



## **READING FISHING CLUB MATCH RULES**

### **SECTION 1 : RULES GOVERNING RFC MATCHES**

The match secretary and his assistants shall decide venues, dates and duration of matches annually.

The RFC match season runs from the first Sunday in June to the last Sunday in May each season.

RFC presentation night shall be on the first Friday/Saturday in June each year.

The draw of pegs for the match shall commence at the time given when the competitor books in for the match and will be conducted in an orderly manner.

RFC matches on venues where pegging may have to be restricted then priority will be given to members based on their match attendance during the current season.

Any competitor who may be late for the match draw must inform the match secretary or his assistants (phone numbers in the current RFC permit) or the competitor will not be allowed to fish in the match concerned.

Any pegs not drawn shall be left with the match secretary, section steward or match organiser that is closest to the draw site, any late arrivals or 'redraws' must make a valid draw from those persons mentioned.

All matches shall be pegged down and shall not exceed 5 hours duration.

Wherever possible competitors shall be pegged a minimum of 25 yards apart.

A whistle or other means shall signify the start and finish of the match.

All matches shall be fished to 'no size limits' unless a higher authority governs size limits.

All course fish in season (except pike and trout) to be weighed in club matches.

Fish and the use of artificial lures as bait (excepting club pike matches) are not allowed in RFC matches.

Weighing in of fish shall be done at the competitors peg.

The champions match at the end of each season is for match winners only in the current match season.

All cups/trophies won by members in club matches will be engraved at the club's expense.

Cups/trophies must be returned by the end of March each year in a clean and polished condition to allow for engraving to take place.

Members not returning cups/trophies will not receive any cup/trophy for the current season.

### **WEIGHTS/POINTS SYSTEM :**

Only the best 12 match points scores per member to count over the whole season for the overall points trophy

Only the best 12 match weights per member to count over the whole season for the overall weight trophy.

The points/weights trophies shall go to the member with the highest overall totals.

If anglers tie on points for club trophies then weight will determine their finishing position.

Points awarded thus : 1<sup>st</sup> 20 pts , 2<sup>nd</sup> 19 pts etc down to 1 pt for 20<sup>th</sup> place or thereafter.

### **TEAM MATCHES :**

In the event of RFC having a match against visiting clubs or club and the competitor being a member of one or more of those clubs must decide which club they wish to fish for in respect of trophies,pools and secondary competitions within the match.

Members wishing to fish for RFC against visiting clubs or club must book in with the match secretary or his assistants 14 days prior to the match to be given a team place.

Members wishing to fish for RFC in R&DAA team competitions must book in with the match secretary or his assistants 14 days prior to the match to be given a team place.

All teams representative of RFC shall be selected by the match secretary and an appointed club captain where relevant.

Any member who wishes to fish for RFC in any team competitions must give his/her name to the match secretary or his assistants or the appointed club captain 14 days prior to the match or matches for which they wish to be considered.

### **MATCH POOLS :**

Match pools £10 per angler , lucky peg £1 per angler (both are entirely optional).

Match pools and lucky peg monies (both are entirely optional) shall be under the control of the match secretary,his assistants or the match organiser.

RFC match pools payouts (number of anglers paying into pools) : 1 angler = no match , 2-4 anglers = win only , 5-8 anglers = 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> only , 9-14 anglers = 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> only , 15 plus anglers = 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> only , 16 plus anglers will see sections introduced.

Lucky peg money is paid out to a maximum of £100 per match.

### **SECTION 2 : RULES GOVERNING COMPETITIONS IN RFC MATCHES :**

A peg is defined as a numbered piece of wood,plastic or paper placed on or in the bank.

A competitors swim on running water shall be extended from one yard upstream of his/her peg to one yard above the next peg downstream.

A downstream end swim is limited to 40 yards in length.

A competitors swim on Stillwater shall extend from halfway from his/her peg and the peg to the right to halfway from his/her peg and the peg to the left and halfway to his/her peg and the peg on the opposite bank.

End swims are limited to 40 yards in length and half the width of the water.

Canals are considered to be stillwaters.

A competitor must fish from one yard either side of a line drawn through his/her peg at right angles to the bank.

A competitor may play and land a fish from anywhere in his/her swim.

No competitor shall fish the venue on the day prior to the match.

No member of the club can fish the venue during the match if he/she has not drawn a peg.

No assistance is to be given to a competitor (except a junior) when netting a fish.

Any member who has booked in for a club match who is then unable to fish the match must inform the match secretary or his assistants (phone numbers in the RFC permit) prior to the match concerned.

A member who fails to attend a booked match at least twice will automatically be suspended from entering further club matches that season.

Any member persistantly disregarding the booking requirements , may at the discretion of the EC , be barred from fishing club matches for a longer period.

Competitors shall fish with one rod and line or one pole and line and one hook only (other rods or pole sections may be set up).

The use of barbless and micro barbed hooks only to be used in RFC matches.

No competitor shall break the water prior to the commencement of the match , except for wetting groundbait,plumbing a swim,positioning of rod rests and bank sticks,setting keepnets,setting up of seatboxes and platforms or for dragging the swim in lakes and gravel pits (30 minutes maximum).

A competitor may lodge an appeal within 30 minutes of the match commencing if in his/her opinion the swim drawn is not fishable to the match secretary or his assistants or the match organiser or section steward and they will be given a re-draw under reasonable circumstances.

Any competitor who leaves his/her swim must first remove any tackle from the water (except keepnets) and remove bait from hook.

Any competitor must use a keepnet of not less than the size and type laid down in the by-laws of that authority in whose area the match is fished.

All matches on the club's waters require the use of two keepnets (1 carp net and 1 silverfish net or keepnets designed for the species you expect to catch).

Competitors must not keep so many fish in a keepnet as to cause distress or suffering where they may die,a maximum of 50lb of fish per keepnet is allowed.

Competitors will refrain from disposing of excess bait into a fishery.

Each competitor is responsible for the litter in a swim and will not be weighed in at a club match unless his/her swim is clear of litter.

Before, during and after the match all fish must be treated in such a way as not to cause undue stress and suffering and keepnets at the weigh-in must be placed on unhooking mats when required.

The use of bloodworm, joker, nuts and floating baits are banned in all RFC matches.

Members fishing RFC matches on other club's or association's waters must adhere to the local match rules of that club or association.

The match secretary or his assistants or the match organiser or section stewards decision on the day will be final in all matters but competitors have the right of appeal to the EC provided the matter was raised on the day to the match secretary or his assistants or the match organiser or the section steward.

The clubs general rules governing our waters also apply to club matches.

Any breach of the rules in this section may result in the disqualification of the competitor.

### **SECTION 3 : CLUB PIKE MATCH RULES :**

Upto 4 pike matches are run annually by RFC.

Competitors must be in possession of long nosed pliers, semi barbless hooks, a unhooking mat of minimum 36 inches, a landing net of minimum 36 inches, minimum 15lb line, a minimum 2.5lb test curve rod to fish club pike matches.

2 rods may be used in RFC pike matches.

The use of artificial lures in RFC pike matches are only allowed in a designated pike match.

No livebaiting allowed in RFC pike matches.

No sinking and drawing of deadbaits allowed in RFC pike matches.

No pike to be retained in keepnets in RFC pike matches.

No rods to be left unattended at any time during RFC pike matches, if competitors leave their peg then all tackle must be removed from the water.

As a condition of fishing a RFC pike match it is understood that the competitor will assist and weigh any pike caught in pegs either side of their own peg and in the process must remove all their tackle from the water in their own peg until returning to their own peg.

Failure to abide by RFC pike match rules may result in a competitors disqualification.

The match secretary or his appointed assistants or match organiser will decide all matters on the day but all competitors have the right of appeal to the EC.

### **SECTION 4 : DECLARATION**

**THESE READING FISHING CLUB MATCH RULES WILL BE BINDING FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS FROM THE DATE PRINTED BELOW EXCEPT AT THE DISCRETION OF THE EC.**

**THESE MATCH RULES SUPERSEDE ALL MATCH RULES PRIOR TO THIS DATE 5/4/2016.**