensure that no competitor is either advantaged or disadvantaged by the quality of the beat allocated.
- 3.4 The beats will be selected in the way that will provide the conditions for the controller to maintain continuous visual contact with the competitor. The controllers shall be adequately equipped for this purpose (binoculars, rubber boots or waders, safety equipment if necessary).
- 3.5 A competitor may only cast or fish his flies within the marked boundaries of the beat and must remain within the boundaries of the beat during the timed fishing period. A competitor may not fish from, nor use, any form of bridge during a timed fishing period.
- 3.6 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 and it must also be landed within his 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 and into his own beat.
- 3.7 Competitors are not allowed to enter the water

Medical and Insurance Cover:

- 4.1 The host organisation must arrange adequate medical assistance and liability insurance cover during the official competition period.
- 4.2 Competing National Organisations are responsible for providing adequate health, travel, and any other insurance for their teams.

Duration of Sessions:

- 5.1 The Championship will be fished over 2 scoring sessions (morning & afternoon)
- 5.2 Competitors will fish 8 beats (timed fishing periods), 4 in the morning's session, 4 in the afternoon's session

Obligations of Competitors:

- 6.1 The fishing will be carried out in the spirit of, and with respect for, the traditions of the sport.
- 6.2 Competitors must respect the Competition Rules and Rule Modifications.
- 6.3 Out of courtesy to the host organisation and any event sponsors, all team registrants are required to attend all official functions listed in the final official programme.
- 6.4 It is the responsibility of each competitor to take all appropriate safety measures, including the wearing of eye protection and life preserving equipment.
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 Any competitor who, during a competition session, requests advice (except from his manager or nominated representative) relating to the fishing or accepts any material help relating to the fishing will be disciplined. If anyone involved with a team, other than its manager, communicates with a competitor during a competition session, this will be considered as a case of the competitor requesting advice relating to the fishing.
- 6.7 Each competitor must observe the principles of any anti-doping regulations set up for the Championships.
- 6.8 A competitor is always responsible and accountable for his equipment, and once a session has started, he is the only person to handle it and moving it within the boundaries of the beat during the entire competition.
- 6.9 Competitors are not permitted to engage in any form of betting, including sweepstakes, connected with the Championship.

Teams, Managers, Captains and Reserves / Substitutes:

- 7.1 The Team Manager (Nominated Official or team captain if there is no registered manager) is responsible and accountable for the conduct of team members throughout the championship. The Team Manager is responsible for training his competitors on the FIPS Mouche rules and Rule Modifications
- 7.2 During a championship session, the Team Manager (or nominated representative) may move freely in the beats of his team members but must not enter the water.
- 7.3 A Team Manager (or nominated representative) may enter the beat of another competitor only to gain access to the beat of his own competitor and only on condition that his presence does not disturb the waters or activities of a competitor of another team.
- 7.4 During a championship session, the Team Manager (or nominated representative) is the only person (other than competition officials) allowed to communicate in any way with a competitor. It is the responsibility of team managers and competition officials to identify themselves to controllers before communicating with competitors during a competition session.
- 7.5 During a championship session, neither a team manager nor any other person may give material help to any competitor.
- 7.6 Reserves: A team may only have one designated reserve. The team member designated as the reserve at registration may be substituted for a competitor. After being substituted, the original competitor may be reinstated for a subsequent session in the same peg sequence he was originally assigned to. Competitors may not change peg sequences.
- 7.7 The team Manager must notify the International Organiser, or his representative, of any substitution in writing at the latest 30 minutes prior to the start of the session
- 7.8 A reserve may not fish on a peg that he has already fished in any previous session.

Jury:

- 8.1 A jury will be formed at the captain / managers meeting.
- 8.2 The jury will consist of:
 - (a) The International Organiser
 - (b) Four representatives (one from each participating Country)

Duties, Responsibilities and Powers of the Jury:

- 8.1 It will be the duty and responsibility of the Jury to:
- (a) Review any reports of infractions and take any appropriate action.
 - (b) Receive any formal written protest, and take any appropriate action.
- 8.2 Disciplinary measures are:
- (a) Warning
 - (b) Censure
 - (c) Disallowing all or part of a competitor's catch. In the event of a disallowing of part of a competitor's catch, all fish recorded up to when the infringement was raised will be disqualified.
 - (d) Disqualification of a team or individual

Controllers:

- 9.1 Controllers will be responsible for accurately recording on the competitor's score card details of each eligible fish, including the length to the nearest millimetre and the time of capture. All unused portions of the scoring section of the card must be crossed out by the controller at the end of the session.
- 9.2 In case of a dispute, the Controller must keep material evidence for presentation concerning (size etc.) eligibility, A dispute regarding a fish must be recorded on the Competitors scorecard,
- 9.3 Controllers will be responsible for warning competitors if any breach of the Competition Rules and their Modifications appears probable.
- 9.4 Controllers must record any infraction of the Competition Rules or their Modifications on the Competitors scorecard if possible or a separate piece of paper and report this information to the International Organiser.

Random Draw for Beats.

- 10.1 Before the assignment of peg sequences to competitors all pegs and buffer zones must be clearly defined and should not be altered during the competition.
- 10.2 The peg sequence of each competitor must be determined by random draw. Ideally the random draw for peg sequences should be generated by a pre-planned computer program. The random draw must ensure that anglers from the same team will not fish any peg in any session more than once
- 10.3 Countries will be represented by numbers 1,2,3 & 4 and team members by letters A, B, C, D, E & F
- (a) The captain of each team will draw a number to select the team number for the country.
 - (b) Then each captain will draw a letter, A to F, to assign each of the team member a unique Alpha Numeric for beat rotation allocation and scoring.

Care of Fish Caught:

- 11.1 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 assessment of eligibility, measurement and recording. Once the fish has been netted the competitor may not handle it in any way, nor alter the equipment used for its capture.
- 11.2 The Controller is responsible to remove the hook, revive the fish and release it, taking care not to damage the fish. If the fish is hooked in a way preventing easy and safe unhooking, the leader shall be cut, leaving the hook in the fish, and the fish released with the least harm possible. For the benefit of fish, the competitor may be authorised by controller to release the fish in the most suitable environment only in case the controller has no possibilities of releasing the fish in a proper way. All necessary time shall be taken to perform safe release of fish caught.
- 11.3 If a competitor decides that a fish is ineligible or is undersized, he must not net it and is free to release it gently in the water, taking care not to cause it any damage, and ideally without touching it.
- 11.4 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.

Eligible Fish:

- 12.1 Eligible fish species and size limits must be specified in the Rule Modifications. For measuring purposes, the length will be from the tip of the nose to whichever part of the tail is specified in the Rule Modifications.
- 12.2 Only fish hooked in the mouth area, i.e., in front of the rear edge of the gill cover, will be eligible.
- 12.3 A fish hooked inside a competition session is eligible if it is landed not more than ten minutes after the end of the session.
- 12.4 For a fish to be eligible, it must also be properly cared for and unharmed by the competitor

Competition Fly Rods:

- 13.1 One conventional fly rod, not more than twelve feet/three hundred and sixty-six centimetres in length, may be used at one time. Competitors may have spare assembled fly rods with them, as long as only one line is in the water.
- 13.2 Competitors may have a maximum of 3 made up fly rods with them at any one time.
- 13.4 Competitors are responsible for carrying and protecting their own equipment. during competition sessions.

Competition Fly Lines:

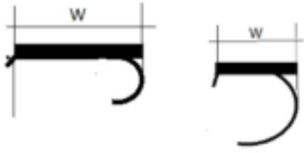
- 14.1 Any factory made floating, sinking or sink tip lines may be used, except for lead core lines. Each used fly line must have a minimum coated diameter of 0,55mm (0.022"). Only fly lines meeting this requirement are authorised for use in FIPS-Mouche competitions (not to fit in the 0,53mm slot in the gauge)
- 14.2 Competition fly lines must be a minimum length of twenty-two metres.
- 14.3 Shooting heads are not allowed.
- 14.4 Neither sinking nor floating devices may be added to fly lines.
- 14.5 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 connector may not exceed 10 cm.

Competition Leaders:

- 15.1 A single monofilament or poly leader, tippet included, may be used, with a maximum total length of twice the length of the rod used.
- 15.2 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.
- 15.3 Neither sinking nor floating devices may be added to the leader.
- 15.4 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.
- 15.5 A dropper is an equal or smaller diameter monofilament side line to the leader used solely to attach a second or third fly other than the point fly. Only droppers may be used to attach flies whenever more than 1 fly is used by the competitor during the competition. Droppers without fly attached are not allowed. Should a fish break off one of the flies (snagging or double take) during playing the fish this should be seen as "within the rules" and the catch should be registered as eligible,

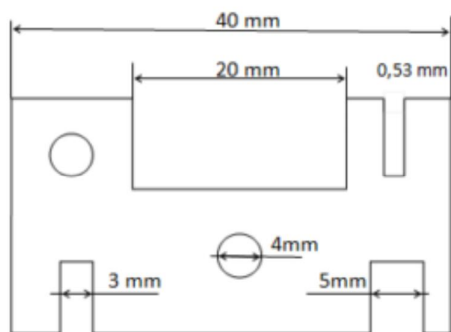
Competition Flies:

- 16.1 Competitors may use floating or sinking artificial flies.
- 16.2 All hooks must be connected directly to the Leader/Tippet
- 16.3 Weighted flies are permitted, provided the weight is 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 of the hook.



A single visible bead, not more than 4 mm in its maximum dimension, is also permitted. Painting alone does not constitute dressing

- 16.4 If one fly is used, the length and width of the dressed fly will be at the discretion of the competitor.
- 16.5 If more than 1 fly is used on a leader, all weighted flies must comply with this 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.

- 16.6 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 in the rule modifications.
- 16.7 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
- 16.8 All flies must be dressed on manufactured barbless single hooks tandem flies are not allowed.
- 16.9 If the equipment used and /or flies used are assessed by the controller as repeatedly causing harm to the fish, the use of such flies/equipment may be disallowed by the controller (if possible after agreement with the host nation organiser)
- 16.10 Attractor chemicals and the use of light emitters to flies are forbidden.
- 16.11 Appendages that alter the original concept of an artificial fly or bodies made of that formed plastic, formed silicone, or formed rubber are banned (formed imitations of worms, eggs, baitfish, maggots, twisters....). Round material is acceptable, as it is extruded.
- 16.12 A "bung" is considered a dry fly for the purposes of the rules and must be capable of catching a fish. A "bung" will have no less than 3 dressings to be eligible, paint/ colouring is not considered a dressing.

Landing Nets:

- 17.1 The mesh material of the landing net must be rubber/silicon (preferred) or a non-abrasive synthetic or soft cotton material. Nets must now be of knotless construction.
- 17.2 Landing nets must not exceed ninety-eight inches/two hundred and fifty cms in overall length, when fully extended.

Prohibitions:

- 18.1 The following are prohibited:
- (a) Unethical, rude behaviour, Lack of sportsmanship towards other competitors, organisers or officials
 - (b) Any action by competitors, organisers or officials which would produce fraudulent or biased results.
 - (c) The use of still or video cameras to film beats and/or the competitors of other countries to provide information for a team, during the whole Championship.
 - (d) The use of cell phones, radio or other electronic communication methods during a competition session to relay methods or Team information. This includes all team members, Controllers and includes Captains, Reserves and Managers.
 - (e) A competitor, during a competition session, requesting advice relating to the fishing from anyone (other than his manager).
 - (f) A competitor accepting material help relating to the fishing from anyone
 - (g) The use by a team member of a fish/depth finder during the championship
 - (h) Use of any prohibited substance(s) constituting doping, according to the anti-doping regulations set

Lost Fish:

- 19.1 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 taken in that sector in that session.

Awarding of Points:

- 20.1 For each eligible fish caught, a competitor will score one hundred points.
- 20.2 In addition to article 20.1 competitors will also receive twenty points per centimetre length of each eligible fish; the recorded length will be rounded up to the next complete centimetre for scoring purposes.
- 20.3 An undersized fish (under the eligible size limit) is not eligible to be scored and should not be recorded on the competitor's scorecard.

Session Placings:

- 21.1 All competitors will receive a placing according to the fish points they obtain for each session of a championship
- 21.2 A competitor who fails to make a valid catch in any session will be awarded a placing equal to the number of competitors for that session. The same placing will be awarded to any competitor who fails to participate for any reason.
- 21.3 A competitor who is forced to retire for any reason from a session of a championship shall have his catch up to that time of departure included in the results. His scorecard needs to be documented at time of departure and signed.
- 21.4 Any incomplete team will be awarded a placing equal to the number of competitors for each session for which a team member is absent.
- 21.5 If there is a tie between competitors in the same session in the number of fish points received, the first tie breaker will be the largest number of valid fish caught; the second will be the largest fish. If the tie persists, the competitors will receive equal placings and the immediately following placing(s) will be blank.

Team and Individual Positions:

- 22.1 The positions of teams and individuals will be determined as follows:
- (a) Teams: The first position will be awarded to the team with the lowest cumulative number of placings of all its team members, and similarly for all other positions.
 - (b) Individuals: The first position will be awarded to the individual with the lowest cumulative number of placings, and similarly for all other positions
- 22.2 A reserve who fishes any session will not be eligible to be awarded any individual position within a championship, although his placings will be included in the calculation of team results.
- 22.3 If there is a tie for positions between teams or individuals, the first tie breaker will be the largest number of fish points received, the second will be the largest number of valid fish caught, and the third will be the largest fish.
- 22.4 If the tie persists, the tied teams or individuals will be awarded equal positions and the immediately following position(s) will be blank.

Posted Results and Objections:

- 23.1 Session and final results will be considered as provisional for 30 minutes after the official posting of the results of the final session.
- 23.2 It is the responsibility of team managers to inspect the posted results.
- 23.3 If there are no objections, which are subsequently sustained, within the provisional period, the posted results will stand.
- 23.4 It is the responsibility of team managers to notify the International Organiser of any discrepancy in the final results immediately after discovery within the provisional period.
- 23.5 Only those objections made during the provisional period will be considered by the Jury in rectifying the results. After adjustment, if any, and before posting the official results must be signed by the International Organiser.

Formal Protests:

- 24.1 A formal protest may be made by a competition official, a team or a competing country official regarding violations of these International Bank Fly Fishing Championship Rules or the Local Rule Modifications.
- 24.2 A formal protest must be in writing.
- 24.3 A formal protest must be made to the International Organiser, within 30 minutes after the official posting of the results of the final session.
- 24.4 A formal protest on behalf of a team must be made by the team captain or manager.

Rule Modifications

- 25.1 Certain additions/enhancements/changes to the rules may be specified in Rule Modifications to take into account the laws, regulations, practices and particular needs of the Host Country.
- 25.2 Host Countries should state both the species and minimum size of fish that will be eligible for scoring.
- 25.3 The first 5 eligible fish to be caught on a peg by a competitor during a fishing period will be the maximum allowed to be scored.

Paul Page

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