

READING FISHING CLUB GENERAL MATCH RULES

Section 1:

The match secretary and his/her assistants shall decide venues, dates, assign trophies, and confirm the match pools format annually.

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

The presentation night shall be on Friday/Saturday at the end of May or early June.

All trophies won will be engraved at the club's expense.

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.

Anglers wishing to attend club matches must book in with the match secretary before 6.00 pm on the Friday prior to a Sunday match. Contact numbers are shown in the permit. Only members that have booked in and have drawn a peg may fish the venue during the match.

TEAM MATCHES:

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

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.

On venues with a restricted number of pegs available, priority to fish will be given to members based on their match attendance during the current season.

On venues other than RFC waters a match fee may be required.

The draw for pegs shall commence at 8.30am (unless advise differently when booking in) in an orderly manner.

Any competitor who may be delayed from the draw must inform the match organiser of their pending late arrival. Late arrivals may have a peg drawn for them at the discretion of the match organiser.

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 assistant (phone numbers in permit) prior to the match concerned. Failure to attend a booked match without notice, more than twice will automatically mean suspension from entering further club matches that season.

Any member persistently disregarding the booking requirement, could at the discretion of the E.C. be barred from club matches for a longer period.

A competitor may lodge an appeal, within 30 minutes of the match commencing, if in his/her opinion the swim drawn is not fishable. The match organiser will allow a re-draw in reasonable circumstances.

Section 2

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

All the club's venue rules apply to club matches fished on them.

Matches fished on any other club water must adhere to that club's local match rules.

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

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 weighed in.

A competitor must fish from one yard either side of his/her peg.

A peg is defined as a numbered piece of material placed in or on the bank.

A competitor's swim **on running water** shall extend from one yard upstream of his/her peg to one yard upstream of the next peg downstream. The end swim is limited to 40 yards in length.

A competitor's swim **on still water** shall extend from his/her peg to halfway between the pegs either side and to halfway across the water to any pegs on the opposite bank. End swims are limited to 30 yards left or right of the peg. Canals are considered to be still water.

A competitor may play and land a fish from anywhere in his/her 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 venues rules. (i.e., barbless only)

No competitor shall break the water prior to the start of the match, except to collect water to wet bait, clear marginal vegetation or obstructions from his/her swim, set up and position equipment or plumb the swim. On lakes and gravel pits dragging the swim for 30 minutes is allowed.

Only ledger weights/bombs may be used to access the depth and distance to be fished with feeder tackle, no swim feeders are to be used prior to the start of the match.

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

All matches require the use of appropriate keepnets for carp and silverfish, that are Environment Agency approved. Carp and silverfish should be kept separately. A maximum of 60lbs (27.5Kgs) of fish to be retained in any net. Any excess fish will not count at the weigh-in. **Non-RFC waters may dictate different limits.**

Before, during and after the match all fish must be treated with respect for their wellbeing. Competitors must not keep so many fish in a keepnet to cause distress or suffering. Weighing the catch shall be done at the competitors peg and keepnets should be placed on unhooking mats where possible. Fish should be returned to the water in a responsible manner.

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

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

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

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

Any breach of these rules may result in the disqualification of a competitor.

The match secretary or his assistant or the match organiser or section steward's decision on the day will be final in all matters, but competitors have the right to appeal to the E.C. provided the matter was raised on the day with the officials in charge.

MATCH POOLS: Match pools may be changed at the discretion of the match secretary. All 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. Lucky peg money is paid out to a maximum of £100 per match.

Section 3

TROPHY/CUP MATCHES

POINTS CUPS SYSTEM:

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 12 match scores by each competitor, shall count towards the competition. The cup shall go to the angler with the highest overall total points from the twelve matches. If anglers tie on points the highest weight total will determine the winning position.

WEIGHT TROPHY SYSTEM:

The weights, from the best 12 match results for each angler to count over the whole season. The angler with the highest accumulated weight from the 12 matches shall be the winner.

KNOCK OUT CHALLENGE CUP

Entries should be with the match secretary by the beginning of July. All anglers' names entered go into the draw for pairings at the July E.C. meeting. If there is an odd number of names, the last name drawn gets a bye to the next round. The drawn pairs fish off against each other in **the first RFC Sunday match** that they both compete in, with the highest weight winning. The winner of the pair progresses to the next round, when a new pairing is drawn for that round. If a pair have not met in a match by the end of the round, the angler who has entered the most matches goes through to the next round. If neither angler has fished a match by the end of the

round both are eliminated. The trophy will be awarded to the angler to win the last pairing or who fishes the most matches in the last round.

ROUND 1: Fished between the beginning of July and the end of August.

ROUND 2: Fished between the beginning of September and the end of October.

ROUND 3: Fished between the beginning of November and the end of December.

ROUND 4: Fished between the beginning of January and the end of February.

ROUND 5: Fished by the end of April.

THE CHAMPIONS MATCH TROPHY:

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

SECTION 4: PIKE ONLY MATCH RULES

Up to 4 pike only matches are run annually by RFC.

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

2 rods may be used in RFC pike matches.

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

No livebaiting allowed in RFC pike matches.

No sink and drawing of dead baits allowed in RFC 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. 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's disqualification.

The match secretary or his appointed assistant will decide all matters on the day, but all competitors have the right of appeal to the E.C.

SECTION 5: DECLARATION

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 2023