**MATCH RULES FOR CARP-R-US ANGLING CLUB**

**Adopted 2024**

Only Federated members of the Club are eligible to fish in a match.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT MEMBERS HAVE A REPONSIBILTY TO FOLLOW THESE RULES AND REPORT IMMEDIATLY ANY BREACHES NOTED TO THE MATCH MANAGER. THIS PARTICULARLY APPLIES TO RULES 12,14,19 AND 21

1. A match will consist of a minimum of FOUR anglers and all anglers who catch fish must weigh in.
2. It is a requirement that all members fishing a match MUST inform the Match Manager by 8pm the Tuesday preceding the match. The meeting times and draw for each venue will be decided prior to the match these will be included in the weekly email sent by the Match Manager. Failure to inform the Match Manager may result in insufficient pegs being available and those not on the list being unable to take part.
3. Any club member who does not pay their peg fee, or any guest angler fishing with the club, MUST try and leave at least one empty peg between themselves and any angler taking part in the match. However, should a member wish to pay a peg fee but not fish the match (e.g. if they do not hold a federation card) they may do so and draw a peg on the match stretch BUT they cannot use a keep net and cannot leave the venue until the match is completed, except in exceptional circumstances. They must also follow all the normal match rules for the duration of the match (e.g., feeding, number of rods in use, etc.).
4. At the draw, each member taking part in the match will pay a peg fee and ´lucky peg´ of 2€ (1€ peg fee, 1€ lucky peg). Each angler will pay their money, then draw their peg. At this stage, their name will placed on the sheet. The person holding the peg bag must have their peg drawn for them as they cannot do it themselves. The winner of the ´lucky peg´ will receive 5€ if less than ten anglers present and 10€ if ten or more anglers present.
5. All pools are on a voluntary. Those paying into them will pay a total match fee of 10€ together with any relevant venue fee (see POOLS and SECTIONS below).
6. If for any reason an angler is unable to get to the draw on time, on confirmation that they will make the said match, a peg can be drawn for them by the Match Manager. They must also confirm when telephoning whether they wish to enter into the pool. If the angler does not then turn up, then the peg fee must still be paid.
7. Matches, unless managed as a ´walk off´, must be pegged out and numbered prior to the draw taking place.
8. Suitable pegs should be allocated to less able-bodied members, if requested. All pegs used under normal conditions should be in a fishable and safe state to give each angler a reasonable chance to fish their swim and pegged as far apart as is practicable.
9. No member may move or exchange their peg with another person without permission.
If a peg is drawn which a member feels is totally unfishable, they may approach the organizers with a request to move. The final decision rests with the Match Manager and his assistants.
10. Competitors may receive assistance to and from their peg, for themselves and their tackle.
11. Anglers must position their tackle within a reasonable distance of the peg marker. Platforms may be used but must be positioned no further than 2m from the waters edge.
12. Anglers MUST NOT move more than one metre from their seat or box to cast, position their bait or loose feed.
13. The recommended duration of a match will be 5 hours. However, if it is considered that the weather conditions are likely to be detrimental, common sense should prevail and the Match Manager should recommend that the times are reduced accordingly. This alteration must be agreed by the anglers BEFORE, the match commences.
14. When fishing still water venues an angler may fish to the mid-point between their peg and any adjacent peg. This applies whether the adjacent peg is occupied or vacant. Anyone seen fishing past said mid-point may be disqualified from the match. THIS TO APPLY TO ALL STILLWATER VENUES.
15. When fishing running water, an angler may fish from one metre above their peg to within one metre of the adjacent peg. This applies whether the adjacent peg is occupied or vacant. Anyone seen fishing past said point may be disqualified from the match.
16. With regard to fish welfare, especially in hot weather, members should endeavour to have no more than 20kgs of fish in any one keepnet. The weight of fish in any net will be capped at 25kgs, anything above that being excluded*.* **PLEASE NOTE:** At some venues at certain times of the year this may mean THREE nets may be needed.

*For matches at El Bosquet a minimum of two nets is mandatory. However, common sense should be applied as to whether both these should be placed in the water at the start of the match.*

1. A competitor may only have 1 rod or pole in use at any one time. However other rods and pole tops can be set up ready for use but with no bait on. The spare rod or pole tops must point away from the water.
2. During a match bait may be 'cupped in' using a pole whilst a competitor is fishing with a rod and line or another pole.
3. Before the starting signal, no angler may ground bait or loose feed the swim. Clearing weeds, plumbing the depth, testing the float, casting to obtaining distance for “clipping up” will be allowed. However, when using a pole, no pole cups can be attached when plumbing/testing the float and no feed may be put in a feeder if this is used to obtain the casting distance. ANY MEMBER SEEN TO BE INTRODUCING FEED BEFORE THE MATCH STARTS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED AND ASKED TO LEAVE THE CLUB
4. Under normal circumstances, anglers must strike, play and land their own fish. Assistance may be given to land fish under **extreme** circumstances.
5. A competitor must stop fishing at the finishing signal and IMMEDIATELY withdraw their pole or reel in their line if using a rod. Should they still be playing a fish hooked before the signal is given, they will be allowed 15 minutes to land it. Inform others by calling "fish on" IMMEDIATLY THE WHISTLE IS BLOWN. Failure to call ´fish on´ may result in that fish being returned immediately to the water and not weighed-in.
6. All fish to be weighed at the peg unless impossible to do so. No crustaceans or reptiles will be eligible for weigh-in. The two end pegs from each end will conduct the weigh in, subject to no disability. If so, then the next peg along will be responsible.
Each angler is responsible for ensuring that their keep nets are emptied and the weight is recorded by the person doing the weigh in. **NO ALTERATIONS OR ADDITIONS WILL BE MADE AFTER THE WEIGH-IN HAS MOVED TO ANOTHER PEG**.
7. Members must be aware at all times of the rules surrounding invasive species and that these should not be returned to the water at the end of the match. Any fines incurred as a result of these rules not being followed are the responsibility of the individuals concerned and payment of said fines shall not be the responsibility of the club or its officers.
8. Any grievances on the bank should be sorted out with the Match Manager in a polite fashion. If the complainant is not satisfied with the response, a grievance can be put in writing to the Club Secretary in accordance with the Clubs constitution (see BREACHES TO MATCH RULES below).
9. Anglers are responsible for ensuring that ALL rubbish is removed from the area of their peg at all times and shall always conduct themselves in a manner not prejudicial to the good name of Carp-R-Us.

BREACHES TO THE MATCH RULES

1. Any breaches of these match rules must immediately be reported to the Match Manager.
2. The Match Manager must resolve the problem as soon as is practicable and has the power to disqualify the angler from the match.
3. In the event of disqualification, the angler must be advised that his/her catch will be weighed and recorded (either at the time of the disqualification or at the end of the match, at the Match Managers discretion) but that the weight would not be entered into the match result.
4. The disqualified angler may appeal against the decision by notifying his/her intention to the Club Secretary within seven days of the match.
5. The appeal must be heard by the Club Committee at the earliest opportunity and the disqualified angler has the right to attend the meeting for that agenda item only. A special meeting of the Club Committee may be convened by the Club President if necessary.
6. If the appeal is upheld the anglers catch will then be entered into the match results and the points awarded be adjusted as necessary. If the appeal is dismissed the original match result will stand.
7. In the event of a dispute the pool money for that section will not be paid until after the dispute has been resolved.
8. The decision of the Club Committee will be final.

POOLS AND SECTIONS

1. All pools are voluntary and shall be 8€.
2. After the draw the peg numbers on each section shall be written on the weigh sheets. Sections shall, as far as possible, be **three** anglers. If this should not be possible, the last section shall be either **four anglers or five anglers**, depending on the number fishing. In the event of there being just four anglers in the pools, **one section of four**will be paid. Sections will run from the lowest peg number to the highest. In the event of there being a section of five, the pools will be paid at 25€ to the section winner, 15€ to the section runner-up.
3. At venues such as El Bosquet or Argos, sections will not cross stretches, i.e., at Argos, pegs on the cold side will not be in the same section as pegs on the warm side or, at El Bosquet, anglers fishing, for example, pegs 1-7 will not be in the same section as anglers on 17-25.
4. In the event of the whole section ‘dry netting’ the pool money for anglers in that section will be returned but it is the responsibility of the anglers in that section to ensure that receive the money back before they leave the venue. Similarly, section winners should ensure they collect their winnings before leaving the venue. Failure to do this MAY result in the payments being forfeited.