

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA PÊCHE SPORTIVE EN EAU DOUCE

OFFICIAL F.I.P.S.e.d. RULES **OF INTERNATIONAL “FOR NATIONS” COMPETITIONS** **“FREE STYLE METHOD FEEDER”**

ORGANIZATION

- 1- Official international competitions shall only be organized by national Federations that are members of C.I.P.S. The organizing Federation shall be officially responsible for the competition under consideration.
- 2- Only the members of a national Federation affiliated with C.I.P.S. and F.I.P.S.e.d. who have fully paid their annual membership fees shall be allowed to participate; their Federations shall designate them.

Regarding the national teams, the national teams' anglers must hold the same nationality as the Country that they represent. Only one (1) foreign competitor is allowed in the team, provided that he meets the following conditions:

- 1) The competitor shall have resided in said Country for at least 5 years and he/she shall hold an official document confirming that;
- 2) The application shall be forwarded by the Nation the angler wishes to represent.

Any angler who has already participated in a World Championship or in any international competition representing a Nation, shall not be allowed to compete for any other Nation.

Competitors shall always be able to prove their nationality by means of national IDs or passports.

All supporting documents shall be produced at the 1st captains' meeting.

Only teams that are members of national Federations shall be allowed to take part in World and Zone (Europe, etc.) Championships.

In order to apply to organize a championship, the Nation under consideration must have participated at least once, over the previous three years, in the championship that they wish to organize.

A preliminary programme shall imperatively be sent to F.I.P.S.e.d.'s Secretariat before the 31st October of the preceding year.

With the exception of the World Fishing Games, F.I.P.S.e.d. is officially tasked with providing the printed material, certificates and rankings for the awarding of prizes for all championships; therefore, the organizing Nation shall pay for all board and lodging expenses (room, meals and closing gala dinner) of the person performing such tasks. Said person's stay may begin on the eve of the first day of practice and end on the day after the closing dinner; F.I.P.S.e.d. shall pay for the relevant travelling expenses.

For all F.I.P.S.e.d. championships, the organizing Nation shall cover all board and lodging expenses (room, meals and closing gala dinner) for two members of F.I.P.S.e.d.'s Executive Committee, and for the person in charge of the rankings; their stay may begin on the eve of the first day of practice and end on the day after the closing dinner.

No championship organization shall be entrusted to a Nation if that Nation does not undertake to put live fish back into the water after they have been weighed and/or counted (it is forbidden to kill fish).

The Nation organizing a World or Zone Championship shall be responsible for procuring the trophies, which will be paid for by F.I.P.S.e.d.: the organizers shall envisage 3 trophies for the team competition, 3 trophies for the individual competition and 3 trophies for the Nation competition. F.I.P.S.e.d. shall refund a maximum amount of € 450 for 9 trophies. All trophies shall feature a plate, carrying a "F.I.P.S.e.d." engraving or F.I.P.S.e.d.'s logo as well as the place and date of the championship. An invoice will be required in order to prove trophy-related expenses. If the aforesaid provisions (concerning the plate/logo) are not complied with, F.I.P.S.e.d. shall not reimburse any money. F.I.P.S.e.d. shall provide the medals.

Programmes and invitations for all championships shall only be sent to Nations that are members of F.I.P.S.e.d. (no invitations shall be sent to clubs or individuals).

- 3-** Each C.I.P.S member Nation shall be allowed to present a maximum of two teams, each composed of 4 anglers and 1 reserve who shall be nominated before the first draw.

No competitor shall be allowed to participate as an individual.

In the event of any injury during a competition, the regular participant may be replaced by the reserve member designated in official documents, however, it shall not be possible to replace the fishing tackle. Angler substitutions shall be authorised by a Jury member.

- 4-** Competitions shall be organized at suitable basins of water or commercial lakes (fisheries); to the extent possible, the whole fishing area shall feature the same depth, which shall be of at least 1.5 metres; the minimum width allowed for a venue is 50 metres.
- 5-** The selected venue shall, if possible, offer equal fishing conditions for all competitors. Furthermore, interruptions caused by power lines, bridges etc. must be avoided. The venue shall not expose the competitors or the spectators to any kind of danger.

One or more members of the Technical Commission shall inspect the venue that may be selected for a championship, and said inspection shall take place at the same time of the year as to that proposed for the organization of the competition under consideration. F.I.P.S.e.d. shall pay for the travelling expenses (including flight and train tickets or car) of the Technical Commission's member(s), while the organizers shall cover all transfer costs from the airport or train station, and will pay for accommodation and meals. A report of the inspection shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of F.I.P.S.e.d. for evaluation

and approval. The final decision on the approval or rejection of a venue by F.I.P.S.e.d. shall be communicated to the candidate Nation.

With regard to accommodation, participating Nations shall have two options:

- 1- Opting for the official accommodation proposed by the organizing Nation (optional). In that event, the organizing Nation shall clearly indicate the terms and conditions for the stay, including:
 - The half-board price per night per person for, depending on the number of persons sharing each room, regardless of the duration of the stay (full board cannot be mandatory); the participating Nation shall specify the dates of their anglers' stays (the term "official stay" used by many Nations, starting on Thursday, has never appeared in any regulations, and therefore should not be used);
 - The price of the closing gala dinner.

The accommodation terms proposed to the Nations shall first be approved by the Technical Commission.

- 2- Selecting their hotels by themselves.

If this is the case, participating Nations shall be required to communicate their accommodation-related choices to the organizing Nation upon registration (in the official registration form).

In both cases (participation through or without the help of the organizers), the registration fee shall amount to € 1,200, which shall include 8 closing gala dinners and 5 fishing permits for the whole duration of the championship (training and competitions), insurance and sundry expenses such as gifts, cups, trophies, etc..

The Federations, in addition to the medals devoted to the official members of the Delegation, will be allowed to ask on place for extra medals (up to a maximum of 3 per team), upon payment of a contribution of € 25 per extra medal, which will also include the diploma. The fees for extra medals shall be paid to the organisers, who will then transfer the sum to F.I.P.S.e.d. In no case and for no reason extra medals in a number higher than that provided by these Rules may be requested from F.I.P.S.e.d.

For the closing gala dinner, be it a dinner with table service or a buffet dinner, participating Nations shall be assigned a number of seats corresponding to the number of gala dinner seats they reserved.

If no details about the accommodation are provided by the deadline set by the organizers, the participating Nations shall imperatively have to book their accommodations themselves and shall still pay the relevant registration fee to the organizers.

Any Nation that undertakes to take part in a championship by filling in the relevant registration form but does not show up, shall, in any case, pay the relevant fee of € 1,200 to the organizing Nation. Nations failing to comply with this provision shall be forbidden from taking part in and organizing future championships.

All Nations shall communicate their arrival dates to the organizing Nation at least one week before the first training day. Any absent Nation (not showing up at the venue) not taking part in the last day of training shall be considered as a WITHDRAWING Nation and shall not be allowed to participate in the championship (see penalties under article 31 § c).

Together with the event programme, the organizing Nations shall provide a list of hotels, lodgings, rooms and campsites located within a 20-km range from the venue.

The organizers shall see to it that all registration forms are duly filled in and carry the mobile phone numbers of one delegate and one captain. Addresses and emergency telephone numbers (police, fire-fighters, hospitals, etc.) shall be provided in the program leaflets.

The "Free Style Method Feeder" World Championship for Nations shall, **usually**, take place on one of the week-end on October/November. **This indication may undergo changes, even substantial ones, based on the climatic conditions of the host country and on the characteristics of the competition venue.**

- 6-** During the competitions, all competitors shall have a fishing position (peg) from 12 to 15 metres, depending on the dimension of the competition venue. The width of the pegs shall be defined together with the Technical Commission. Only for specific case, the FIPSeD Technical commission can allow shorter pegs.

The angling positions shall be well defined so to be far from the spectators; to this end, it is possible to erect a fence or set up ropes at an appropriate distance from the shore (we recommend a distance of at least 8 metres); furthermore, a corridor for authorised people (organizers, reserves, captains, press, and Jury) shall be created between the anglers and the spectators.

This official corridor shall under no circumstances be occupied by fishing tackle. One infraction = 1 oral warning, a 2nd infraction = yellow card.

Captains - 2 per Nation - may enter their teams' competitor pegs; captains shall wear green back-numbers marked with a C, clearly indicating their status. Only one captain shall be authorised inside a peg. Reserve competitors shall wear a red back-number marked with an R letter. If sectors are too far from each other, the International jury can allow the reserve to enter into the pegs.

The organisation shall customize each angler's peg by means of a board indicating the name and the nationality of the competitor, as well as the number of fish caught, with hourly updating. Such boards are provided by F.I.P.S.e.d.'s person in charge of the rankings.

CAPTAINS' MEETING

- 7-** It would be advisable that general stewards attend the captains' meetings.

In the event that a captain or a Nation's delegate is absent, the President of F.I.P.S.e.d. or a delegated representative shall draw lots.

1st meeting - On Friday afternoon or on the eve of the first leg

During this first meeting, an international Jury shall be appointed, pursuant to article 28 of the present Official Rules. Then, the following operations shall be carried out:

- Roll call of Nations.
- Nations shall draw lots in alphabetical order to define the call-up order of the draw for the first leg; the call-up order shall be reversed for the 2nd leg (e.g.: the Nation which drew lots first the first day, will then draw last for the second leg, etc.).
- Various information about the progress of the championship.
- Drawing lots exclusively attributing sectors (A, B, C, D) to each angler of each team.

2nd meeting - Saturday morning or morning of the first leg

- Draw lots to attribute anglers their competition pegs of the first leg in the various sectors.

3rd meeting - Saturday afternoon or afternoon after the first leg

- Notification of the results to the participating Nations.
- Remarks on the performance of the leg.
- Drawing lots exclusively attributing sectors (A, B, C, D) of the second leg to each angler of each team.

4th meeting - Sunday morning or morning of the second leg

- Draw lots to attribute anglers their competition pegs in the various sectors.

NB: Captains' meetings are informative meetings, where guidelines are provided for the competitions. Under no circumstance shall changes to the Rules be made during the captains' meetings. The Rules shall only be changed at F.I.P.S.e.d. Executive Committee's annual meetings, based on the remarks that shall be sent in writing by National Federations to F.I.P.S.e.d.'s Secretary General.

DRAWING LOTS

- 8- Lots for each leg shall be drawn out at least 180 minutes before the beginning of the competition, under the scrutiny of the organizers, in the presence of the captains or delegates of each team, and F.I.P.S.e.d. representatives.

For the two legs, the 4 anglers shall be attributed to their sectors by drawing lots, on the day before the start of each leg.

The positions for the first leg shall be attributed according to a lot drawing scheme designed by F.I.P.S.e.d. Said scheme is such as to allow positioning in each fourth of a sector the anglers belonging to a team.

For the second leg, lots shall be drawn by each captain (or a designated representative) to assign the angling positions, only considering tail-enders and pre-tail enders.

- 9- The position number 1 shall always be located to the left looking at the water body, and marking will run from the left to the right.
- 10- Captains shall be given a back number for each one of their competitors.

Back numbers for the different sectors shall have different colours (except green or red); alternatively, they may be of a neutral colour with different coloured lettering for each sector.

Wearing the back numbers is mandatory.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 11- a) Each competitor shall have 120 minutes to get ready. As soon as the anglers arrive at the venue, they shall wear their back numbers and deposit all their equipment inside the allotted peg, without entering the peg (these rules also apply to those who help the anglers transport their equipment). Anglers shall not be allowed to prepare their equipment until the official starting signal is given, indicating that the competitors are allowed to enter their pegs. Competitors may not receive any help while getting ready (during the preparation stage). Any material may be handed over to the anglers before the baiting signal, but only by each individual steward. After the signal, it shall be forbidden to hand over any kind of material (baits, ground baits and equipment) to the competitors, except for pieces of broken rods, which may be replaced through the individual stewards. Individual stewards may also help anglers to unfasten any possibly stuck rod part.

Before the starting signal is given, the anglers or any third person shall be allowed to prepare their baits and ground baits outside the ring.

After the signal is given that the angler are allowed to enter their pegs, they shall be handed over the baits and ground baits prepared during the preparation stage. It shall be possible to continue preparing the baits and ground baits; it may be done by a third person outside the ring, or by the anglers inside their pegs. Such operations shall be allowed until the signal is given for the start of the checks on baits and ground baits. When the aforesaid signal is given, the baits and ground baits shall be located in the angler's peg and no additional change or inclusion shall be allowed until the checks are performed. The ground baits shall be presented ready for use; sealed bags shall not be authorized. After the checks, the anglers shall not be allowed to receive any additional baits and/or ground baits.

Small containers with additives for the dipping of hooking baits shall be allowed.

- b) If the control of baits and ground baits has not been carried out, competitors are not authorized to angle.
- c) Should any angler use a short fish net (shorter 3.50 metres), he/she shall get a yellow card, even if the net is used for both days. Should the same athlete be found with a shorter net during another championship, he/she shall be disqualified.
- d) Fish net and rod length controls shall be carried out after the checks of baits and ground baits and before the heavy ground baiting; one angler per sector shall be drawn by lot.
- e) Competitors may reach the venue by their personal means of transportation.

f) Smoking on the venue is forbidden during competitions.

- 12-** There shall be one steward assigned to each competitor and a general steward for each sector. Such individual and general stewards shall have thorough knowledge of the rules of the competition.

The general steward (if possible, supported by a member of F.I.P.S.e.d.'s Executive Committee) shall:

- a) Verify the quantity of ground bait [this shall be measured when ready to use (wet and sieved) including earth, gravel, corn maize, wheat, hempseed, pellet (any size), etc. and other additives that are not toxic for the fauna and the water environment]. This quantity will be communicated in the competitions' program prepared by the organisers in conformity with the decisions taken by the F.I.P.S.e.d. Steering Committee, on advice of the Technical Committee, and sent to all National Federations. In no case may the program indicate quantities of groundbaits higher than 20 litres;
- b) Verify the overall quantity of baits (measured without being pressed). This quantity will be communicated in the competitions' program prepared by the organisers in conformity with the decisions taken by the F.I.P.S.e.d. Steering Committee, on advice of the Technical Committee, and sent to all National Federations. In no case may the program indicate quantities of live baits higher than 1 litre. Earthworms, maggots or any others live baits shall be presented entire (not cut or minced before the check).

Baits such as pellets, boilies and similar in all states, shapes and colours, may be presented outside the official **limits** in their original boxes. These non-living baits may not be used under any circumstances for ground baiting.

Only the following baits are permitted:

- Earthworms;
- Fly larvae (in all states and shapes: maggots, little maggots, pinkies, casters, etc.);
- Gadfly larvae, silkworm larvae (silkworms, big maggots, big casters);
- Corn/maize;
- Hempseed;
- Boilies (any size);
- Pellets and similar (any size).

Baits may always be treated with liquid/gel or powder-based additives; the additive may be put into the feeder. A maximum amount of 1 litre of liquid additives is allowed; consisting of maximum 10 different types of liquid flavours that can be presented at the control. Maximum allowance per type of liquid flavour is 100 ml.

The use of meat, bread, pastes, jokers and bloodworms is forbidden;

- c) Verify that each angler presents for the checks the quantities of baits and ground baits envisaged in the program. In the event of non-compliance, the competitor shall be reprimanded - (under article 31a). The list of reprimanded competitors shall be presented at the captains' meeting. Should the violation be committed again during the second leg or during the following championship, the competitor shall be disqualified due to "recidivism" (article 31b).
- d) Collect any surplus/left of baits and ground baits after the control.

The individual steward must:

- a) Control the keep-net;
- b) Control the angling behaviour of the competitor he/she is responsible for. When an individual or sector steward ascertains an irregularity, he must immediately warn the competitor assigned to him (and the international jury in case the seriousness of the infringement requires it) without any interference by third parties (Athletes, Captains, Delegates, spectators, etc.);
- c) Verify and take note of every fish caught;
- d) Keep an eye, at the end of the competition, on the fish caught by the angler and forbid access to the angling position to any unauthorised person until the arrival of the weighing team. Together with the angler, the individual steward shall sign the weighing sheet carrying the weight of the fish.

The organizer shall provide in the competition program the list of the different models of official boxes, including their cost. These boxes will be available under request, provided that they are ordered 1 month before the championship start, for teams that have manifested their interest. All the baits used for baiting or hooking shall be presented in proper F.I.P.S.e.d. "official size" boxes. Any other form of presentation of baits at the checks shall be seized and sanctioned (one point penalty in the sector ranking).

The boxes shall be presented closed, without using anything to keep them closed (e.g. adhesive tape may not be used to keep the lid closed).

The ground baits shall be presented at the checks in graduated buckets, and the baits in "official size" boxes. Competitors shall imperatively be equipped with their own buckets and boxes of the allowed size. Competitors who do not carry "official size" boxes shall get one penalty point in the sector ranking (for instance, a competitor who does not have boxes at the end of the leg and ranks 5th, shall be given 6 points instead of 5. The competitor who ranks 6th shall, in any case, be given 6 points).

Sieving of ground baits (through a sieve, hamper, landing nets' tip and others) and mixing (with electric mixer) are forbidden once the checks have been carried out.

From the start of the checks on baits and ground baits (3rd signal) until the end of the competition (7th signal) the use of sprayers only is allowed to re-moist ground baits and earths as well as to stick and preserve the baits.

After the checks and until the end of the competition, it shall be allowed to add additives, powder or liquid.

Any angler caught in the act (flagrante delicto), after the controls, of having more baits or ground baits than the quantities allowed for the competition, shall be given a red card = the bottom rank in the ranking + 1, for all the competition days he participated in. Should the violation be ascertained during the first day of a championship, the angler shall be excluded for the remainder of the competition. F.I.P.S.e.d.'s Executive Committee reserves the right -depending on the violation- to prevent the angler from participating in future F.I.P.S.e.d. championships for a given period of time.

- 13-** The competitors shall abide by the rules on legal fish size limit in force for the competition (national rules). Any caught fish that is smaller than the minimum legal size or is mutilated shall be seized by the weighing team, and the angler concerned shall be given a yellow card.

Such sizes shall be made public during the 1st captains' meeting (and it is the captain's responsibility to ensure the competitors are informed). Fish shall be kept alive in micromesh keep-nets. The keep-net mesh cannot exceed 10 mm on 10 mm. The keep-net shall have either a minimum diameter of 40 cm for the round ones or a minimum diagonal of 50 cm for the rectangular ones and a minimum length of 3.50 metres; it shall be positioned underwater for at least 1.50 metres during the entire competition. It shall be prohibited to use any other means to keep the catch. Competitors shall carry their own keep-nets, unless they are supplied some by the organizing Federation.

Regardless of the quantity of fish caught or catchable, in order to avoid overcrowding of fishes in the keep-net, the angler is required to use two keep-nets at the same time for storing the catches during fishing action.

When big fish are present in the competition venue, the organizers can preview in the competition program a limit weight beyond which the fish must be weighed and immediately released with care after its catch.

- 14-** The composition of ground baits and baits shall be of natural origin. It is forbidden to use metal products. Artificial baits of whatever material (polystyrene, rubber, sponge, etc.) such as fake maggots, silkworms, bloodworms, earthworms, etc. are prohibited. It is forbidden to fish with spoons, artificial flies, baits made by using living or dead fish (or fishes' parts), other animal species such as frogs or fish roe.

No surplus/left ground baits and baits shall be thrown into the water after training period and after the competition.

- 15-** The competition shall take place by sectors or sub-sectors, in two legs of 5 hours each (schedule recommended: 09.00 a.m. to 02.00 p.m.).

For championships with less than 20 participating Nations, sectors shall not feature any separation, or shall have the smallest possible number of separations. Separated sectors shall imperatively be separated by at least 3 pegs.

In the event of a forced interruption (e.g. a thunderstorm, demonstration, natural disaster, etc.), the Jury may validate the leg, provided that it lasted at least 2 hours.

The Jury can decide to reduce the duration of the leg if the competition schedule does not allow continuing angling for the 5 scheduled angling hours.

- 16-** Each competitor is expected to fully abide by the competition rules.

- 17-** Only lines not supported by a float, with in-line or off-line sinker and having a terminal hook are allowed.

Hair rigging is allowed, i.e. bait can be attached by harring, spike, band, etc.

Only single hooks are allowed and the maximal span between the tip and the shank must be 7 mm (n. 10).

Only the "feeder method" angling technique and the ledgering technique are allowed.

Anglers can use any rod they deem suitable for feeder fishing. In other words, for fishing and for groundbaiting, besides the rods specially conceived for feeder fishing, also the rods conceived for other fishing techniques are allowed (i.e. carp fishing, shore angling, etc.).

When competitors are placed on banks facing each other, the use of a shock-leader is mandatory for safety reasons. In this case, it shall measure 7 meters minimum. Braid line can **only** be used for the shock-leader.

In the event of a breakage, the line fitting shall allow the fish to break free easily from the feeder. Feeders or paternosters with the feeder must freely slide on the main line. It is forbidden to put any stop or slower (e.g. silicon) between the feeder and the reel. The line fitting could feature a shock-leader, so to avoid breakage when casting.

The feeder may not be attached permanently to the main line; the (single) hook hanging onto the end of the line must be placed under the feeder.

The hooklength shall be 25 cm maximum.

Any commercial or artisanal feeders made of metal, plastic or any other material, whatever is the design (cylindrical, parallelepiped, etc.) are authorized. Feeders shall have:

- the maximal length of 7 cm, the maximal width or diameter of 5 cm, considering only the area suitable for loading baits and ground baits;
- the minimal weight of 15 g. This sinker may be a lead or a “flat method feeder”, “banjo feeder” or “pellet feeder” (see the figures below). It is not allowed to use an elasticated feeder.

Feeders can be used empty or containing groundbaits and/or baits during the angling action.

Feeders can be loaded both with tools either by hands.

The angler, upon his discretion, may use a small protective mat to unhook caught fish.

It's forbidden:

- use the feeder as end of line;
- add to the feeder any element or material that slows down its descent to the bottom;
- use the feeder without lead or with the addition of floating substances;
- use “bite alarms”;
- use barbed hooks.

Should a member of the Jury notice or be led to record, during a leg, the obvious infringement of the article 35 and of Paragraph 1 of article 17, he/she may call for checks on the angler's line or ask to verify the length of the rod of the angler under consideration, without waiting for the end of the leg. Should the angler under consideration refuse to undergo the aforementioned checks or should he/she modify his/her line, he/she shall be brought before the Jury.

The catching of a fish is valid even if it is accidentally hooked outside its mouth.

If a fish caught by an angler hangs the neighbouring angler's line, outside his fishing zone, the fish shall be deemed valid on condition that the two lines during the fishing action get free before that the fish is caught.

If two anglers lines remain hung on each other after the catch, the fishes (1 or 2) shall not be deemed valid and shall immediately be put back into the water.

Deliberate foul hooking of fish is prohibited.

Using echo sounders is prohibited during training and competition.

Using drones is prohibited, both during competition and trainings, excepting the special cases authorized by the International Jury, on advice of the Technical Committee.

During the competition, anglers shall not be allowed to use any auricular, telephone or walkie-talkie.

Example of allowed feeders



Flat Method Feeder



Banjo Feeder



Pellet Feeder

Example of not allowed feeders



Pellet Feeder Elasticated



Method Feeder Elasticated



Banjo Feeder Elasticated



Method Feeder



Maggot Feeder



Open End Feeder



Cage Feeder



Bullet Feeder



Window Feeder

- 18-** Competitors may keep and assemble as many rods as they wish, but they are only allowed to fish with one rod at any time, which shall be kept in the hands or placed on the stand. Such rod shall compulsorily feature a reel and a feeder. The spare rods can be baited, while the swimfeeders must be empty.

Only casting is authorized. During casting, the pickup shall be open and the line and the reel must not be blocked with the finger.

When fishing the angler must cast and pull in the line using the reel. The feeder rod may not be used as a fixed rod. It is forbidden to fish supporting the lead from the bottom.

In order to guarantee fair fishing conditions for all anglers, the organisers will specify minimum and maximum casting distances within which fishing activities can be carried out.

It is prohibited to define the angling distance by means of any mechanical or electronic aid.

When a fish is caught, angling shall be forbidden until the caught fish is put in the keep-net.

- 19-** Competitors may not receive any support in landing fish.
- 20-** Competitors are not allowed to receive any external help; only the captain is authorized to access the angling peg of the competitors of his/her team, and this only to give verbal advice. A captain shall not be allowed into the peg of an angler who is not part of his/her team.
- 21-** The use of platforms with a maximum size of 1 x 1 metre is allowed; the competitors may stand on them. They shall be installed in a straight line, clear of the water or, if necessary, partially inside the water (this decision will be taken by the organizers, with the approval of the Technical Commission). Additional platforms may be set up in line with the main platform, but only for placing the equipment.

Should it be necessary to trace a line in order to line up all competitors along the venue (string, line traced on the ground, etc.), so to avoid that some of the competitors are closer to the water than others, this shall be done before the start of the training session.

- 22-** Competitors may use the space allotted to them however way they wish.

Inside the peg allotted to them, the anglers shall move discretely and noiselessly.

It shall be forbidden to angle and throw bait or ground bait in the pegs upstream or downstream (left and right). The control of this rule compliance is of exclusive

responsibility of the members of the Jury, of the general steward of sector or of the steward assigned to the competitor. In no case will interference from third parties (Captains, Delegates, Athletes, spectators, etc.) be allowed.

The fish exiting the peg and sighted in the peg of adjacent competitors shall be considered valid; however, if a line with a fish caught is hooked by a neighbour's line, the fish shall be deemed valid only on condition that it satisfies the provisions of article 17. Otherwise, the fish must be put back into the water without delay. Should a competitor refuse to do so and should he/she put the fish under consideration into his/her net, without previous authorization, during the final weighing phase the person in charge of weighing shall weigh the biggest fish separately and take note of the weight of the fish concerned on the competitor's card. The Jury shall then decide whether to deduct the weight of the fish concerned from the total weight. The competitor shall be given a yellow warning card (see list of warnings), if the catch is not deemed valid.

Photographers and cameramen will be entitled to access along the line that separates two pegs, with the prior authorization of the competitors and the relevant individual stewards. However, photographers and cameramen must not cross the line 3 meters behind the competitors' line. The permanence of cameramen or photographers on the demarcation line of two specific fishing pegs may in no case exceed 15 minutes for each fishing hour, provided that there is the agreement of the concerned competitors. Stewards are in charge of verifying the compliance with these rules.

Only the holders of a press licence or of any other accreditation document will be entitled to have a badge for having access into the corridors reserved to captains and to reserves.

- 23-** Anglers shall wait for the first signal before entering their peg; after the signal, competitors may start preparing their equipment, measuring the water depth, trying their lines, preparing their ground baits and putting their keep-nets into the water. They shall be allowed 120 minutes to perform said preparatory operations; anglers are not allowed to get out of their pegs during preparation.

The second signal shall indicate that 5 minutes are left before the start of baits and ground baits checks.

The baits and ground baits controls (third signal), 1 hour before heavy ground baiting, will start:

- a) from n. 1 of each sector, if the ranking is made on a sector as a whole;
- b) from n. 1 of each sub-sector, if the ranking is made on each sub-sector.

After the fourth signal, competitors shall be allowed to start heavy baiting (10 minutes are allowed for this operation). During the heavy baiting time, the assembly of the fishing line cannot include an end of line or a hook. In every moment of the competition, it is formally forbidden to use hands, catapult, cup or any other device for ground baiting.

The fifth signal shall mark the beginning of the competition.

The sixth signal shall warn the competitors that only 5 minutes are left before the end of the competition.

The seventh signal shall mark the end of the competition; after this signal, only the caught fish that is already out of the water shall be included in the fish count.

The acoustic signals for the different phases of the championships shall be short; in all cases, the beginning of the signal is taken into consideration.

- 24- During the competition, individual stewards shall stand behind the anglers, on their right or left side, in such a way that they do not bother the anglers but can still control the fish caught by the competitors. Keep-nets shall be positioned so that the stewards can see them; the fish shall be put in the keep-nets and kept alive until the weighing team arrives.

If the organizers do not have an adequate number of stewards available, the jury may decide to turn to accompanying persons who are not members of the organization.

WEIGHING OPERATIONS

- 25- The weighing operations shall be performed by 5 member teams.

One person shall be responsible for weighing.

Another person shall write down the weights in the official record.

The three other people shall be in charge of all other handling operations.

One scale shall be available in each sector. The containers used to weight the fish shall feature holes, so to allow water drainage.

Weights shall be recorded in grams.

When very small fish such as fry are caught, which do not register on the scales (scales scoring 0 grams), the fishermen shall be ranked based on the number of fishes caught, and then ranked after those fishermen who were ranked based on to the weight of the fish they have caught.

- 26- Until the arrival of the weighing team, competitors shall leave their keep-nets with the fish in the water. The fish shall be handled with care by a member of the weighing team; they shall be weighed, not counted; after the weighing, the fish shall be put back into the keep-net of the angler who caught them, and the keep-net shall be put back into the water without delay. Only after the fish of all anglers of the sector is weighted, shall the person in charge of weighing order to put the fish back into the water. This shall allow double checking weight in the event of any complaint. The fish shall be put back into the water with the utmost care.
- 27- Each competitor shall witness the weighing operations in order to control and sign the weighing sheet carrying the weight of the fish he/she has caught. After the end of the weighing operations in a sector, after the fish is put back into the water and the weighing sheet has been signed, no weight-related complaints shall be accepted.

THE JURY

- 28- An international Jury shall be appointed to examine any complaints lodged and to apply penalties, as per the rules; the Jury shall be established at the first captains' meeting.

The Jury shall consist of the following members:

- F.I.P.S.e.d.'s President, or a substitute delegated by the President;
- F.I.P.S.e.d.'s General Secretary;
- The members of F.I.P.S.e.d.'s Executive Committee;
- A delegate representing the organizing Nation, unless he/she holds the same nationality as the above-mentioned members, except for the F.I.P.S.e.d.'s President (or his substitute) who shall be the President of the Jury ex officio.

The Jury members shall be at least 3. If this number is not reached, some delegates from different Nations shall be chosen by drawing lots. These delegates cannot have the same nationality as the F.I.P.S.e.d.'s representatives and the organizing Nation.

These delegates shall be enrolled on the team registration form; captains cannot be appointed as delegates.

In the event of any infringement by a competitor or by a team holding the same nationality as a member of the Jury, such Jury member shall not vote (except if he/she is the President of the Jury).

The members of the Jury shall wear a "Jury" badge, and shall be at the competition venue to receive any complaint. **Jury members can be reached by mobile phone, so team captains will receive their mobile numbers.**

- 29-** Any complaints, except for those concerning the rankings, shall be submitted to the Jury within 1 hour after the end of the leg. Complaints shall be lodged verbally, but they shall immediately be confirmed in writing. Should they deem it necessary, the Jury may watch any video or look at any picture produced by the delegate of the team filling the complaint.

Complaints concerning the ranking shall be lodged within 30 minutes after publishing of the official results. The publishing time shall be recorded in the official result list.

A € 100 deposit - for which the F.I.P.S.e.d.'s General Secretary or his delegate shall issue a receipt - shall complement any written complaint submitted to the Jury. Should the complaint not be judged grounded by the Jury, the deposit shall be transferred to F.I.P.S.e.d.'s bank account.

All infringements and warnings shall be reported to the Jury, with the Jury being the only authority enabled to disqualify anglers. Any competitor who is imposed a penalty shall be informed immediately.

The Jury members and all general stewards shall make sure the Rules are abided by. Hence, they shall have a thorough knowledge of such Rules.

- 30-** The Rules, which are drawn up in the 2 official languages, shall be made available to the Jury and the captains by the organizers of the championship.

The international Jury will make its decisions on a simple majority basis; in the event of a tie vote, the President of F.I.P.S.e.d. or his/her delegate shall have the casting vote.

All members of the F.I.P.S.e.d.'s Executive Committee shall wear a personal badge; they shall be entitled to circulate in the officials' corridor. Said badges shall only be valid for the Executive Committee's term of office (4 years).

LIST OF PENALTIES

-31- The penalties shall be as follows:

- a) Oral warning for the infringement of article 6 (third §).
- b) Warning (yellow card) for the infringement of articles 11a, 11b, 11c, 11f, 12c, 13, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26 and after a second warning for the infringement of article 6 (third §).
- c) Disqualification (red card) for the infringement of articles 12c (last §), 14, 17, 18, 35, 38, 39.2 and 40 and after a second warning for the infringement of articles 6 (third §), 11a, 11b, 11c, 11f, 12c, 13, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24 and 26.
- d) Warning on the Nation for the infringement of article 37c.

Disqualification of the Nation for the infringement of articles 5, 37a, 37b-1 and 37b-3 and after a second warning for the infringement of the article 37c.
- e) When an angler is disqualified, a number of points equal to the number of **the sector's or sub-sector's anglers** + 1 will be assigned to him/her. If an angler is disqualified, the anglers below him/her in the ranking shall keep their original ranking (for example: if angler X who ranked 8th is disqualified, the following anglers shall keep their rankings and shall mark 9 points, 10 points, and so on).
- f) Any warning given to a Nation shall be recorded in that Nation's file and shall remain in the files for a period of 3 years **starting from the date of the sanction**. Any new infringement **committed in the following 3 editions of the same championship** shall be considered as a "relapse" and the Jury shall make its decision considering such relapse and the list of penalties.
- g) Any warning given to a competitor shall be recorded in the competitor's file for a period of 3 years **starting from the date of the sanction**. Any new infringement **committed in the following 3 editions of the same championship** shall be considered as a "relapse", and the Jury shall make its decision considering such new infringement and the list of penalties.
- h) F.I.P.S.e.d.'s Executive Committee shall be entitled, both during a competition and subsequently, to impose penalties on fishermen, captains or reserves if they infringe any rule or misbehave, even if said infringements are not provided for in the official Rules.

-32- The members of F.I.P.S.e.d.'s Executive Committee may access the competition venue and take note of any infringement of the Rules.

RANKINGS

-33- 1- RANKING BY SECTOR IN THE LEGS

- a) Ranking by sector or sub-sector shall be drawn up based on the weight (1 point per gram).

The competitor who recorded the highest weight shall be given 1 penalty, while 2 penalties shall be attributed to the second one, and so on.

- b) In the event of a tied score (same weight) in the same sector or sub-sector, the anglers concerned shall obtain a number of penalties equalling the average placing they should have had (example n° 1: two competitors placed equal 5th shall obtain $(5+6):2 = 5.5$ penalties each; example n° 2: three competitors tying in the 8th placing, totalise $(8+9+10):3 = 9$ penalties each).
- c) Anglers who have not caught any fish will receive a number of points equal to the average value of non-attributed places in their sector or sub-sector (example n° 1: **18** anglers, 12 of whom rank at the first 12 places with penalties ranging between 1 and 12, the following anglers will mark $(13+18):2 = 15.5$ penalties each; example n° 2: **28** anglers **which will be split out into two sub-sectors of 14 competitors each. Among these 14**, 5 have caught fish and scored 1 to 5 points – the **9** anglers who have not caught any fish mark $(6+14):2 = 10$ penalties; example n° 3: **32** anglers **which will be split out into two sub-sectors of 16 competitors each. Among these 16**, **13** have caught fish, whereas the 3 competitors who have not caught any fish will score $(14+16):2 = 15$ penalties. If there is only 1 angler who has not caught any fish or one or more absent anglers in a sector or sub-sector, they shall obtain a number of penalties equalling the last position in the sector (example: 29 competitors, 28 of whom have caught fish, whereas one has not, the latter will get 29 penalties).

2- RANKING BY TEAM

Up to 20 teams, the ranking shall be drawn up by sector (as always).

If there are 21 participating teams or more, each sector shall consist of two sub-sectors. In the event of an odd number of anglers (example: 2 sub-sectors with a total of 27 participating teams: the angler located in number 14 shall be considered in both sub-sectors: he/she will be attributed the place he/she obtained in the sub-sector with the lowest number (1 to 14) for his/her ranking, while the score obtained in the other sector (14 to 27) shall be considered for the ranking of the anglers in that sub-sector. If he/she ranks 3rd in the 14 to 27 sub-sector, the other competitors shall rank 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th).

A- 1st LEG

- a) Sum of the penalties obtained in each sector or sub-sector by the anglers of a team.

The team scoring the lowest number of penalties shall rank 1st, and so on.

- b) In the event of a tied score, the rank shall be made on the teams concerned based on the heaviest weight recorded by the anglers of the same team.

- c) In the event of further tied score, the team with the heaviest individual weight shall be higher in the ranking.

- d) If a tie still exists, the teams shall be ranked based on the lowest number of penalties obtained by one of the anglers composing the team.

B- SECOND LEG

The ranking is established in the same way as for the first leg.

C- GENERAL RANKING

- a) The sum of the penalties obtained in the two legs; the team obtaining the lowest number of penalties will rank 1st, and so on.
- b) In the event of a tie on penalties, the teams concerned will be ranked by the highest total aggregate team weight obtained by the competitors in the two legs.
- c) In the event of a tie on weight in the two legs, the heaviest weight obtained by a team in one of the two legs shall be taken into account.
- d) If a tie still exists, the teams shall be ranked based on the lowest number of penalties obtained by a team in one of the two legs.

3- INDIVIDUAL RANKING

A- 1st LEG

- a) The anglers shall be ranked based on the penalties obtained in the relevant sector or sub-sector. The anglers who got 1 penalty shall rank 1st; they shall be followed by those who got 2 penalties, and so on.
- b) In the event of a tie on penalties, the competitors shall be ranked by the heaviest weight obtained.
- c) In the event of a tie on weight, the ranking shall be established based on the highest number of fishes caught.

B- 2nd LEG

The ranking is established in the same way as for the first leg.

C- GENERAL RANKING

- a) The sum of the penalties obtained in the two legs; the anglers obtaining the lowest number of penalties will rank 1st, and so on.
- b) In the event of a tie on penalties between two or more anglers, the anglers concerned will be ranked by the highest total aggregate weight obtained in the two legs.
- c) In the event of a tie on total weight, the ranking shall be established based on the highest weight obtained on one of the two legs.
- d) If a tie still exists, the anglers shall be ranked based on **the lowest number of penalties obtained on one of the two legs**.
- e) The anglers participating in one leg only, shall be put at the bottom of the individual ranking, following an order based on their placing.

4- NATION RANKING

A world or zone ranking per Nations shall be drawn up for all championships, taking into account the best 5 results over the 6 past years; such ranking list shall be updated every year and published on the F.I.P.S.e.d.'s website.

The Nations included in such ranking that, for any reason, do not participate in a championship, shall be given a number of penalties equal to the number of participating Nations for that specific year + 1.

- 34- The ranking will be established by a person mandated by F.I.P.S.e.d. or, lacking this person, by the organizers, in the presence of F.I.P.S.e.d.'s President or in the presence of his representative and, possibly, also in the presence of the members of the Jury.

ROD LENGTH

- 35- The length of the rods is limited to 4.50 metres (15 feet) maximum.

CIVIL LIABILITY INSURANCE

- 36- The organizers shall take out a "CIVIL LIABILITY" insurance to cover the whole event (from the beginning of the training to the end of the final dinner); a certificate issued by the insurance company, certifying that the whole event is covered by a "CIVIL LIABILITY" policy shall be handed over to the President of F.I.P.S.e.d. two months prior to the competition.

TRAINING

- 37- a) Official training shall take place at the official venue.
- b) The official venue shall be organized as follows:
- 1) seven-day absolute closing before the first training day for all the members of the participating official delegations. During these 7 days, training at the venue shall be forbidden for all Nations in the entire area chosen for the championship. The organizers shall mark the borders of the training area by using boards. Apart from the closing period, the venue shall be made available for regular visits and fishing [local closing periods and special fishing conditions (fishing permit) shall be abided by]. Should the venue be always closed to fishing, it shall be made available on at least 2 weekends (the dates shall be specified in the programme);
 - 2) four days of official training (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday morning and Friday morning);
 - 3) the last day of training shall be compulsory for all Nations (whole teams with all their anglers);
 - 4) two days of competition (Saturday and Sunday).

- c) In order to enable all Nations to train at the official venue during the four training days, the organizers shall assign, starting on the 1st day, to each Nation a portion of the venue called training “BOX” by drawing lots carried out between 07:00 and 08:00 a.m. (the lot drawing time and place shall be included in the event program). Each “BOX” shall consist of 5 pegs. Lot drawing for the “BOXES” shall be guided (system for drawing lots to be designed by F.I.P.S.e.d. and made available to the organizing Nation).

All participating Nations shall be provided with a document carrying the technical specifications and information concerning the venue.

The same amount of baits and ground baits as the maximum amount allowed for a competition day shall be allowed.

On each training day, the organizers shall indicate the authorised angling hours by means of special acoustic signals

In the four training days, the heavy baiting signal shall be held at 08:50 a.m. and the start of the fishing at 09:00 a.m. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the end of training must be scheduled at 06:00 p.m., while on Thursday and Friday, trainings must be stopped at 02:00 p.m. In these last two days, the competition venue must compulsory get free by 03:00 p.m.

ELECTRIC POWER LINES AND PLANTS

- 38- It is strictly forbidden to place competitors at a distance of less than 25 metres, on both sides, from any electrical plant (electrical lines, transformers, trellises, etc.).

RULES IN THE EVENT OF BAD WEATHER OR WATER-RELATED CONDITIONS

-39- 1- WHEN BAD CONDITIONS BREAK OUT BEFORE OR DURING PREPARATION

No angler shall be allowed to access his/her peg or prepare his/her material; a signal shall indicate the postponement of the access into the angling peg or the end of the preparation phase. If the weather or water-related conditions and the competition schedule allow, the leg may be regularly performed.

If the weather or water-related conditions do not improve or the competition schedule does not allow, the leg shall simply be cancelled. The cancelled leg shall not be considered when making the rankings, which shall be established based on the results of the held leg. The cancelled leg shall not be held at a later stage.

2- IF BAD CONDITIONS BREAK OUT DURING THE LEG

The leg shall immediately be stopped (a 1st signal will be emitted by the organizers) and all competitors shall take shelter outside the pegs. If the weather or water-related conditions allow, the leg shall then continue and a 2nd signal shall inform the anglers that they may return to their pegs; a 3rd signal, 5 minutes later, shall authorize the competitors to resume angling (heavy ground baiting is forbidden).

Maximum 2 breaks shall be authorised in one leg, and their overall duration shall not exceed one (1) hour; otherwise, the leg shall be stopped for good.

The Jury may shorten the duration of a leg if the competition schedule does not allow angling for 5 hours.

A leg shall be validated if it lasted at least 2 hours. The break(s) time shall not be considered when calculating the duration of a leg.

Should the weather or water-related conditions not allow to duly carrying out a competition, the Jury may decide to cancel one leg. Said leg shall not be postponed and the ranking shall be drawn up based on the leg that was actually carried out. The cancelled leg shall not be held again.

ANTI-DOPING CONTROLS

-40- F.I.P.S.e.d. adopts the World Anti-doping Code applied by C.I.P.S.

During a championship, the anglers selected to undergo anti-doping controls shall imperatively go to the designated place at the indicated time, following F.I.P.S.e.d.'s or the Jury's guidelines. Any angler selected to undergo anti-doping checks who does not report for the controls shall be disqualified from the competition and shall be given a penalty corresponding to the bottom rank in the ranking + 1, for all the competition days he participated in.

Organizing Nations shall cover all anti-doping controls costs. All contacts with the NADO (National Anti-Doping Organization) of each Nation shall be exclusively kept by the organizers of the championship under consideration.

The organizers shall be responsible of the fishing material and equipment of the angler drawn to be tested, while he is undergoing the anti-doping control.

C.I.P.S., in quality of Testing Authority, will issue the relevant mission order on the ADAMS System, with the concerned instruction for the doping control tests.

A copy of the Doping Control Form (DCF), signed by the Doctor who has provided the tests, must be sent to the C.I.P.S. Secretariat cipssecretariat@cips-fips.com or delivered immediately after the competition to the F.I.P.S.e.d. official delegate present on place, who will forward it to C.I.P.S.

The athletes participating in the Championships, by registering, implicitly accept all WADA anti-doping rules.

Athlete whose illness or condition requires treatment with a prohibited substance or method must apply to C.I.P.S. for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) following the C.I.P.S. strict TUE application process.

He/she shall then use the application form, which can be downloaded from the ITA website: https://ita.sport/uploads/2021/02/ITA_TUE_Form.pdf.

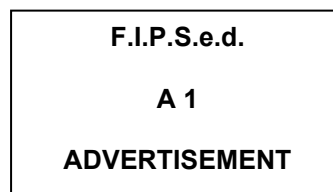
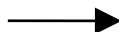
The TUE request has to be sent to the following address: tue@ita.sport. Athletes must therefore consult the Prohibited List <https://www.wada-ama.org/en/resources/world-anti-doping-program/2023-prohibited-list>.

ADVERTISING ON BACK NUMBERS

-41- Advertising shall not be obligatory.

The size of the advertisement characters on the back numbers shall not exceed a height of 6 cm; this form of advertising shall only be authorized on the lower part of the back number, both on the front and on the back sides.

BACK-NUMBER SAMPLE



F.I.P.S.e.d. AND C.I.P.S. FEES

-42- A € 150 fee shall be paid by each team; said fee shall remain available to F.I.P.S.e.d.

A € 500 fee shall be paid by the organizing Nation to C.I.P.S.'s disposal (to be paid to C.I.P.S.'s bank account).

OPENING CEREMONY AND PRIZE AWARDING CEREMONY

-43- The opening ceremony and the presentation of the teams shall take place 2 days before the first leg, at 06:00 p.m. Said ceremony shall not last longer than 2 hours, and shall not end later than 08:00 p.m.

The top 3 Nations and the top 3 individual competitors shall officially receive GOLD, SILVER and BRONZE medals and the trophies devoted to them.

In conformity with international standards, during the prize awarding procedures, the national anthem of the winner (team or competitor) shall be played, and the national flags of the top three athletes/teams shall be raised. The medals shall be paid for by F.I.P.S.e.d. and shall be handed over by F.I.P.S.e.d.'s designated representative.

During the individual prize-giving ceremony, the fourth and fifth classified must also be called to the podium, but no medals will be awarded.

A certificate stating the results obtained shall be delivered to all the three first ranked Nations' official members, who shall be present at the prize giving ceremony, as well as to the five first ranked individual anglers.

Any other reward shall be equally awarded to all participating Nations. All participating Nations shall provide their flags and the recordings of their national anthems.

For the announcement of the official results, up to 8 persons maximum, representing a Nation, may gain the podium for handling out the medals, while playing the national anthem of the winning nation.

RULES VERSIONS

-44- In the event of any dispute arising from or in connection with the interpretation of these Rules, only the French version shall be considered as the original and reference text.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE ORGANIZING NATIONS

-45- The organizing Nation of a World or Zone (Europe, etc.) Championship shall:

- a) Have the F.I.P.S.e.d. trophies engraved (plate or logo);
- b) Send out official programs and information about the championship in the 2 official languages (English and French).

The President of F.I.P.S.e.d.

Ugo Claudio MATTEOLI



The General Secretary of F.I.P.S.e.d.

Barbara DURANTE



The President of the F.I.P.S.e.d. Technical Committee

Roland MARCQ

