

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE

DE LA PÊCHE SPORTIVE EN EAU DOUCE

OFFICIAL F.I.P.S.e.d. RULES

CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL “FOR NATIONS” COMPETITIONS

“BLACK-BASS”

ORGANIZATION

- 1- Official international competitions must be organized by national federations affiliated to C.I.P.S.. The organizing federation will be officially responsible for the competition in question.
- 2- Only those who are members of a national federation affiliated to C.I.P.S. with their full annual fee paid for shall be admitted; they are to be nominated by the federations they are members of; the anglers who make up the teams of national federations must hold the nationality of the latter.

An angler, who has already participated in a World Championship or in an international competition representing a nation, cannot compete for another nation.

Competitors shall always be able to prove their nationality by means of ID cards, passports or other documents to attest their identity; in any other case, competitors shall be able to present an official document certifying their nationality and dwell in the same country they are representing. The identifying document shall be presented at the 1st or 2nd team managers' meeting.

Only teams that are members of the national federations shall be admitted to World and **Zone (Europe, etc.)** Championships.

In order to apply for the organization of a championship, the nation in question must have participated at least once, during the past three years, in the championship that it proposes to organize.

A preview programme must absolutely be sent to the secretary of F.I.P.S.e.d. before the end of November in the preceding year.

With the exception of the World Fishing Games, F.I.P.S.e.d. can be responsible for providing the software program and all certificates and classifications for prize-givings for all the championships; in this case, the organising Nation shall meet all board and lodging expenses (room, meals and closing gala dinner) for the person undertaking this work; the 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. will be responsible for travel costs.

For all F.I.P.S.e.d. championships, the organizing Nation shall meet all board and lodging expenses (room, meals and closing gala dinner) for two members of the F.I.P.S.e.d. directive committee; the stay may begin on the eve of the first day of practice and end on the day after the closing dinner.

A championship cannot be awarded to a nation if the nation does not undertake to put live fish back into the water after they have been counted and weighed (it is forbidden to kill fish).

The nation which organises a World **or Zone** championship will be responsible for acquiring the trophies which will be paid for by F.I.P.S.e.d.; the nation must provide 3 trophies for the team trials and 6 trophies for the individual trials and 1 trophy for the biggest fish; these trophies must have a plaque, on which will be inscribed "F.I.P.S.e.d." **or a logo** as well as the place and date of the championship. **An invoice will be required in order to justify trophies expenses. If these dispositions (plaque or logo) will not be respected, there will be no compensation from F.I.P.S.e.d.** The maximum amount that F.I.P.S.e.d. will reimburse will be 500 € for 10 trophies. F.I.P.S.e.d. will continue to provide the medallions.

Programmes and invitations for all championships should only be given to nations which are members of F.I.P.S.e.d. (no invitations should be given to clubs or individuals).

- 3- Each nation that is a C.I.P.S. member will be allowed to present only one team composed of 6 anglers (3 couples, since the black-bass fishing from a boat is performed in "couples"). 2 reserves are allowed for each Nation; the performed change will remain definite.
- 4- The competitions must be organised at watercourses, such as rivers or channels or in suitable water basins, such as lakes etc.; it must be possible to fish along the entire width of the venue.
- 5- The venue must not present any dangers for the competitors or the spectators.

One or more members of the technical commission shall perform an inspection of the venue, which may be selected for a championship, and this inspection must take place at the time of year corresponding to that proposed for the organization of the competition in question; the report of the inspection shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of F.I.P.S.e.d. for evaluation and decision; this decision will then be sent to C.I.P.S. for information. The final approval or rejection of a venue by F.I.P.S.e.d. will be transmitted to the candidate nation. **F.I.P.S.e.d. will be charged of the travel (flight, train or car) and the organization will take care of the movement on place from the airport or station as well as the stay (hotel and meals).**

With regard to accommodation, participating Nations will have two possibilities:

- 1- To choose the official accommodation proposed by the organising Nation (optional).

In this case the conditions of the stay will have to be made clear, i.e.:

- the price per night per person for half board, depending on the number of persons sharing each room, whatever the duration of the chosen stay (full board cannot be mandatory); the participating Nation shall specify the dates of its stay (the term "official stay" used by many Nations, starting on the Thursday, has never appeared in any regulations, and therefore must not be used);
- the price of the closing gala dinner.

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

- 2- To find one's own accommodation.

In this case participating Nations are required to communicate this choice to the organising nation at the time of entry (on ad hoc entry form).

In the two cases (participation through or without the help of the official organisation), the contribution for the entry fee is € 1300 including 10 closing gala dinners and 8 fishing permits for the whole duration of the Championship (the period of practice and the competition itself), insurance and sundry expenses such as gifts, cups, trophies, etc..

With reference to the closing gala dinner, be it a dinner with table service or a buffet dinner, participating Nations shall have at their disposal a number of seats corresponding to the number of gala dinner places reserved for them.

If no details about the accommodation have been specified by the deadline set up by the organization, the participating nations will have to deal with their own accommodation and then they have to pay 1300 € to the organization.

Any Nation that fills in an entry form and undertakes to participate in a championship but then does not take part must in all cases pay to the organising Nation the contribution of 1300 €. Nations failing to observe this rule shall be forbidden from taking part in and organising future championships.

Organising Nations shall specify in the programme of the event a list of hotels, lodgings, rooms and campsites situated within a radius of 20 km.

Organizers must pretend entry cards correctly filled with mobile phone number of a delegate and of the team manager. Addresses and emergency telephone numbers (police, firefighter, hospital, etc.) must be present on the programs.

Any Nation that has requested to rent boats, but does not appear for the Championship, will have to pay the rental fee to the organizing Nation. Any Nation that does not observe this rule, will be banned from the participation in the Championships and the organization of the same.

All participating nations have the obligation to inform the organizing nation about their arrival date at least one week before the start of the competition. Any absent nation (yet to arrive) on the first team managers' meeting shall be considered as WITHDRAWN and may not participate in the championship.

The Black Bass boat angling Championship will be staged in October or November.

- 6-** The necessary surface of the watercourse or water basin must be at least 10,000 m² (1 hectare)/**boat** (e.g.: 10 Nations, 30 **boats** = water basin of at least **300,000 m² (30 hectares)**).

TEAM MANAGERS' MEETING

- 7-** It would be preferable for General Stewards to attend the Team Managers **meetings**.

In the case a team manager or a delegate from a nation is absent, the President of F.I.P.S.e.d. or his delegate will carry out the operation of drawing lots.

This meeting has a strictly informative nature and shall place on two occasions.

Wednesday afternoon

During this first meeting, an international JURY will be appointed, in conformity with article 41 of the present Official Rules. Subsequently, the following operations shall be carried out:

- 1- Roll call of nations
- 2- **Dividing of craft into three groups, A, B and C, depending on engine size (group**

A will consist of boats with more powerful engines, group B boats with less powerful engines, group C boats with least powerful engines).

3- **Creation of (3) GROUPS, A, B and C, consisting of couples of each national team, chosen by team managers.**

4- Sundry information about the staging of the championship

Thursday afternoon

Draw for the start order of the boats for the three trials (e.g.: 1st trial: group B, then group A and finally group C. For the 2nd trial, the group that started first in the 1st trial, will be second and the group started second, will be third, whereas the group that started in the third position, will start first. As regards the 3rd trial, the group that started first in the 1a trial, will start third, the group that started second will start first and the group that started third will start second. **No interval is envisaged between the departures of each group; the organizers will establish a departure list depending on the venue.**

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between the arrival of each group; group A will arrive first, followed by group B and finally group C.

The organizers shall draw up a departure list and give it to all participants

GENERAL RULES

-8- a- The participating teams may use their boats.

The organizing Nation must supply the boats to the teams that require a boat and a rental fee will be applied (for the duration of the Championship, including the training period) and shall be indicated in the program (the fee must comprise the fuel costs).

If a Nations wishes to rent boats, the organizing Nation must be informed of this at least two months before the trial begins.

All personal or rented boats must be handed over to the organization upon the arrival of the Nations to the Championship site. All personal boats shall be rendered available to the teams after the end of the Championship and the rented boats shall be returned by the organization.

b- If the boats are not used during the competition, they must be stored in a confined place under the responsibility of the organization for the entire duration of the Championship. In order to prepare their boats, the teams will have one hour available before and after the 1st leg and half an hour before and after the 2nd and 3rd legs. During the hour that follows after each leg, the boats must be handed over to the organization that takes upon it to fill them up with fuel and charge the batteries (if using private boats, the organization must receive the battery chargers from the owners).

-9- The competitors may reach the venue by their personal means of transport.

Preferably, one Steward shall be present on each boat. If these conditions are obeyed, the Stewards of the "couples" of the organizing Nation must be foreigners and they will be drawn among the present Nations. If it is not possible to have a Steward present on each boat, there must be general Stewards that have their own boats (1 boat every 10 competing boats) and only these boats will be allowed to tow and repair "competing boats".

The stewards must have full knowledge of the rules of the competition.

-10- The competitors must observe all legal Black-Bass size limits, if they are in force for the competition (national rules). This measure must be indicated in the program prepared by the organization and be mentioned during the meeting of the team captains.

- 11- The competition shall take place in 3 legs **of 8 or 9 hours each, depending on the competition venue**. In the event of a forced interruption (e.g. a thunderstorm), the leg will be deemed valid if it has lasted for at least 4 hours.
- 12- Each competitor is expected to follow rules of the competition integrally.
- 13- The angling must be exclusively no-kill and using artificial baits (pork rind is allowed). Only live fish will be considered for the classification.
- 14- All other forms of fish feeding are forbidden. Only alluring substances and surface oils are allowed on the artificial.
- 15- The competitors must be able to swim.
- 16- The usage of eco scanning is allowed.
- 17- The usage of landing nets is allowed only for the competitors.
- 18- Apart from the fishing licence, the competitors must also fulfil the rules regarding navigation, ownership of the boat and the fishing law in force in the nation where the competition takes place. According to the type of boat used, the pilot or pilots must have a due permit or certification. The presentation of all documentation regarding the authorization to navigate will be requested before putting the boat into the water. The organizers must have all administrative authorizations that allow the boats to navigate.
- 19- The fishing area and the area reserved for the departure and arrival of the boats (no fishing allowed) must be signalled and fully visible. The competitors may navigate and fish on the entire surface of the water basin in question.
- 20- All boats must return to the departure area and near the jetty at the time established at the beginning of the trial. Any movements within this area must be made at a low speed.
- 21- It is forbidden to fish in the area where the boats depart and arrive.
- 22- During all movements performed using the thermal motor, it is obligatory to use the life-vest; it must also be worn when fishing in bad weather conditions (rain, wind). An electric engine may be used during the angling.
- 23- The distance between the boats must be at least 50 metres (both during the angling and when navigating in the vicinity of another "couple").
- 24- Angling through hauling and from the river bank is forbidden.
- 25- All fish that are wounded, in bad conditions or dead will not be weighed.
- 26- All fish that do not fulfil the established measurement limit shall be considered as not valid. **This catch will be weighed separately, and the weight will be deducted from the total weight of fishes considered valid**. The measurement shall be performed from the lips to the extremity of the tail of the fish in its natural position and **maximum extension**.
- 27- Each caught fish must be maintained alive in a bowl or a thermal container equipped with an oxygen and air circulation system.
- 28- The catching of a fish is valid even if it is accidentally hooked outside the mouth. Every fish caught but not hanging from the angler's line shall not be considered valid and shall be put back in water.
- 29- Only the Black Bass (*micropterus salmoides*, **micropterus punctulatus, micropterus dolomieu, micropterus notius, micropterus coosae, micropterus treculi, micropterus cataractae, cichla temensis, cichla ocellaris, cichla intermedia, cichla orinocensis, cichla monoculus and cichla pinima**) will be considered valid; the number of catches is

limited to 5 in each leg. After the fifth fish has been caught, each subsequent catch must be returned to the water, or can substitute one of those already caught. In any case the boat may not contain more than 5 fish.

- 30- Fly-fishing with mouse-tail end is forbidden.
- 31- The boats for the Jury, the Stewards and the Security staff shall be rendered available by the Organization.
- 32- If a boat does not appear at the time established for his departure, the boat in question will departure as last boat; however, the return time remains unchanged.
- 33- For each minute of delay in relation to the established return time, 0.500 kg will be subtracted from the total weight obtained by the "couple". The "couple" that arrives with a delay of **15** minutes will not be classified in the leg in question.
- 34- The boats will be numbered (two adhesive numbers will be fastened on each side of the boats and they must be clearly visible).
- 35- The boats may move both using thermal engines and electric ones, but the safety norms and the local speed norms must be obeyed at all times.
- 36- All boats must have obligatory equipment on board, in conformity with local regulations. Without this equipment, the boats are not authorized for navigation.
- 37- All boats must offer their help to any boat near them in difficulty or danger.
- 38- The deliberate foul hooking of fish is prohibited.
- 39- Competitors may keep and assemble as many rods as they wish, but they are allowed to fish only with one rod at the time.
- 40- The competitors (**who must be number 2 per boat**) are not allowed to be helped by anybody. **During the competition, anglers are allowed to use auriculars or walkie-talkies.** It is forbidden to draw near to land and between the boats of the competitors. A General Steward or a Member of the Jury may grant the authorization to draw near only in cases of absolute need.

THE JURY

- 41- An international JURY will be appointed to examine any complaints lodged and to apply sanctions as per the rules; the JURY will be made official during the first team managers' meeting.

The JURY will be composed of the subsequent members:

- The President of F.I.P.S.e.d. or the substitute nominated by him
- The General Secretary of F.I.P.S.e.d.
- The members of the Executive Committee of F.I.P.S.e.d. and of the technical, young and environmental commissions that are present at the championships
- The delegate representing the organizing nation, unless he is of the same nationality as the above mentioned members, apart from the President of F.I.P.S.e.d. (or his substitute) who will automatically be the President of the Jury.

If an infringement is made by a "couple" of the same nationality as a member of the JURY, the latter may not vote (except if he is the President of the JURY).

The members of the JURY must wear a “JURY” badge and they must be present on the competition venue to be able to receive any complaints. A place where one or more members of the JURY always can be found must be indicated.

- 42-** Any complaints, except for those regarding the classifications, must be submitted to the JURY within **½ an hour after the last weighing**. The complaints may be presented verbally, but they must immediately be confirmed in writing.

Complaints concerning the classification must be made within 30 minutes after the official results have been published. The time of publishing will be noted on the official result list. A deposit of **100 €** must accompany every written complaint submitted to the JURY. If the JURY does not uphold the complaint, the deposit will be forfeited into the account of F.I.P.S.e.d..

All infractions and warnings must be communicated to the JURY, which is the only authority with powers to decide for or inflict disqualifications. A competitor who is the object of a sanction, must be informed about this immediately.

The JURY members and all general stewards must make sure the rules are followed and they must have perfect knowledge about their contents.

- 43-** The rules, which are published in the 2 official languages, shall be made available for the JURY and the team managers by the organization of the Championship.

The international JURY will adopt its decisions on a simple majority basis; in the event of a tied vote, the President of F.I.P.S.e.d. or his substitute will have the casting vote.

All members of the Executive Committee of F.I.P.S.e.d. must wear a personal badge and they may circulate in the official corridor for managers and for those responsible for the organization. The badge shall be valid only for the term of office of the Executive Committee (4 years).

LIST OF SANCTIONS

- 44-** The sanctions are as follows:

- a) Warning (**yellow card**) for the infringement of articles **8b, 10, 23, 25, 26, 35, 40**.
- b) Disqualification (**red card**) of the “couple” in the leg for the infringement of articles **14, 17, 21, 24, 29, 30, 38** and after a second warning for the infringement of articles **8b, 10, 23, 25, 26, 35, 40**.
- c) Disqualification of the Nation in case the teams are absent during the official training and after a second admonition due to the disqualification of a “couple”.
- d) If a “couple” is disqualified, a number of points equal to the number of participating nations + 1 will be assigned to him. If a “couple” is disqualified, those which follow him in the classification will keep their original placing (for example: X that was qualified 8th is disqualified, the subsequent anglers will keep their places and will mark 9 points, 10 points, and so on).
- e) If a nation receives a warning, this will be noted in its file and remain archived for a period of 3 YEARS. In the case of a new infringement during this 3-YEAR period, this will be considered as a relapse and the JURY will make its decision, taking this relapse and the list of sanctions into consideration.
- f) If a “couple” receives a warning, this warning will be noted in his file for a period of 3 YEARS. In the case of a new infringement, this will be considered a relapse, and the JURY will make its decision taking this new infringement and the list of sanctions into account.

- g) The F.I.P.S.e.d. directive committee will have the authority, both during a competition and subsequently, to impose sanctions on fishermen, captains or reserves if they commit infractions or behave in a bad way, also if these infractions are not specified in the official regulations.
- 45-** The members of the Executive Committee of F.I.P.S.e.d. are authorized to move about freely on the competition venue and make notes of any infringement of the rules.

WEIGHING OPERATIONS

- 46-** The weighing operations shall be performed by the organizers in the presence of “couples” from all teams. The fish that is taken by the organizers from the boats will be brought to the sales in appropriate containers. After the control (sanitary condition and size), the fish will be weighed by the organization who is responsible for the subsequent restoring of the fish into the water.

The participants in each “couple” must sign a document where the weight of the fish is registered. No claims regarding the weight of the fish shall be taken into consideration after the weighing document has been signed.

CLASSIFICATIONS

-47- CLASSIFICATION OF EACH LEG

1- CLASSIFICATION OF THE “COUPLES”

- a) The classification shall be made taking the fish weight into consideration.
- b) In the case of a tied weight in a sector, the “couples” in question will totalise a number of penalties equalling the average placing they should have had (example No. 1: two “couples” tying for the 4th place totalise $(4+5):2 = 4.5$ penalties each; example No. 2: three competitors tying in the 6th placing, totalise $(6+7+8):3 = 7$ penalties each).
- c) “Couples” who have not caught any fish will receive a number of points equal to the average value of non-attributed places in their sector (example 1: twenty-four “couples”, twelve of whom are classified at the first 12 places with a penalty from 1 to 12, the following “couples” will mark $(13+24):2 = 18.5$ penalties each; example No. 2: thirty “couples”, five of whom have caught fish and mark points 1 - 5 and the twenty-five “couples” who have not caught any fish mark $(6+30):2 = 18$ penalties. If there is only 1 “couple”, who has not caught any fish or a missing “couple” in a sector, he will mark a number of penalties equalling the last position in the sector (example: thirty “couples”, twenty-nine of whom have caught fish, whereas one has not, the latter will mark 30 penalties).

2 - TEAM CLASSIFICATION

A – FIRST LEG

- a) Summing up of the placing obtained in each sector by the “couples” belonging to the same national team.
- b) The national team with the lowest number of penalties will be classified first and so on.

c) If a tie on points occurs, the teams will be classified first according to the total weight obtained by the “couples” in the same team, then according to the highest weight obtained by a single “couple”.

B - 2nd AND 3rd LEG

The classification is performed in the same way as during the first leg.

-48- GENERAL CLASSIFICATION

1- TEAM CLASSIFICATION

a) The sum of the penalties obtained by the “couples” that are part of a team over the three legs; the team totalling the lowest number of penalties will be classified first and so on.

b) If a tie on points occurs, the teams concerned will be placed by the highest total aggregate team weight obtained by the “couples” that are part of a team over the three legs. If there is a further tie on points, the classification will be made according to the total number of fish caught by the “couples” during the three legs; if there still is a tie on points, the teams will be classified according to the highest weight obtained by a "couple" that is part of a team, during the 2nd leg and, possibly also, during the 3rd leg.

2- INDIVIDUAL CLASSIFICATION

a) Sum of the penalties obtained by each “couple” during the three legs; the “couple” totalling the lowest number of penalties will be declared individual World Champion.

b) If a tie on points occurs between two or more “couples”, then the “couples” with the highest aggregate weight over three legs will be declared the winner. If there is a tie on points, the classification will be performed according to the highest number of fish caught by the “couple” during the three legs; if there still is a tie on points, the “couples” will be classified according to the highest weight in one of the three legs and then according to the highest weight in the 2nd leg and possibly also in the 3^a leg.

3 – TEAMS’ CLASSIFICATION

A world ranking list per nations, considering the last 5 years (as F.I.F.A.’s rankings), will be realized for all championships; this ranking list shall be updated every year and published on the F.I.P.S.e.d. website.

-49- The classification will be carried out by the organization in the presence of the President of F.I.P.S.e.d. or his representative and possibly also together with components of the JURY.

“CIVIL LIABILITY” INSURANCE

-50- IT IS AN OBLIGATION for Organizers to take out a “CIVIL LIABILITY” insurance to cover the organization of all legs; a certificate issued by the insurance company, in which it is certified that all legs are covered by a “CIVIL LIABILITY” contract, must be handed over to the President of F.I.P.S.e.d. two months prior to the competition.

TRAINING

- 51-** a) The official training must take place in the official venue.
- b) The official venue must be organized according to the subsequent modalities:
- 1) 15 days of total closure before the training days. During these 15 days, training at the Venue is forbidden for all Nations in the entire area chosen for the championship;
 - 2) **2 days of official training: Wednesday and Thursday (boats to return by 3:00 pm).**
 - 3) 3 days of competition (Friday, Saturday and Sunday).

ELECTRIC POWER LINES AND PLANTS

- 52-** It is **strictly forbidden** for the boats to stop and fish at less than **25 meters** on both sides of any electrical plant (electrical lines, transformers, trellises, etc.).

RULES IN CASE OF A THUNDERSTORM

- 53- 1 - WHEN THE THUNDERSTORM BREAKS OUT BEFORE OR DURING THE PREPARATIONS**

The “couples” must get off their boats and the start will be delayed. If the weather conditions so allow, and within the limits of the schedule, the boats may be allowed to depart and the leg may be regularly performed or may be reduced in time (in any case, it must last at least 4 hours).

If the weather conditions do not improve or if the schedule of the program does not allow so, the leg will quite simply be annulled.

2 – IF A THUNDERSTORM BREAKS OUT DURING THE LEG

The leg is immediately interrupted (a special signal will be emitted by the organizers) and the rods will be placed in an upright position in the boat at the end which is opposite the anglers’ position. If the weather conditions so allow, the leg will continue and a signal will inform the competitors that they may resume the angling.

The duration of the leg may be reduced if the schedule of the program does not allow the continuation until the end of the 7 planned hours of angling.

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

- 54-** A contribution of 120 € must be made by each participating nation and this fee will remain at the disposal of F.I.P.S.e.d., whereas the sum of 400 € paid to the organizing nation, will remain at the disposal of C.I.P.S..

OPENING CEREMONY AND PRIZE AWARDING CEREMONY

- 55-** The opening ceremony and the presentation of the teams must take place on the eve of the first leg. **The duration of this ceremony shall not be longer than 2 hours and shall not end later than 8 pm.**

The first 3 teams and first 3 “couples” will officially receive GOLD, SILVER and BRONZE

medals. In conformity with the International standards, the awarding of the prizes will be accompanied by the corresponding National Anthems and the raising of the winning nations' National flag. The medals will be offered by F.I.P.S.e.d. and they will be handed over by its official representative.

All other forms of acknowledgement will be distributed equally among the participating nations. All participating nations must bring with them their flag and a cassette with a recording of their anthem.

During the course of the ceremony announcing the official results, the winning Nation may be represented on the podium for the handing out of medals and playing of the National Anthem by up to 10 persons.

TRANSLATIONS

-56- In case of controversies about the interpretation of these rules, only the French text will be considered as the original text and as reference text.

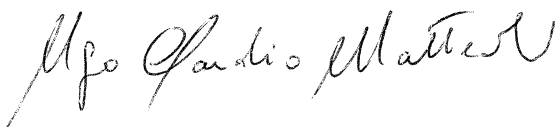
OBLIGATIONS

-57- The organizing nation of the World and **Zone (Europe, etc.)** Championship has the obligation to:

a- engrave trophies of F.I.P.S.e.d. (**plaque or logo**)

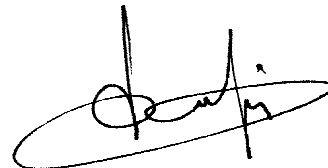
b- send out official programs and information about the championship in the 2 official languages (English and French).

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



Ugo Claudio MATTEOLI

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



Jackie DUPUIS