

READING FISHING CLUB MATCH RULES

SECTION 1.

The match secretary and match committee shall decide on venues, match dates and times, assign trophies and confirm the pools format before the start of each season. The pools format will be available on request.

The RFC match season runs from the first Sunday match after 15th June and ends in May the following year.

Anglers wishing to compete in the knockout cup should register with the match committee prior to the July meeting, when the draw for the first round of the knockout cup takes place. See section 3 for information.

All trophies will be engraved with the winner's name at the club's expense. The presentation of trophies will be arranged for an evening at the end of May or early June. These trophies should be returned to the club by the end of March the following year in a clean and polished condition, to allow for the new engraving to take place.

Members failing to return trophies will not receive any for the current season.

On venues other than RFC waters, a peg fee or a RDAA permit will be required. Anglers wishing to attend club home matches must book in with the match secretary or committee before 6.00pm on the Friday prior to the match. For peg fee**** venues members should book in by Wednesday 6.00pm to allow for non-RFC members to book in and take up any unused spaces. Non-members fishing away venues would be eligible to enter the club pools but would not be eligible for trophies or any peg fee subsidy.

Only members that have booked in and have drawn a peg may fish the venue during the match. On venues with a restricted number of pegs available, priority to fish will be given to RFC club members based on their match attendance during the current season, provided they have booked in by Wednesday.

Members wishing to fish for RFC in RDAA or other team competitions must book in with the match secretary or their assistant **14 DAYS PRIOR** to the match to be considered for a team place. The team shall be selected by the match secretary, or his assistant and a team captain appointed where relevant.

The draw for pegs shall commence at 8.30 am unless advised differently, in an open transparent orderly manner.

In the event of RFC having a match at home or away against a club or clubs, any competitor being a member of more than one of those clubs must decide which club they wish to fish for in respect of trophies, pools and secondary competitions before the match draw and notify the match secretary accordingly.

Any member who has booked in for a club match that is unable to fish the match or delayed from the draw time should inform the match organiser prior to the draw. Failure to notify the match organiser may result in suspension from entering further club matches. Late arrivals may have a peg drawn for them at the discretion of the match organiser. Any member persistently disregarding the booking requirement could at the discretion of the E.C. be barred from club matches. A competitor may request a redraw within 30 minutes of the match commencing, if in their opinion the swim drawn is unfishable. The match organiser will allow a redraw in reasonable circumstances.

SECTION 2.

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

All the club's venue rules shall apply to the matches fished on them. (see permit for details)

Matches fished on non-RFC waters must adhere to the local match rules.

All club matches shall be pegged down. Wherever possible pegs should be a minimum of 25 yards apart.

A peg is defined as a numbered piece of material placed in or on the water's edge. A competitor must fish from one yard either side of their pegged position. A competitor's fishing area(swim)on **running water** shall extend from one yard upstream of their peg to one yard upstream of the next peg downstream. The end swim is

limited to 40 yards downstream in length. A competitor's fishing area (swim) on **still water** shall extend from their peg to halfway between the pegs either side and to halfway across to any pegs on the opposite bank. End swims are limited to 30 yards left or right of the peg. Canals are considered still waters.

Matches shall not exceed 5 hours duration. A whistle or other means shall signify the start and finish of the match. Any fish hooked before the end whistle must be landed within 15 minutes of the end of the match to be counted at the weigh in.

A competitor may play and land a fish from anywhere within their swim. No assistance is to be given to a competitor (except a junior) when netting a fish.

Competitors shall only fish with one rod and line or one pole and line with one hook. Other rods and poles may be set up.

Only barbless or micro- barbed hooks to be used in RFC matches, unless dictated by non-RFC fishery venue rules (i.e., barbless only)

The use of bloodworm, joker, nuts, live or dead fish, artificial lures and floating baits are banned in all RFC matches.

Competitors shall not break the water prior to the start of the match, except to collect water for wetting bait, clear marginal vegetation or obstructions from his/her swim, set up and position equipment or plumb the swim. Only ledger weights/bombs may be used to access the depth or distance to be fished when using feeder tackle. No swim feeders are to be cast prior to the start of the match. On lakes and gravel pits dragging the swim in the first 30 minutes is allowed.

All coarse fish, except pike to be weighed in club matches. Trout are excluded.

All matches require the use of appropriate keepnets that are Environment Agency approved. On RFC and RDAA waters carp and silver fish should be retained in separate nets. A maximum of 60lbs. (27.5Kgs) of fish to be retained in any nets. Any fish over this limit at the weigh in will not count. Non-RFC waters may dictate different net limits or fish separation.

Before, during and after the match all fish must be treated with respect for their wellbeing. Competitors must not cause distress or suffering to fish especially in hot weather when oxygen levels may be low. Weighing the catch shall be at the competitors peg where keepnets should be placed on unhooking mats where possible.

Fish should be returned to the water in a responsible manner.

Any competitor who leaves their peg must remove any tackle from the water (except keepnets) and remove any bait from the hook.

Each competitor is responsible for the litter that may be in their pegged area, and they will not be weighed in unless this is clear of litter when the scales arrive.

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

Any breach of these rules may result in disqualification of the competitor. The match secretary, his assistant, the match organiser or sections stewards' decision on the day will be final, but competitors have the right to appeal that decision with the E.C. provided the matter was raised on the day with the officials in charge.

SECTION 3.

POINTS CUP SYSTEM: (ONLY RFC MEMBERS ELIGIBLE)

Points are awarded in matches as follows: 1st. 20 points, 2nd. 19 points, 3rd. 18 points, etc. down to 1 point for 20th. Place and thereafter. Only the points from the best 15 matches score by each competitor shall count toward the total points in the competition. The winner is the angler with the highest overall points total from their best 15 match results. If anglers tie for points at the end of the season, the winner is dictated by the highest weight total in those matches. **A minimum of four anglers fishing a match for the points to count.**

WEIGHT TROPHY SYSTEM: (ONLY RFC MEMBERS ELIGIBLE)

The trophy is awarded for the highest accumulated weights caught in the anglers best 15 matches in the season.

KNOCKOUT CHALLENGE CUP: (ONLY RFC MEMBERS ELIGIBLE)

Entries should be with the match secretary/ committee before the beginning of July. All angler's names entered go into the draw bag for the first pairings for round 1 at the July E.C. meeting. The drawn pair of angler's fish off against each other in the first Sunday match that they both fish within the round dates. The highest weight angler goes through to the next round. If there is an odd number of anglers entered into any of the draws the last name out of the draw gets a bye to the next round. If the pair have not met by the end of the round dates the angler that has fished most matches goes through to the next draw. If neither angler has fished during the rounds both are eliminated. The trophy is awarded to the angler that has won all their pairings or fished the most matches in the last round.

ROUND 1: DRAW JULY E.C. MEETING FISH BETWEEN 1ST. JULY AND 31ST. AUGUST

ROUND 2: DRAW SEPTEMBER E.C. MEETING FISH BETWEEN 1ST. SEPTEMBER AND 30TH. OCTOBER

ROUND 3: DRAW NOVEMBER E.C. MEETING FISH BETWEEN 1ST. NOVEMBER AND 31ST.DECEMBER

ROUND 4: DRAW JANUARY E.C. MEETING FISH BETWEEN 1ST.JANUARY AND 28TH.FEBRUARY

ROUND 5: DRAW MARCH E.C. MEETING FISH BEFORE END OF APRIL

THE CHAMPIONS MATCH TROPHY:

This match is fished at the end of each season. Only RFC anglers who have won a club match in the current season are eligible to enter the match.

SECTION 4: PIKE ONLY MATCH RULES

Up to 4 pike only matches are run each season by RFC.

Competitors must use long-nosed pliers, semi-barbless hooks, minimum 36-inch unhooking mat, minimum 36-inch landing net, minimum 15lbs. line and minimum 2.5lbs. test curve rods to fish RFC pike matches.

2 rods may be used at the same time in RFC pike matches.

The use of artificial lures is only allowed in designated RFC pike matches.

No live baiting or sink and draw dead baiting allowed in RFC pike matches.

No pike are to be retained in keepnets.

No rods are to be left unattended at any time during an RFC pike match. Tackle must be removed from the water if competitors leave their peg.

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

Failure to abide by RFC pike only match rules may result in a competitor disqualification. The match secretary or their assistant will decide all matters on the day, but all competitors have the right of appeal to the E.C.

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

THESE MATCH RULES SUPERSEDE ALL MATCH RULES PRIOR TO THIS DATE APRIL 2024