



Angling Rules

1. Championship Programme

Day 1: arrival of the teams and technical meeting

Day 2: training / excursion

Day 3: competitions

Day 4: competitions, technical meeting and closing ceremony

Day 5: departure of the teams

The opening ceremony will be held either on day 1 or day 2.

The excursion will be no more than half a day and will be held at the discretion of the organisers during the USIC championships.

2. Composition of the Delegations

Each delegation will consist of a maximum number of 8 (9) participants:

Anglers	6
Coach	1
Head of Delegation	$\frac{1}{8}$
Participants	8
Interpreter *	1

** for delegations who speak no English (only if required)*

3. Angling Waters

The organising nation shall advise all participating nations of the following rules no later than two months prior to the start of the championship:

- Water category (flow speed etc.)
- Bank conditions
- Water depth measured at 6m, 10m and 15m from the banks
- Width of the fishing waters
- Fish stocks
- Minimum size of the fish in accordance with the official rules of the organising nation
- Maximum amount of bait and ground bait, if this needs to be restricted contrary to this rules
- Excluded ground bait

This information shall be provided to the participating nations no later than two months prior to the start of the championship to enable competitors to prepare their equipment in accordance with the information received.

4. Championship Programme

The USIC Angling Championship shall be held over two competition days with one 4-hour leg being held on each day. If the competitions need to be interrupted due to an Act of God (thunderstorm), the leg shall be counted, provided it had lasted for at least one hour. The competitions will determine the individual and the team champions. Each of the two legs shall be held in different waters, i.e.

- a) one competition leg in still waters*
- b) one competition leg in running waters*

* The order of the legs shall be determined by the organising nation.

The championship may be held in streams, rivers, canals or other suitable waters. It shall be possible to fish along the entire width of the venue. As far as possible, the depth shall be as even as possible along entire water course with a minimum depth of 1.50m and a minimum width of 25m.

The planned venue shall be as straight as possible and should present equal fishing conditions for all competitors. It should be possible to divide the course into sectors along a straight line, wherever possible avoiding any interruptions such as power cables, bridges etc. The course shall not present any danger to the competitors or the spectators.

The competitors shall be provided with a fishing place (a ring) within a minimum range of 10m and a maximum range of 20m. Each competitor's ring shall have a maximum neutral zone of 1m on either side (this space may be reduced or even left out).

The rings shall be well defined to ensure that the competitors are separated from the spectators; for this purpose it is possible to erect a fence or set up ropes at an adequate distance from the bank (a minimum distance of 10m is recommended).

Only the Team Manager may enter his team's ring.

5. Drawing of Lots

On the eve of the first leg, lots shall be drawn on the basis of an alphabetical list of all nations present to determine the call-up order of the draw for the first leg. Lots shall also be drawn at the same time to allocate sectors (A, B, C, D, E, and F) to each angler of each team. If a delegation is not yet present at the time of the draw, the relevant lots shall be drawn by the USIC representative.

- 5.1 The drawing of lots for each leg shall be carried out at least 180 minutes before the beginning of the competition under the scrutiny of one representative of each of the participating nations as well as the USIC representative.
- 5.2 Lots shall be drawn individually for the first and the second leg in reverse order for each sector. The Team Manager shall draw a number for the competitor in sector A out of X numbers (number of nations). Once all rings in sector A have been allocated, lots shall be drawn in reverse order for the numbers in sector B.

It will not be possible to allocate a ring number in an outer wing position twice to the same nation (downstream or upstream). Depending on whether the sectors are uninterrupted or interrupted, any nations which had already been allocated a last or a first number within a sector shall draw first or second after the first and last number have been removed from the bucket. In streams, rivers and canals, fishing position number 1 shall always be situated downstream, whilst in still waters (lakes, ponds etc.) fishing position number 1 shall always be on the left-hand side facing the water.

6. Competition Organisation

- 6.1 The competitions shall be based on a sector system, whereby a total of 6 sectors (A-F) shall be staked off prior to lots being drawn.
- 6.2 Each competitor shall be allocated a number to be worn on his back. The organising nation shall identify each ring with the name and nation of the competitor.
- 6.3 The competitors may not accept any help from outsiders and only the Team Coach shall be entitled to enter the rings of the competitors within his team. He may only give verbal advice and shall not be entitled to enter the ring of any competitor who is not a member of his team.
- 6.4 As soon as the competitors have received their official documents and start number from their Head of Delegation, they may go to the ring allocated to them by lot in order to deposit their equipment there, however, without occupying their rings. The same shall also apply to those who help the anglers transport their equipment. The equipment shall not be assembled and the ground bait shall not be especially prepared, but it may be wetted.
- 6.5 The competitors shall wait for the **first** signal to enter their ring and following this signal, they may start preparing their equipment, plumbing the water depth, checking their lines, preparing their ground bait and putting their keep-nets into the water. They shall have 120 minutes at their disposal for these preparations.
- 6.6 The competitors may start baiting the fish upon the **second** signal. Competitors are allowed five minutes for what is called “heavy” baiting. Balls for “heavy” baiting may be formed only having entered the angling ring (following the first signal) and after checking the bait and ground bait. Only manual baiting or baiting using a catapult manipulated with both hands or baiting with a pole cup are allowed. The ground bait shall be prepared and thrown into the water without any object used to contain it (socks, feeder socks, water soluble coatings etc.). It is important to observe the maximum rod length allowed when using the pole cup and probing the water depth.

- 6.7 The **third** signal marks the beginning of the competition during which competitors may only use light bait, (light bait means manipulation using one hand only without supporting oneself on anything, e.g. thigh, bucket etc.). Balls used for light baiting shall not be formed before the start of the competition (**third** signal).
- 6.8 The **fourth** signal warns the competitors that there are only five minutes remaining before the end of the competition.
- 6.9 The **fifth** signal marks the end of the competition; after this signal only fish caught and clear of the water shall be counted.
- 6.10 During the competition, stewards shall be positioned to the left or right of the competitors in such a way they do not disturb the anglers, but that they can still monitor the fish caught. Keep-nets shall be placed so that the stewards can see them; the fish shall be deposited and kept alive in the keep-net until the weighing team arrives.

7. Competition Rules

- 7.1 The competitors shall observe all legal fish size limits, if they are in force for the competition (national rules). These sizes shall be announced during the first technical meeting of the USIC Championship.
- 7.2 The fish shall be stored in a micro-mesh keep-net with a diameter of 50cm and a minimum length of 3m, which shall be fully submerged as far as possible during the entire competition. No other aid may be used. The competitors shall have to have their own keep-nets with them, unless they are provided by the organising associations. Any competitor placing maimed fish on the scales will be sanctioned.

8. Angling Material

- 8.1 It is mandatory that the fishing line is equipped with a float; only simple single hooks shall be allowed. It is strictly forbidden to attach an overshot to the float, (i.e. the weight of the sinker of the line shall not exceed the capacity of the float used).
- 8.2 It is strictly forbidden to fish at the bottom of the watercourse using a ledger, with or without float, and it is not allowed to mount the terminal or the sinker to the side, nor to fish with spoons, artificial flies, bait using live or dead fish or fish roe.
- 8.3 The main mass of the sinker shall not lie at the bottom. However, 10% of the total weight of the sinker may lie at the bottom. In case of fishing in a strong current at whatever speed, the sinker shall be attached in such a way that it does not interrupt the natural progression of the line. If stopping and dragging, the line shall continue its progress without interruption, if released.
- 8.4 Bait used on the hook shall not be mixed on the point, but shall be put on the hook.
- 8.5 A caught fish shall be counted, even if it is accidentally hooked outside the mouth.
- 8.6 The deliberate "foul hooking" of fish is prohibited.
- 8.7 Each competitor may assemble as many rods as they wish, but they are only allowed to fish with one rod at a time.

- 8.8 The keep-net may only be used by the competitor.
- 8.9 The use of platforms with a maximum dimension of 1 x 1 metre is allowed so that the competitors may stand; they shall be installed in a straight line, clear of the water or, if necessary, inside the water (to be decided at the meeting of the Heads of Delegation). Additional platforms may be set in line with the main platform, but only for depositing material.
- 8.10 Competitors may use the space allocated to them in any way they wish, but they are not allowed into the neutral zone.
- 8.11 It is forbidden to fish or to throw ground bait in the neutral zone or in the adjacent rings either upstream or downstream, (if there are no neutral zones). Fish sighted in the neutral zones or in the adjacent rings shall not be counted and shall be put back into the water. In case the competitor refuses to do so and places the fish in question into the net, during weighing, the biggest fish shall be weighed separately and a note of its/their weight shall be made on the weighing card. After deliberation, the jury will decide whether or not to deduct the relevant weight from the overall weight.
- 8.12 Photographers and cameramen shall only have access to the neutral zone with the agreement of the adjacent competitors and stewards.

9. Length of the Rods

The length of the rods is limited to a maximum of 13m.

Irrespective of this restriction, fishing by reel shall be allowed.

10. Bait and Ground Bait

- 10.1 The bait and ground bait shall consist of natural substances. Any products of metallic origin shall be prohibited.
- 10.2 The quantity of ground bait, which shall be measured when ready to use (wet and sieved) including earth, gravel, corn maize, wheat, hempseed etc. and other additives which are not harmful to fauna or the aquatic environment, shall be limited to **15 litres per leg**. Jokers (small and large bloodworm) shall not be allowed in **the ground bait** and on the hook. Subject to the fishing waters, these maximum quantities may be restricted further by the organising nation.
- 10.3 The quantity of ground bait (all included ground bait will be measured when it is not pressed) will be limited to **1 litre** per leg.
- 10.4 If various types of ground bait are not allowed, then the organising nation will have to inform the participating countries with the invitation.
- 10.5 If no such information is provided by the organising nation in the invitation, then all ground bait consisting of natural substances shall be allowed.
- 10.6 Having checked the bait and ground bait, any excess shall be collected.
- 10.7 No left-over bait and ground bait may be thrown into the water at the end of each leg.

11. Weighing and Control

- 11.1 One steward shall be allocated to every four competitors and one general steward to each sector. The individual stewards and the general stewards shall be familiar with the USIC rules.
- 11.2 The steward shall be entitled:
- To check the keep-net.
 - To monitor the competitor whilst fishing.
 - To verify and record each catch.
- At the end of the competition, he shall keep the angler's fish caught under observation and forbid access into the ring to any unauthorised person until the arrival of the weighing team. Together with his angler, he will sign the weighing protocol indicating the weight of the fish.
- 11.3 One pair of scales shall be available for each sector. The containers into which the fish shall be placed shall be perforated.
- 11.4 Until the arrival of the weighing team, the competitors shall leave their keep-nets containing the fish in the water. The fish shall be lifted out of the water by a member of the weighing team. The fish shall be weighed, not counted; after weighing, the fish shall be returned into the keep-net of the person who has caught them and the keep-net shall be put into the water without delay. Only once the fish of all members of the sector have been weighed, the person responsible for weighing will give the order to return the fish into the water. This system allows those responsible to verify the weight of the catch in case of any complaints. The fish shall be returned into the water with the utmost care (except for other relevant local rules).
- 11.5 The competitor shall be present during the above described process to check the weight and sign the weighing card presented indicating the weight of the fish caught. Following the weighing process in the sector and the return of the fish into the water and the signing of the weighing card, no more complaints about the weight shall be accepted.

12. Training

- 12.1 In order to give all nations the opportunity to train at the official fishing course on a possible training day, the organisers shall draw lots allocating a sector referred to as a 'box' to each nation. These boxes or sectors consist of 6 fishing positions.
- 12.2 No more fishing shall be allowed following the end of the training period permitted.
- 12.3 With reference to the fish stocks in the waters, the organisers may limit both the bait and ground bait allowed during training.
- 12.4 Furthermore, the teams shall not be allowed to train beforehand along the selected course.
- 12.5 Any teams arriving early may train outside the selected course at a minimum distance of 700 metres in running waters and 400 metres in still waters from the official fishing course.
- 12.6 Any costs connected with accommodation and training shall be borne by the team arriving early. The organisers shall be advised thereof in good time.

13. Evaluation

13.1 Individual Evaluation

- The sum total of penalties obtained over the two legs; the competitor totalling the lowest number of penalties over the two legs will be declared the individual champion.
- If a tie on points occurs between two or more competitors, then the angler with the highest aggregate weight over the two legs will be declared the winner.
- If a tie on weight occurs, the angler with the highest single weight in one of the two legs will be declared the winner.
- Finally, in the event that a tie still occurs, the sum of the drawing lot numbers of the two legs shall be added. The highest total will be the deciding factor.
- The anglers participating in one leg only will be classified at the end of the individual classification and in order of placing.

13.2 Team Evaluation

First Leg

The sum total of penalties obtained by the competitors in each sector.

If a tie on weight occurs within a sector, the competitors concerned will be allocated a score in line with the penalties which they would normally have obtained.

(Example number 1: 2 competitors in 5th place based on an ex aequo decision (5 + 6) divided by 2 = 5.5 penalties)

(Example number 2: 3 competitors in 8th place based on an ex aequo decision (8+9+10) divided by 3 = 9 penalties)

The team with the lowest number of penalties will be in first place, etc.

Any competitor who has not caught any fish shall be allocated a penalty representing the average of the unallocated penalties in his sector.

(Example number 1: 24 competitors, 12 are classified and are in places 1 - 12 with penalties 1-12, 12 competitors who have caught no fish: (13+24) divided by 2 = 18.5 penalties.

(Example number 2: 29 competitors, 5 are classified and are in places 1 - 5, 24 competitors who have caught no fish: (6+29) divided by 2=17.5 penalties).

(Example number 3: 29 competitors, 26 are classified, 3 competitors who have caught no fish: (27+29) divided by 2=28 penalties).

If only one competitor caught no fish or if only one competitor is absent in a sector, then he will be allocated the number of penalties representing the last place.

(Example: 29 competitors, 28 are classified: the competitor who has caught no fish is allocated 29 penalties.

Second Leg

The classification follows the system described for the first leg.

13.3 General Classification in respect of the USIC Challenge Trophy

The sum total of penalties obtained over the two legs; the team with the lowest number of penalties will be in first place, etc.

If a tie on points occurs, the team's highest weight over the two legs will be counted.

If a tie on weight occurs, the team with the highest single weight will be declared the winning team.

14. Jury

- The Jury arrangements shall be in accordance with the General Rules

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

15. Sanctions

15.1 A warning for the infringement of articles 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.9; 7.1, 7.2; 8.8, 8.10, 8.11; 10.1, 10.5 and 11.9;

15.2 Disqualification for the infringement of articles 6.6, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6 and 7 and after a second warning for the infringement of articles 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.9, 7.1, 7.2, 8.7, 8.10, 8.11, 10.1 and 10.5.

If an angler is disqualified, a number of penalties equal to the number of participating nations + 1 will be assigned to him. If an angler is disqualified, the anglers which follow him in the classification will keep their original placing (for example: X who was qualified in 8th position is disqualified, the subsequent anglers will keep their places and will mark 9 points, 10 points, etc.).

16. Electric Obstacles

It is strictly forbidden to place any competitors within a minimum range of 25 metres on either side of any electrical plant (electrical lines, transformers, trellises, etc.).

17. Rules in Case of a Thunderstorm

17.1 When the thunderstorm develops before or during the preparations:

No angler will be allowed to access his ring or prepare his material; a signal will indicate the postponement of access into the ring or the end of the preparation phase.

If the weather conditions so allow, and within the limits of the time schedule, the leg may be performed normally or may be reduced in time (in any case, it shall last at least one hour).

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

17.2 When the thunderstorm develops during the leg:

The leg will be interrupted immediately (a signal will be emitted by the organizers) to allow all competitors to take cover. If the weather conditions so allow, the leg will continue and a signal will inform the competitors that they may return to their rings; another signal, 5 minutes later, will authorize the competitors to resume fishing. The duration of the leg may be reduced, if the time schedule does not allow the continuation until the end of the 3 hours of fishing scheduled.

For a leg to be valid, it shall have lasted for at least one hour.