

# MMBFC - Competition Fishing Rules

## 1 Competitions

Competitions will be fished on one of the following:

- (a) Best specimen basis
- (b) Best total percentage specimen basis - details of which will be posted on the club notice board.
- (c) Heaviest by weight

## 2 Tackle

Total of three hooks between two rods, running lines may be used. Trolling, hand-lines, casting other than with the rod(s) or any other methods of angling are forbidden. Trebles or pannel rigs count as single hooks.

## 3 Signing out and in

All members wishing to fish boat competitions should sign the Fishing Competition Form at the club/competition/nominated venue before they go out fishing to show they have booked out, with the number of crew members and time of departure. On return to shore all members must book-in by signing the form to show they have returned safely. The coastguard will be informed of any boat that is overdue i.e. not booked back in from the competition or no verbal/visual confirmation of return.

All members wishing to take part in shore competitions should also use the Fishing Competition Form to book-out and book-in as detailed above.

## 4 Shore fishing

This is defined as from the land mass of Wales or any immovable object attached thereto.

## 5 Boat fishing

Fish caught at sea will be considered for competitions and awards if the boat has set out from a Welsh port and returns to the same Welsh port within the fixed time period of the competition provided no port outside Wales has been visited. Fish caught in the Territorial waters of other countries will not be eligible.

## 6 Cancellation of boat competitions

It is the responsibility of all members to contact the club/coastguard with regard to weather conditions. If a wind speed of fixed force 6 or over is forecast the competition is cancelled, during the winter months a fixed force 5 or over will apply. This rule only applies to "Boat Only" competitions.

Boat or shore competitions will be fished as shore competitions. These may also be subject to cancellation in adverse weather conditions, contact the club in this regard.

## 7 Minimum sizes

The club operates a fish conservation policy which limits bag sizes and excludes the keeping of certain fish species. Fish not being kept for the table or bait must be returned in good health.

All fish brought to the clubhouse/venue scales for weighing must conform to the current MMBFC minimum fish sizes to be eligible for any club competition cups/awards or Fish of the Month prizes.

*Tables available from the clubhouse.*

## 8 Foul hooked fish

Any fish that is fouled hooked is automatically disqualified and cannot be registered. A foul hooked fish is:

- (a) one that has been landed with the hook outside its mouth.
- (b) one which is landed on previously lost tackle.
- (c) one that has taken hooks of more than one angler, providing that each separate tackle is still attached to the respective rods and reels.

## 9 Fish landing

Where a member does not have the use of a suitable net or gaff or where it would be impracticable to use either, a member may receive assistance to hand-line the fish, providing that before commencing to do so, some part of the fish is out of the water in the immediate vicinity of the wall or boat side and that it can be lifted immediately clear of the surface and not pulled through the water towards the member.

## **10 Assistance**

Assistance may be given (subject to rule 9) to hand line, gaff net or unhook a fish attached to tackle use by a member, otherwise only the member should handle the tackle and rod.

## **11 Weighing**

All fish that are entered for award, prize, trophy competitions or "Fish of the Month" must be verified by a member of the fishing or executive committee delegated to do so and weighed on the Club or nominated competition scales. All fish must be weighed in and noted at the end of a fixed time competition or within 24 hours of capture for open time competitions. It is the members responsibility to ensure that any fish caught and required to be entered for any club award are properly entered on the appropriate form on the notice board.

## **12 Weighing time**

No fish shall be accepted for weighing after the specified time and no fish returned to the member until after the weighing has been completed.

## **13 Protests and disputes**

- (a) All protests regarding competitions must be lodged with the fishing committee within one hour after the "weigh-in" finishes on the particular day and must be followed immediately with the protest in writing.
- (b) All other disputes must be lodged in writing to the fishing committee within a reasonable time of the occurrence of such dispute.
- (c) The decision of the fishing committee shall be final

## **14 Fish of the month**

This is a monthly competition between all full members and their families who have paid the subscriptions as set by the fishing committee 48 hours before a fish can be weighed in. The eligible member (one person per subscription) weighing in the best species, boat or shore, during the applicable calendar month will receive a trophy.

## **15 Fishing Year**

The fishing year will be from 1st January to 31st December.

## **16 Juniors**

The junior age limit for fishing a competition will be 16 years of age on the starting date of the competition.

## **17 Motorboat Cup**

This will be awarded for the highest number of points by any boat over the designated competitions fished by boat. The points are awarded as follows in each individual competition:

- 20 points to the boat returning best specimen fish.
- 15 points to the boat returning second best specimen fish.
- 10 points to the boat returning third best specimen fish.

Only one specimen fish per boat. If the boat is disposed of during the season, The points accumulated up to that point remain with the previous owner. The seller with the new boat and the buyer with the boat start afresh.

## **18 Trophies**

All trophies remain in the club

## **19 Responsibility**

The MMBFC accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage of any item or form of injury however sustained by a member or any other person which may be incurred during or by reason of their competitions. It is recommended that in the interest of your own safety that the correct safety equipment is carried and/or worn at all times.