



## DARWIN FLYRODDERS INC CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COMPETITIONS



### **PURPOSE**

1. The following code of conduct, supplementary to the IGFA International Flyfishing Rules and amplified to suit salt and freshwater fly-fishing in the Northern Territory, has been formulated to promote ethical and sportsmanlike angling practices in Darwin Flyrodders Inc (DFR) competitions and provide the means for resolving disputes.

### **COMPETITION CODE OF CONDUCT**

2. **Casting.** Casting and retrieving is to be carried out in accordance with normal fly fishing customs and accepted practices. This includes, but is not limited to, the employment of single handed casting, spey or double handed casting, dapping, tenkara (not an IGFA recognised form of casting), switching and other accepted forms of presenting a fly.

3. **Rods.** In addition to the International Flyfishing Rules, all rods carried may be fully rigged with fly & leader attached; however, only one rod, with one fly attached, may be deployed and be in use by any one person at any particular time. This includes when a competitor is changing from one outfit to another; the outfit being changed is to have all line, leader and fly completely removed from the water and inside the boat before a second outfit can be taken up and used.

4. When a rod breaks (while the fish is being played) in a manner that reduces its length below minimum dimensions or severely impairs its angling characteristics, the fish being played may be claimed but the rod must no longer be used unless it can be repaired (e.g. by replacing a section).

5. **Electric motors.** The main drive motor/outboard of the vessel being fished from, must be out of gear at the time the fly is presented and during the retrieve. The use of "anchor mode", wherein auxiliary engines or motors are used to dynamically hold position, is permissible as being equivalent to being anchored. Similarly, using auxiliary engines or motors to manoeuvre a boat before, during and after casting and retrieving is permissible as being equivalent to using a push-pole.

6. **Catch and Release.** Anglers are encouraged to practise catch and release and to do so in accordance with guidelines issued by the NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries. Some competitions conducted by DFR are exclusively catch and release and these requirements are included in the specific competition rules.

7. **Measuring Device.** Fish must be measured using a commercially sourced measuring device.

8. **Etiquette.** No competitor is to impede another's ability to fish an area. In congested areas competitors must make every effort not to deny reasonable access to other competitors. All participants should endeavour to keep a distance of 50m between boats or a distance deemed acceptable, and agreed, by the parties involved. All competitors shall fish within the bounds of the competition area.

9. **Teams.** These articles apply to team events:

- a. There is to be no more than two competitors in a boat during the natural course of the competition being held. Special allowances will be made at the discretion of the competition committee but it is forbidden for them to assist the competitors at any stage unless required by exigent safety concerns.
- b. If either member of a team cannot continue in the competition for any reason then;
  - i. If the inability to continue arises during competition fishing times, scores for both the team and the anglers may be submitted and counted for the competition. The remaining angler may not continue fishing as a competitor in the boat alone. No replacements can be made during competition fishing times but a replacement can be made for the following day's competition. The replacement person may fish, and otherwise participate, but will not be eligible to register any catch in the competition, either as an individual or as a member of the team. The replacement person's function in the competition is as a safety boat-mate. The replacement of any competing angler is subject to the approval of the competition committee (in writing) before that team takes to the water.
  - ii. If the inability to continue arises outside competition fishing times, the remaining angler may recruit a replacement person. The replacement person may fish, and otherwise participate, but will not be eligible to register any catch in the competition, either as an individual or as a member of the team. The replacement person's function in the competition is as a safety boat-mate. The replacement of any competing angler is subject to the approval of the competition committee (in writing) before that team takes to the water.
  - iii. A parent/guardian may skipper the vessel for a team of junior anglers but must not fish or assist unless required by exigent safety concerns.
  - iv. A designated person, approved by the competition committee, may skipper the vessel for a team who is not confident in handling the vessel but must not fish or assist unless required by exigent safety concerns.

- c. Members of a team and any additional or replacement person(s) must be in a single boat: team members are not permitted to be in separate boats. Teams are not constrained to be in the same boat throughout the competition and may change boats, provided that they are only in one boat at a time (except for short periods during a transfer).

10. **Times.** The competition committee shall fix the hours of fishing. In the event of inclement weather the committee may postpone and/or re-schedule the event but must inform all competitors before doing so. All competitors shall adhere to all timings given by the committee; non-compliance may result in that competitor's results for the day and/or competition being disallowed. Competitors do not have to fish for the entire time allowed for the competition; if an angler or team wishes to return early they shall submit all paperwork/scorecards (signed and dated by both team members) as soon as conveniently possible.

## **SCORES**

11. At the initial competition briefing, the competition committee chairperson shall inform all competitors of the daily "lines in" and "scores in" times and procedures.

12. Scores are to be submitted to the competition scorer, or their representative as nominated by the competition committee, by the "scores in" time. Failure to do so may result in the scores being disallowed. Such a determination will be made by the competition committee, having heard and considered the reasons for late submission.

13. The competition scorer will compile all results, daily, as soon as practicable after the "scores in" time. Where there is any doubt about the submitted scores, the competitor and teammate are to be consulted for clarification.

14. Having calculated the scoring results, the scorer is to announce to the competitors that individual and team scores are available for inspection for a stated time period commensurate with the number of participating anglers. Each angler will be afforded the opportunity to inspect their individual scores to check for calculation or transcription errors. Similarly, teams will be afforded the same opportunity for their team score. Anglers or teams may not inspect another angler or team's scores.

15. Having consulted with anglers and teams and resolved any scoring anomalies, the competition scorer is to inform the competition committee chairperson.

## **PROTESTS**

16. Protests must be lodged with the competition committee, on the day of the alleged breach, prior to the commencement of the official daily or final presentation. A protest is to be submitted in writing and signed by the complainant(s).

17. A protest, for the purposes of this code of conduct, shall be in regards to violations of this code of conduct, breaches of IGFA rules for fly-fishing or DFR Club Specific Rules, unethical or unsportsmanlike conduct or fraud.

18. All protests will be expeditiously considered by a Competition Protest Panel (CPP) consisting of the competition committee and two ordinary DFR members. Only persons agreed to be impartial to the objection or protest may arbitrate protests. The CPP will be convened on lodgement of a protest.

19. Competition results will be suspended on lodgement of a protest, pending the decision of the CPP.

20. The principles of natural justice will be applied by the CPP in that;

- a. Both parties to a protest must be heard and are to be provided with opportunity to present their arguments and evidence without interruption.
- b. No decision will be reached by the CPP unless it has satisfied itself that all available evidence has been considered on merit.
- c. Judgements and decisions will be made on the bases of probability and reasonableness.
- d. While timely decision-making is important, the CPP must delay any decision until natural justice has been served.

21. Having received a protest, heard evidence and testimony and made a decision, the CPP will communicate that decision, firstly to the Competition Committee, to the parties involved in the protest and then to the remaining competitors.

22. Having resolved all protests and having received notification by the competition scorer that scores have been calculated, the results of the competition will be accepted by the competition committee and the daily or final presentation of results may commence. No further protest will be accepted or considered.

## **BREACH OF THE CODE**

23. Disciplinary measures arising from a breach of this code may include warning, censure, disallowing all or part of a team or individual's points/catch or disqualification of a team or individual.