



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA PÊCHE SPORTIVE EN EAU DOUCE

OFFICIAL F.I.P.S.e.d. RULES **OF INTERNATIONAL “FOR NATIONS” COMPETITIONS** **“BLACK-BASS”**

ORGANISATION

- 1- Official international competitions shall only be organised by national Federations that are members of C.I.P.S. The organising Federation shall be officially responsible for the competition under consideration.
- 2- Only the members of a national Federation affiliated with C.I.P.S. and F.I.P.S.e.d. who have fully paid their annual membership fees shall be allowed to participate; their Federations shall designate them.

The national teams' anglers must hold the same nationality as the Country that they represent. Only one (1) foreign competitor is allowed in the team, on condition that the following requirements are met:

- The competitor shall have resided in said Country for at least 5 years and he/she shall hold an official document confirming that;
- The application shall be forwarded by the Nation the angler wishes to represent.

All competitors shall always be able to prove their nationality by means of national IDs or passports.

All supporting documents shall be produced at the 1st team captains' meeting.

Any angler who has already participated in a World Championship or in any international competition representing a Nation, shall not be allowed to compete for any other Nation.

Only teams and individual “pairs” that are members of the national Federations **affiliated in F.I.P.S.e.d.** shall be allowed to take part in World and Zone (Europe, etc.) Championships.

In order to apply to organize a championship, the Nation under consideration must have participated at least once, over the previous three years, in the championship that they wish to organize.

A preliminary programme shall imperatively be sent to F.I.P.S.e.d.'s Secretariat before the 31st October of the preceding year.

With the exception of the World Fishing Games, F.I.P.S.e.d. is officially tasked with providing the printed material, certificates and rankings for the awarding of prizes for all championships; therefore, the organizing Nation shall pay for all board and lodging expenses (room, meals and closing gala dinner) of the person performing such tasks. Said person's 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. shall pay for the relevant travelling expenses.

For all F.I.P.S.e.d. championships, the organizing Nation shall cover all board and lodging expenses (room, meals and closing gala dinner) for two members of F.I.P.S.e.d.'s Executive Committee, and for the person in charge of the rankings; their stay may begin on the eve of the first day of practice and end on the day after the closing dinner.

No championship organization shall be entrusted to a Nation if that 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 organizing a World or Zone Championship shall be responsible for procuring the trophies, which will be paid for by F.I.P.S.e.d.; the organizing Nation shall envisage 3 trophies for the team competitions, 6 trophies for the "pair" competitions and 2 trophies for the "pair" who has caught the biggest fish. F.I.P.S.e.d. shall refund a maximum amount of € 550 for 11 trophies. Such trophies shall feature a plate, carrying a "F.I.P.S.e.d." engraving or F.I.P.S.e.d.'s logo as well as the place and date of the championship. An invoice will be required in order to prove trophy-related expenses. If the aforesaid provisions (concerning the plate/logo) are not complied with, F.I.P.S.e.d. shall not reimburse any money. F.I.P.S.e.d. shall provide the medals.

Programmes and invitations for all championships shall only be sent to Nations that are members of F.I.P.S.e.d. (no invitations shall be sent to clubs or individuals).

- 3-** Each C.I.P.S. member Nation shall be allowed to present one team only, composed of 3 "pairs" of competitors (for black-bass fishing, competitors compete in "pairs"). A maximum of 2 reserves will be allowed for each Nation.

If a C.I.P.S. member Nation isn't able to have 3 "pairs" to compose a team, the relevant anglers shall be allowed to participate as individual "pair(s)" (those anglers competing only as individual "pair" will not be included in the scoring for the Nations' medals). A maximum of 2 individual "pairs" per Nation are allowed to participate, provided that the Nation of belonging has not registered any team.

No competitor shall be allowed to participate as an individual.

The number of teams or individual "pairs" that Nations may enter may be limited by the number of boats that the host Nation can provide. In all cases, priority will be given to the "pairs" who are part of a team and not to individual "pairs".

Before the beginning of each leg, the team captains shall be entitled to replace competitors, but only by using one or both reserves included in the relevant championship participation list. It shall be possible to replace one or two members of a "pair". It shall also be allowed to replace two competitors belonging to two different "pairs" with the two official reserves. **Since there are 3 days of competition in this championship, each team will be allowed to make a maximum of four substitutions, i.e., one or two competitors were substituted on the second day will be allowed to return again to compete on the third day.** Substituting one competitor from one "pair" to another "pair" is forbidden. It shall not be possible to replace any angler of individual "pairs".

The names of the 8 competitors must be finalised and communicated to the organisers at the time of the accreditation of their delegation; these names may not be changed subsequently, except in cases of force majeure.

In the event of any injury during a competition, the regular participant may be replaced by one of the reserves, with the possibility of replacing fishing tackle. Angler substitutions shall be authorised by a Jury member.

- 4-** Competitions shall be organized at watercourses, such as rivers and canals, or at suitable stretches of water, such as lakes etc.; it must be possible to fish along the entire width

and length of the venue. The fishing area selected for the competition shall be specified in the program, and the competition shall actually take place right at the indicated venue.

-5- The venue shall not expose the competitors or the spectators to any kind of danger.

One or more members of the Technical Commission or a competent delegate shall inspect the venue that may be selected for a championship, and said inspection shall take place at the same time of the year as to that proposed for the organization of the competition under consideration. F.I.P.S.e.d. shall pay for the travelling expenses (including flight and train tickets or car) of the Technical Commission's member(s), while the organizers shall cover all transfer costs from the airport or train station, and will pay for accommodation and meals. A report of the inspection shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of F.I.P.S.e.d. for evaluation and approval. The final decision on the approval or rejection of a venue by F.I.P.S.e.d. shall be communicated to the candidate Nation.

With regard to accommodation, participating Nations shall have two options:

1- Opting for the official accommodation proposed by the organizing Nation (optional). In that event, the organizing Nation shall clearly indicate the terms and conditions for the stay, including:

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

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

2- Selecting their hotels by themselves.

If this is the case, participating Nations shall be required to communicate their accommodation-related choices to the organizing Nation upon registration (in the official registration form).

In both cases (participation through or without the help of the organizers), the registration fee is € 1,500, which includes 10 closing gala dinners **(6 Anglers, 2 Reserves, 1 Captain, and 1 Delegate)** and 8 fishing permits for the whole duration of the championship (the period of official training and the competition itself), insurance and sundry expenses such as gifts, cups, trophies, etc.

The registration fee is **€ 500** per each individual "pair" which includes the closing gala dinner, the fishing permit for the whole duration of the championship (the period of official training and the competition itself), insurance and sundry expenses such as gifts, cups, trophies, etc.

The Federations, in addition to the medals devoted to the official members of the Delegation, will be allowed to ask for extra medals (up to a maximum of 3 per team), upon payment of a contribution of € 25 per extra medal, which will also include the diploma. The fees for extra medals shall be paid to F.I.P.S.e.d. In no case and for no reason extra medals in a number higher than that provided by these Rules may be requested from F.I.P.S.e.d.

For the closing gala dinner, be it a dinner with table service or a buffet dinner, participating Nations shall be assigned a number of seats corresponding to the number of gala dinner seats they reserved.

If no details about the accommodation are provided by the deadline set by the organizers, the participating Nations shall imperatively have to book their accommodations themselves and shall still pay € 1,500 to the organizers.

Any Nation that undertakes to take part in a championship by filling in the relevant registration form but does not show up, shall, in any case, pay the contribution of € 1,500 to the organizing Nation. Nations failing to comply with this provision shall be forbidden from taking part in and organizing future championships.

All Nations shall communicate their arrival dates to the organizing Nation at least one week before the first official training day. Any absent team (that has not arrived) on the last training day shall be considered as a WITHDRAWING Nation and shall not be allowed to participate in the championship (red card to the team).

Together with the event programme, the organizing Nations shall provide a list of hotels, lodgings, rooms and campsites located within a 20 km range from the venue.

The organizers shall see to it that all registration forms are duly filled in and carry the mobile phone numbers of one delegate and one team captain. Addresses and emergency telephone numbers (police, firefighters, hospitals, etc.) shall be provided in the program leaflets.

Any Nation requesting rental boats, but not showing up at the championship venue, shall anyway pay the rental fee to the organizing Nation. Nations failing to comply with this provision shall be forbidden from taking part in and organizing future championships (red card to the Nation).

The Black Bass World Championship shall usually take place in October or November. These indications may undergo changes, even substantial ones, based on the climatic conditions of the host countries and the characteristics of the competition venues.

- 6-** The waterbody surface required for a competition shall be at least 10,000 m²/boat (e.g.: 10 Nations, 30 boats = waterbody of at least 300,000 m², that is 30 hectares).

TEAM CAPTAINS' MEETING

- 7-** It would be advisable that general stewards attend the team captains' meetings.

In the event that a team captain or a Nation's delegate is absent, the President of F.I.P.S.e.d. or a delegated representative shall draw lots.

1st meeting - On Tuesday afternoon or on the eve of the first training day

During this first meeting, an international Jury shall be appointed, pursuant to article 41 of the present Official Rules. Then, the following operations shall be carried out:

- Roll call of Nations.
- The boats (supplied by the organisers, personal or rented out of the organization) shall be divided into three groups, namely groups A, B, and C, depending on engine power (group A shall consist of boats with more powerful engines, group B boats with less powerful engines, group C boats with least powerful engines). All the boats shall be numbered progressively from 1 to n (with n being equal to the total number of boats participating in the championship).
- Lot drawing aiming at matching the boats made available by the organisers with the "pairs" of the various Nations. Lots shall be drawn so as to attribute a boat from each of the three groups A, B, and C to the three "pairs" of each national team. To this end, the boats to be drawn will be divided into a number of sub-groups (each consisting of 3 boats, one of which will belong to group A, one to group B and one to group C) equal to the number of countries that have

requested them (e.g. 5 countries requesting boats from the organisation = 5 different groups of 3 boats to be drawn).

- The above-mentioned sub-groups should be composed in such a way as to make the total number of hp of each of the different groups as homogeneous as possible.
- No lot drawing shall be required for the boats belonging to the competitors or rented directly by the latter. Such boats shall be attributed to the numbers that have not been given to the boats made available by the organizers. Boats directly rented outside the organization shall be utilised only by the persons who have taken the boat in location.

Individual "pairs", if entered, will be equally distributed by drawing lots in groups A, B and C.

- After drawing lots for the boats, each team captain shall indicate which "pair" shall belong to group A, which one shall belong to group B, and which "pair" shall belong to group C. Once the captain has appointed the group of belonging for each "pair" of his team, he won't be allowed to make any changes to the group anymore. Group changes are not allowed during competition and, in the case one or both members of a "pair" are changed with one or two members the reserve "pair", these reserve anglers shall become members of the same group (A, B or C) of the "pair" where the modifications have been done.
- Draw for the start order of the boats for the three legs (e.g.: 1st leg: group B, then group C and, last, group A. For the 2nd leg, the group that started first in the 1st leg shall start second, and the group that started second shall be third, whereas the group that started third shall start first. In the 3rd leg, the group that started first in the 1st leg shall start third, the group that started second shall start first, and the group that started third shall start second. The departing criteria for the boats belonging to each group will be established during each championship, according to the specific characteristics of the competition venue as to guarantee the best security conditions to all competitors. This decision will be taken, in agreement with the organizers, by the F.I.P.S.e.d. President and/or the members of its Steering Committee present on place.
- Various information about the progress of the championship.

As a general rule, there shall be a 10-minute time interval between the departures of each group. Depending on the venue, the organisers, in agreement with the International Jury, shall decide to increase or decrease the time interval between the departures of the different groups.

There shall be a 20-minute time interval between the arrivals of each group (A, B or C). The arrival order of each group in each leg shall always be the same as the starting order for the same leg.

In case of a thunderstorm or other unforeseen situations causing an immediate competition stop, the boat arrival order can be random.

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

Subsequent meetings - During the competition, depending on the issues to be discussed, daily meetings shall be summoned by the organisers (time to be determined by the organizers).

NB: Captains' meetings are informative meetings, where guidelines are provided for the competitions. Under no circumstance shall changes to the Rules be made during the captains' meetings. The Rules shall only be changed at F.I.P.S.e.d. Executive

Committee's annual meetings, based on the remarks that shall be sent in writing by national Federations to F.I.P.S.e.d.'s Secretary General.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

-8- The participating teams may use boats made available by the organisers, their own boats, or boats rented by themselves outside of the organization. In that case, they shall compulsorily insure their boats themselves, by abiding by the instructions given by the organizers in the competition program. They shall also fully equip their boats with boat equipment, including an anchor.

The organizing Nation shall make boats available to the teams that ask for one, for a rental fee (for the duration of the championship, including the official training period); said fee shall be specified in the program (it shall also include fuel costs and insurance).

The organisers shall make sure that the competition program puts well in evidence the engines power that will be made available as well as the maximal speed limits allowed, which shall correspond to the average speed of the boats supplied by the organisers, on condition that this speed limit is authorized by the navigation rules in force on the concerning waters. Stewards shall ensure the respect of the speed limits (yellow card).

The organizing Nation shall only be responsible for insurance, boat equipment and anchor for the boats made available by the organizers. The anchor must be of adequate size for the boat it will be used on; the anchor must be supplied with a cord of minimum 25 metres long.

Boats made available by the organizers shall be equipped with an echo sounder able to scan vertically (bottom) and supplied with a screen of at least 7 inches (18 cm). In the event of echo sound malfunctioning, the boat shall be considered as being damaged, so it has to be substituted.

The material required to signal dangerous situations for the boats shall also be provided by the organizers. All the boats must be equipped with sufficient life jackets, a suitable landing net, a scale, and a ruler to measure the legal minimum length of the fish that may be taken to the weighmaster scale.

Should any participating Nation wish to rent boats, it should inform the organizing Nation at least two months before the competition starts.

Should a participating Nation use personal boats, they will still be required to pay the costs of the stewards related to meals and accommodation.

All personal or rental boats shall be handed over to the organisers upon the day of registration of the Nations at the championship venue. All personal boats shall be made available to the teams after the end of the championship, and the rental boats shall be returned by the organisers.

During both the official training and the competitions, each Nation shall be allowed to put a maximum of three boats in the water.

During the **three** official training days, the team members and the captain may be on board their national teams' boats (on condition that these latter are homologated for 4 persons).

Between one leg and the other, the boats shall be kept in a confined area under the organizers' responsibility for the entire championship duration. Every day teams shall dispose, before and after each leg, of one hour in order to prepare their boats. These operations shall be carried out in the presence of sunlight or in a place with adequate lighting. During the following each leg, the boats shall be handed over to the organisers, who shall fill up their fuel tanks and shall charge the batteries (for private and rental

boats, the battery chargers shall be made available to the organisers). The organizers shall ensure that some electric recharging points are present in the boats' storage during the official training as well as in the competition days (an electric charger every two boats).

Moreover, the organizers shall make sure that a fast Wi-Fi connection is supplied in the weighing spot as well as in the departing and arrival places of competitors.

- 9- Competitors may reach the venue by their personal means of transportation.

There must be one steward on each boat. Therefore, championships may only be awarded to those Federations capable of providing an adequate number of boat stewards. In any case, the number of stewards must be greater or at least equal to the number of boats competing.

Failure to comply with the above requirements will result in organizers being automatically excluded from organizing F.I.P.S.e.d. championships for a period of at least 5 years.

To seek a solution to this issue, in the coming years the F.I.P.S.e.d. Steering Committee may consider modifying the catch weight control system by adopting a system that does not involve boat stewards, but the use of a special APP that is able to manage catch photos.

Only the stewards of the "pairs" of the organizing Nation shall be foreigners and they shall be drawn among the present Nations. These stewards cannot be selected among captains or reserves. Those who volunteer to act as the stewards of the organising Nation's "pairs" shall have to guarantee their presence for the first two legs.

In case of force majeure, to fill the lack of stewards, the Jury can appeal to the present Nations for appointing, among their members, the necessary stewards. Stewards must obligatorily be of a different nationality than the "pairs" of their competence.

It shall not be allowed to use reserves as stewards, except for the last leg.

There shall be general stewards with their own boats.

The organisers shall make available 1 reserve boat for every 10 competing boats and enough stewards to man such boats. Only such boats will be allowed to tow, repair and or replace "competing" boats. These boats shall be available for both the official training and competition days and shall be launched and ready for any emergency.

The organizers shall also have at least 4 spare batteries for the boats which will be on charge at the boat launching area.

The owners of boats directly rented outside the organization cannot act as stewards, as drivers or be present on board their personal boat during the official training or competition days.

A competitor holder of a boat license and of all necessary documents with the owner's permission can drive the boat made available by the organizers. In any case, the boat owner will continue acting as a steward.

The stewards shall have thorough knowledge of the rules of the competition.

The stewards shall verify using rangefinders made available by the "pair" he/she is acting as a steward for, the correct distance between the boat he/she is boarded on and the nearby boats.

The steward shall verify the angling behaviour of the competitors he is responsible for. When a steward ascertains an irregularity, he must immediately warn the competitors assigned to him (and the international jury in case the seriousness of the infringement requires it).

- 10- The competitors shall abide by the rules on legal Black Bass size limits in force for the competition (national Rules). Said minimum size parameters shall be specified in the program drawn up by the organisers, and shall be reminded at the team captains' meeting.

When some particular national or regional rules are also in force, they shall be communicated to all nations registered to the championship, by annexing them to the competition program.

- 11- The competition shall take place in three legs of 8 or 9 hours each, depending on the competition venue.

In the event of a forced interruption (e.g. a thunderstorm, demonstration, natural disaster, etc.), the Jury may validate the leg, provided that it lasted at least half of the time envisaged for the whole leg.

The Jury can decide to reduce the duration of the leg if the competition schedule does not allow continuing angling for the 8 or 9 scheduled angling hours.

- 12- Each competitor is expected to fully abide by the competition rules (yellow card). When some particular national or regional rules are also in force, they shall be communicated to all nations registered to the championship, by annexing them to the competition program (yellow card).

- 13- Only no-kill angling shall be performed (red card), using artificial baits (pork rind is allowed). Any kind of artificial baits are allowed, even those ones equipped with hooks and with grapnels (with three or four tips), provided they do not cause multiple catches (for example the use of the "Spinner Bait" or similar is authorized, while the use of the "Alabama Rig" or similar is prohibited) (red card).

Only live fish shall be considered for the ranking.

- 14- All forms of fish feeding are forbidden (red card). Only alluring substances and surface oils to be spread on artificial baits shall be allowed.

- 15- All competitors are required to be able to swim.

- 16- Using echo sounders and GPSs is allowed.

No more than two (2) FORWARD FACING or 360-degree sonar transducers, in any combination, may be rigged on a boat used during practice and/or competition (red card). FORWARD FACING transducers are defined as any transducer that provides live (real-time) images. Three hundred- and sixty-degree (360) transducers are defined as any transducer producing a beam with the ability to independently rotate 360 degrees. Additionally, all side imaging and 2D transducers must be mounted conventionally with 2D transducers aimed downward and side imaging transducers aimed to port and starboard. No side imaging or 2D transducer may be mounted so as to provide forward looking images. All transducers must be stock, commercially-available units.

Using earphones, telephone or walkie-talkies is allowed for anglers but is forbidden for stewards, who can use them only in case of force majeure.

Each national team must possess at least 3 optical rangefinders, one of which shall be handed by each "pair" to its steward of reference during each leg to let him/her verify the correct distance between the boat he/she is boarded on and the other boats (yellow card).

- 17- The competitors shall be the only ones allowed to use landing nets (yellow card). The use of a landing net is recommended to retrieve the fish. Grapnel, Lip Grippers and Boga Grips are prohibited for recovering a fish (red card). They can only be used for removing an artificial bait out of a fish's mouth.

- 18- Besides having a federal fishing licence, the competitors shall also comply with all rules and regulations on navigation, on the ownership of a boat, and with the fishing law in force. Depending on the type of boat used, the pilot(s) shall hold the required licence(s). Before putting the boats into the water, the people concerned shall be asked to produce all the documents proving their authorization to navigate. The organizers shall have all administrative authorizations in place allowing the boats involved to navigate.
- 19- The fishing area and the area reserved for the departure and arrival of the boats shall be marked and clearly visible. Competitors may navigate and fish on the whole authorised waterbody surface. Should it not be possible to use the whole waterbody surface, the fishing area shall be clearly marked (buoys) before the first official training day. It is however recommended to use transponders, if possible.
- 20- All boats shall return to the start area and near the jetty at the time envisaged and fixed at the beginning of the leg. In said area, all boats shall circulate at low speed (yellow card).

If a problem exist with a boat or to an engine provided by the organizers occurs during the competition - i.e.: break of battery, low fuel, or any kind of other technical problem - the team concerned may be authorised by the International Jury to extend its fishing time by 20 or 40 minutes more. This rule shall apply to teams belonging to the 1st or 2nd departure groups.

- 21- It is forbidden to fish in boat start and arrival areas and in any area forbidden to navigation, as well as outside the competition limits zone (yellow card).
- 22- The steward shall check that compulsory life jackets are properly worn when sailing with heat engine boats (red card). It shall also be compulsory to wear life jackets when angling in bad weather conditions (rain, wind). Only electric engines may be used during the angling activities (red card).

Stewards will be required to sign a document by which they commit themselves to keep all information related to the fishing of the competitors present on board the boat of their competence (fishing spots, lures, fishing methods, etc.) until the end of the Championship.

Using drones is prohibited, both during competition and training (yellow card), except the special cases authorized by the International Jury, on the advice of the Technical Committee.

It is strictly forbidden to diffuse any films of any competitor or spot shot during official training and during the three championships legs on any social network, Facebook or other, on any website, or whatever (red card). Any possible diffusion shall be previously authorized by the anglers in question. Anglers may post “selfies” or photos of themselves on social media.

Only the holders of a “press card” or a document accrediting them as journalists will be able to request a badge that will allow them access on the venue (yellow card). It is therefore compulsory that journalists accredit themselves with the organisation by showing the document accrediting them as such.

Media cameramen are only allowed to enter their nations’ boats and/or take remote photos and videos of their nation's anglers. Video footage of competitors’ boats or fishing spot is prohibited outside of the boat launch area (filming before or after fishing is allowed inside the boat launch area) (yellow card). On the final day of the competition, the media may film and photograph the competitors of all nations (with the permission of the nation being filmed) on the water. In this manner all the media content can be used from the final day of fishing to promote all countries at the event.

- 23- The distance between boats during the competition in a lake or in an artificial basin shall be at least 50 metres (both during angling and when navigating near another “pair”) (oral

warning). The distance between boats during competition in a canal or a river shall be at least 50 metres during angling and at least 20 metres during navigation. When the passage is less than 50 metres large, the “pair” during angling in that particular spot will be forced to let pass another boat if this latter has the possibility to fish at one spot located at a distance of 50 metres minimum from them. In this case, the “pair” during angling shall indicate at which side the “pair” in transit can pass through. The passage of the “pair” in transit at a specific side must be done with an electric engine. In the case the “pair’s boat in transit does not have any electric engine, the passage can be done with the principal engine (internal combustion engine) at a very low speed.

One boat is considered stationary on a fishing spot when the principal engine (internal combustion engine) is off and the electric engine is lowered or the anchor is thrown into the water. The boat, which stops first at a fishing spot, takes precedence. When the electric engine is lowered into the water, short-distance movements with an internal combustion engine are allowed; however, in that case fishing is not allowed. **In any case, when one or both components of a pair are fishing, the internal combustion engine must compulsorily be off and not in neutral (yellow card).**

- 24- Trolling **of lures**, and angling from the riverbank are forbidden (red card).
- 25- Any dead fish shall not be weighed. Any fish handed over for weighing in such conditions, shall entail a 0.500 kg penalty.
- 26- Any fish that does not meet the relevant minimum size parameters shall not be calculated. Such a catch shall be weighed separately, and its weight shall be deducted from the total weight of the validated fish. Measurements shall be taken from the tip of the closed mouth to the extremity of the open tail of the fish, in its natural position.
- 27- Each caught fish shall be maintained alive in a bowl or a thermal container of a capacity of 50 litres of water maximum featuring an oxygen and air circulation system. After training and between the different legs, the bowl shall be kept safe, locked - if possible - sealed by means of a sheet of paper signed by the competitors and taped to the container. The competitors shall remove themselves from the seals they have placed at the beginning of the competition.
- 28- The catching of a fish is valid even if it is accidentally hooked outside its mouth. Any fish caught but not hanging from the angler’s line shall not be deemed valid and shall be put back into the water (red card).
- 29- Only the catch of 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*) shall be considered valid.

The maximum number of fish that may be kept in a live-well or a thermal container is limited to 5. If a 6th fish is caught then the other angler of the “pair” must immediately stop fishing and reel in until 1 fish has been returned to the water and only 5 fish are in the live-well or a thermal container. In no event shall a live-well or a thermal container contain more than 5 fishes (red card).
- 30- Fly-fishing with mouse-tail end is forbidden (red card).
- 31- The boats for the Jury, the stewards and the security staff shall be made available by the organizers.
- 32- Any boat that does not show up at the time envisaged for its departure shall be authorised to start last, but its return time shall remain unchanged.

When the first signal is given - 30 minutes before the departure of the boats - the anglers shall gather at the edge of the departure zone. The roll shall be called, the general steward shall tell the exact time, so that both the stewards and the anglers may

synchronise their watches. Then, the anglers shall be allowed to get on board their boats, and the first group shall line up at the start. A second signal shall be given for the boats of the first group to start heading to the angling area; then the boats of the second group shall sail off, and then those of the third group.

-33- For each minute of delay against their scheduled return time, 0.500 kg will be deducted from the total weight obtained by a “pair”. Any “pair” arriving with a delay of 15 minutes or more shall be ranked last for the relevant leg.

-34- The boats will be numbered (two sticker numbers shall be stuck on each side of the boats, and they shall be clearly visible).

The organizers shall keep copies of the sticker numbers to be stuck on reserve boats, if needed.

-35- The boats shall sail by using either thermal or electric engines, but the safety rules and the local speed regulations shall be complied with at all times (yellow card).

-36- All boats shall have on board the compulsory equipment required pursuant to local rules and F.I.P.S.e.d. rules. Lacking such equipment, the boats shall not be authorized to navigate.

-37- All boats shall help any nearby boat in trouble or danger (red card). When that happens, any fish caught and kept on the endangered boat may be transferred, in the presence of a member of the Jury, to the place where the caught fish shall be weighed and validated.

Land docking and docking to the boats of other competitors is forbidden (red card). A general steward or a member of the Jury may authorise exceptions in cases of absolute need.

-38- Deliberate foul hooking of fish is prohibited (red card).

-39- Competitors may keep and assemble as many rods as they wish but, when angling, they shall only be allowed to have one rod each (red card).

The fishing action shall be carried out only while holding the rod in the hands (oral warning).

-40- The competitors (there shall be 2 on each boat) shall not be allowed to get any help from anybody (yellow card).

THE JURY

-41- An international Jury shall be appointed to examine any complaints lodged and to apply penalties, as per the rules; the Jury shall be established at the first team captains' meeting.

The Jury shall consist of the following members:

- F.I.P.S.e.d.'s President, or a substitute delegated by the President;
- F.I.P.S.e.d.'s General Secretary;
- The members of F.I.P.S.e.d.'s Executive Committee;
- A delegate representing the organizing Nation, unless he/she holds the same nationality as the above-mentioned members, except for the F.I.P.S.e.d.'s President (or his substitute) who shall be the President of the Jury ex officio.

The Jury members shall be at least 3. If this number is not reached, some delegates from different Nations shall be chosen by drawing lots. These delegates cannot have the same nationality as the F.I.P.S.e.d.'s representatives and the organizing Nation.

These delegates shall be enrolled on the team registration form; captains cannot be appointed as delegates.

In the event of any infringement by a “pair” or by a team holding the same nationality as a member of the Jury, such Jury member shall not vote (except if he/she is the President of the Jury).

The members of the Jury shall wear a “Jury” badge, and shall be at the competition venue to receive any complaint. Jury members can be reached by mobile phone, so team captains will receive their mobile numbers.

- 42-** Any complaints, except for those regarding the rankings, shall be submitted to the Jury within ½ an hour after the last weighing. Complaints shall be lodged verbally, but they shall immediately be confirmed in writing. Should the Jury deem it necessary, and only in this case, photos or videos submitted by the delegate of the complaining team may be viewed. Only videos and/or photos incriminating a competitor or team that allow an official complaint to be lodged with the Jury will be taken into consideration, provided that they have not already been circulated or shared on social networks. In this case the photos and videos will not be accepted as evidence and the complaint will not be admissible.

Complaints concerning the ranking shall be lodged within 30 minutes after the official results have been published. The publishing time shall be recorded in the official result list.

A € 200 deposit - for which the F.I.P.S.e.d.’s General Secretary or his delegate shall issue a receipt - shall complement any written complaint submitted to the Jury. Should the complaint not be judged grounded by the Jury, the deposit shall be transferred to F.I.P.S.e.d.’s bank account.

All infringements and warnings shall be reported to the Jury, with the Jury being the only authority enabled to disqualify anglers. Any “pair” who is imposed a penalty shall be informed immediately.

The Jury members and all stewards shall make sure the Rules are abided by. Hence, they shall have a thorough knowledge of such Rules.

- 43-** The Rules, which are drawn up in the two official languages, shall be made available to the Jury and the team captains by the organizers of the championship.

The international Jury will make its decisions on a simple majority basis; in the event of a tie vote, the President of F.I.P.S.e.d. or his/her delegate shall have a casting vote.

All members of F.I.P.S.e.d.’s Executive Committee shall wear a personal badge. Said badges shall only be valid for the Executive Committee’s term of office (4 years).

LIST OF PENALTIES

- 44-** The penalties shall be as follows:

- a) Oral warning for the infringement of articles 23 (first §) and 39 (second §).**
- b) Warning (yellow card) for the infringement of articles 8 (third §), 12, 16 (fourth §), 17, 20 (first §), 21, 22 (third §), 22 (fifth §), 22 (sixth §), 23 (second §), 35, 40 and 51a (third §) and for the second infringement of articles 23 (first §) and 39 (second §).**
- c) Disqualification (red card) for the infringement of articles 13, 14, 17, 22 (first §), 22 (fourth §), 24, 28, 29 (second §), 30, 37 (first §), 37 (second §), 38, 39 (first §), 49, 52, 53.1 (first §), 53.2 (first §) and 54 (second §), for the second infringement of articles 8 (third §), 12, 16 (fourth §), 17, 20 (first §), 21, 22**

(third §), 22 (fifth §), 22 (sixth §), 23 (second §), 35, 40 and 51a (third §) and for the third infringement of articles 23 (first §) and 39 (second §).

- d) **Disqualification of the Nation/team for the infringement of articles 5 (tenth §), 5 (thirteenth §), 51a (second §) and 51b-1 (first §).**
- e) When a “pair” is disqualified, a number of penalties equal to the number of participating “pairs” + 1 will be assigned to him. If a “pair” is disqualified, those that follow him in the ranking shall keep their original ranking (for example: if “pair” X who ranked 8th is disqualified, the following “pair” shall keep their rankings and shall mark 9 points, 10 points, and so on).
- f) Any warning given to a Nation shall be recorded in that Nation’s file and shall remain in the files for a period of 3 years starting from the date of the sanction. Any new infringement committed in the following 3 editions of the same championship shall be considered a “relapse” and the Jury shall make its decision considering such relapse and the list of penalties.
- g) Any warning given to a “pair” shall be recorded in the competitor’s file for a period of 3 years starting from the date of the sanction. Any new infringement committed in the following 3 editions of the same championship shall be considered as a “relapse”, and the Jury shall make its decision considering such new infringement and the list of penalties.
- h) F.I.P.S.e.d.’s Executive Committee shall be entitled, both during a competition and subsequently, to impose penalties on anglers, captains or reserves if they infringe any rule or misbehave, even if said infringements are not provided for in the official Rules.

-45- The members of F.I.P.S.e.d.’s Executive Committee may access the competition venue and take note of any infringement of the Rules.

WEIGHING OPERATIONS

-46- The weighing operations shall be performed by the organizers in the presence of the “pairs” of all teams. The fish taken by the organizers from the bowls on the boats shall be carried to the weighing area in appropriate containers. After the relevant checks (health conditions and size), the fish shall be weighed by the organisers, who shall also put it back into the water.

The participants of each “pair” shall sign the document where the weight of the fish is registered. No claims concerning the weight of the fish shall be allowed after the signing of the weight document.

Weights shall be recorded in grams.

Depending on the size of the catches, or for other reasons that may be specific to a given championship, an authorisation to reach the Jury and have the catch weighted during the competition may be given at the captains' meeting.

The organisers shall ensure that there is at least one spare scale at the weigh-in station.

The organisers shall ensure that the official scale and the reserve scale has a calibration certificate which is not older than one month.

RANKINGS

-47- 1- LEG RANKING

A- Ranking by “pairs”

a) The ranking shall be drawn up based on weight (1 point per gram).

The “pair” who recorded the highest weight shall be given 1 penalty, while 2 penalties shall be attributed to the second “pair”, and so on.

b) In the event of a tie on weight, the “pairs” concerned shall obtain a number of penalties equalling the average of the rankings they should have had (example n° 1: two “pairs” ranking equal 4th shall obtain $(4+5):2 = 4.5$ penalties each; example n° 2: three “pairs” tying in the 6th placing, totalise $(6+7+8):3 = 7$ penalties each).

c) Any “pairs” that have not caught any fish shall be given a number of penalties equal to the average value of non-attributed places (example n° 1: twenty-four “pairs”, twelve of whom rank top 12, with penalties ranging between 1 and 12, the subsequent “pairs” will get $(13+24):2 = 18.5$ penalties each; example n° 2: thirty “pairs”, five of whom have caught fish and scored 1 to 5 points - the 25 “pairs” who have not caught any fish mark $(6+30):2 = 18$ penalties). Should only 1 “pair” not have caught any fish or should there be one or more absent “pairs”, they shall get a number of penalties equalling the lowest ranking (example: thirty “pairs”, twenty-nine of whom have caught fish, whereas one has not caught any, the latter will get 30 penalties).

B- Ranking by teams

a) Sum of the penalties obtained by the “pairs” of a team.

b) The national team scoring the lowest number of penalties shall rank 1st, and so on.

c) In the event of a tie on penalties, the teams concerned shall be ranked based on the heaviest total weight recorded by the “pairs” of the same team.

d) In the event of further tied scores, the teams concerned shall be ranked based on the heaviest weight recorded by one of the “pairs”.

e) In the event of another tied score, the teams concerned shall be ranked based on the number of fish caught by the “pairs” of the same team.

f) Last, should there be another tied score, the teams concerned shall be ranked based on the biggest fish caught by one of the “pairs” of the team.

2- GENERAL RANKING

A- Ranking by “pairs”

a) Sum of the penalties obtained by each “pair” in the three legs; the “pair” totalling the smallest number of penalties shall be ranked 1st, and so on.

b) In the event of a tie on penalties, the “pairs” shall be ranked based on the highest aggregate weight obtained in the three legs.

c) In the event of a further tie on weight, the “pairs” shall be ranked by the highest total number of fish caught over three legs.

d) In the event of another tied score, the “pairs” shall be ranked based on the heaviest weight recorded in one of the three legs.

e) In the event of a further tied score, the “pairs” shall be ranked based on the heaviest weight obtained in the 3rd leg.

f) Any “pairs” that did not take part in all three legs shall be ranked in the last places of the classification, following the order of their penalties (firstly the “pairs” that have participated in all of the three legs, followed by those “pairs” who just attended two legs and finally by the “pairs” that just participated to one single leg). For this reason, when one or two substitutions are made in a pair, the pair will be

ranked after those ones who have run all the legs keeping their original composition. The ranking of the pair in which substitutions were made will therefore be drawn up taking into consideration the composition of that pair which has performed more days of competition.

B- Ranking by teams

- a) Sum of the penalties obtained by the “pairs” of the same team over three legs; the team totalling the smallest number of penalties shall be ranked 1st, and so on.
- b) In the event of a tie on penalties, the teams concerned shall be ranked based on the highest aggregate weight obtained by the “pairs” of the same team in the three legs.
- c) In the event of another tied score, the teams concerned shall be ranked based on the number of fish caught by the “pairs” of the same team in the three legs.
- d) In the event of another tied score, the teams concerned shall be ranked based on the heaviest weight obtained by the “pairs” of the same team in the 3rd leg.

3- NATIONS RANKING

A world or zone ranking per Nations shall be drawn up for all championships, taking into account the best 5 results over the 6 past years; such ranking list shall be updated every year and published on F.I.P.S.e.d.'s website.

The Nations included in such ranking that, for any reason, do not participate in a championship, shall be given a number of penalties equal to the number of participating countries for that specific year + 1.

- 48-** The ranking will be established by a person mandated by F.I.P.S.e.d. or, lacking this person, by the organizers, in the presence of F.I.P.S.e.d.'s President or in the presence of his representative and, possibly, also in the presence of the members of the Jury.

ROD LENGTH

- 49-** The length of the rods is limited to 2.75 metres (9 feet) (red card).

“CIVIL LIABILITY” INSURANCE

- 50-** The organizers **SHALL** take out a “CIVIL LIABILITY” insurance to cover the whole event (from the first training day to the end of the final dinner); a certificate issued by the insurance company, certifying that the whole event is covered by a “CIVIL LIABILITY” policy shall be handed over to the President of F.I.P.S.e.d. two months prior to the competition.

TRAINING

- 51-** a) Official training shall take place at the official venue.

Training shall only be allowed without a steward if one of the anglers has a boat operator's license, if required by the laws of the organising Nation (red card to the team).

Training shall be organized so as to offer equal conditions to all anglers (with or without a steward), regardless of whether they use personal boats, rental boats, or boats made available by the organizers. Should training without a steward be envisaged, there shall be one person on board holding a boat operator's license (red card).

b) The official venue shall be organized as follows:

- 1) Two-day absolute closing before the first official training day for all the members of the participating official delegations. During these two days, training at the venue shall be forbidden for all Nations in the entire area chosen for the championship; the anglers shall not be allowed to navigate on the venue waterbody in the two days before the first official training day, even without their angling gear (red card to the team). It is forbidden for the organizing Nation to organize any competition on the official venue for a period of 10 days before the first official training day (red card to the Nation).

Apart from the closing period, the venue shall be made available for regular visits and fishing [local closing periods and special fishing conditions (fishing permit) shall be abided by]. Should the venue be always closed to fishing, it shall be made available on at least 2 weekends (the dates shall be specified in the programme).

- 2) **Three** days of official training: **Monday, Tuesday** and Wednesday (boats to return by 3:00 pm).
- 3) Three days of competition: **Thursday**, Friday and Saturday.

All participating Nations shall be provided with a document carrying the technical specifications and information concerning the venue.

ELECTRIC POWER LINES AND PLANTS

- 52-** It is **strictly forbidden** for the boats to stop and fish at less than 50 meters distance, on both sides, from any electricity infrastructure (including power lines, transformers, trellises, etc.) (red card).

RULES IN THE EVENT OF BAD WEATHER OR WATER-RELATED CONDITIONS

-53- 1- WHEN BAD CONDITIONS BREAK OUT BEFORE OR DURING PREPARATION

A signal shall tell the anglers that they are required to get off their boats, and the competition start shall be delayed (red card). If the weather or water-related conditions and the competition schedule allow, the leg may be regularly performed. In that event, a second signal shall indicate the start of the leg.

If the weather or water-related conditions do not improve or the competition schedule does not allow, the leg shall simply be cancelled. The cancelled leg shall not be considered when making the rankings, which shall be established based on the results of the held leg(s). The cancelled leg shall not be held at a later stage.

2- IF BAD CONDITIONS BREAK OUT DURING THE LEG

The leg shall immediately be stopped and the rods shall be placed horizontally in the boat area at the opposite end from the anglers (red card). The leg stop signal shall be given by the Jury to the stewards by radio, by telephone, or by launching one or more signal rockets.

Should the swell be such as to endanger the boat crews, the stewards - again, following the Jury's instructions - shall immediately order their crews to reach the closest landing spot and wait there for a possible leg resumption signal.

If the weather or water-related conditions allow, the Jury shall authorise the resumption of the leg through the afore mentioned communications systems and through the relevant stewards.

The Jury may shorten the duration of a leg if the competition schedule does not allow angling for 8 or 9 hours.

A leg shall be validated if it lasted at least half of the time envisaged for the whole leg.

Should the weather or water-related conditions not allow duly carrying out a competition, the Jury may decide to cancel one leg. Said leg shall not be postponed and the ranking shall be drawn up based on the leg(s) that was/were actually carried out. The cancelled leg shall not be held again.

ANTI-DOPING CONTROLS

-54- F.I.P.S.e.d. adopts the World Anti-doping Code applied by C.I.P.S.

During a championship, the anglers selected to undergo anti-doping controls shall imperatively go to the designated place at the indicated time, following F.I.P.S.e.d.'s or the Jury's guidelines. When an angler selected to undergo anti-doping checks does not report for the controls, the concerned "pair" shall be disqualified from the competition and shall be given a penalty corresponding to the bottom rank in the ranking + 1, for all the competition days the "pair" participated in (red card).

Cost of Anti-doping controls **at the championships** shall be borne by the organising Nation. All contacts with the N.A.D.O. (National Anti-Doping Organization) of each Nation shall be exclusively kept by **C.I.P.S. as controlling authority**.

The organizers shall be responsible for the fishing material and equipment of the angler drawn to be tested, while he is undergoing the anti-doping control.

C.I.P.S., in quality of Testing Authority, will issue the relevant mission order on the ADAMS System, with the concerned instruction for the doping control tests.

A copy of the Doping Control Form (DCF), signed by the Doctor who has provided the tests, must be sent to the C.I.P.S. Secretariat cipssecretariat@cips-fips.com or delivered immediately after the competition to the F.I.P.S.e.d. official delegate present on place, who will forward it to C.I.P.S.

The athletes participating in the Championships, by registering, implicitly accept all WADA anti-doping rules.

An athlete whose illness or condition requires treatment with a prohibited substance or method must apply to C.I.P.S. for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) following the C.I.P.S. strict TUE application process.

He/she shall then use the application form, which can be downloaded from the ITA website: <https://ita.sport/resource/international-testing-agency-therapeutic-use-exemption-tue-application-form/>.

The TUE request has to be sent to the following address: tue@ita.sport.

Athletes must therefore consult the Prohibited List of substances: <https://www.wada-ama.org/en/resources/world-anti-doping-code-and-international-standards/prohibited-list>.

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

-55- A € **200** fee shall be paid by each participating Nation; for each individual "pair" the fee shall be € **100**. Said fees shall remain available to F.I.P.S.e.d.

A € 500 fee shall be paid by the organizing Nation to C.I.P.S.'s disposal (to be paid to C.I.P.S.'s bank account).

OPENING CEREMONY AND PRIZE AWARDING CEREMONY

-56- The opening and presentation ceremony for the teams and the award ceremony for the winners must be opened with the official C.I.P.S. anthem.

The opening ceremony and the presentation of the teams shall take place **in one of the first two days of training** at 6:00 p.m. Said ceremony shall not last longer than 2 hours, and shall not end later than 08:00 p.m.

The top 3 Nations and the top 3 "pairs" shall officially receive a GOLD, a SILVER and a BRONZE medal respectively. In conformity with international standards, during the prize awarding procedures, the national anthem of the winner (team or "pair") shall be played, and the national flags of the top three "pairs"/teams shall be raised. The medals shall be paid for by F.I.P.S.e.d. and shall be handed over by F.I.P.S.e.d.'s designated representative.

World Champion Athletes (both individual and team) will additionally receive a patch to be applied to their national team uniform in order to be identified as world title holders for the current year.

During the individual prize-giving ceremony, the fourth and fifth classified must also be called to the podium, but no medals will be awarded.

A certificate stating the results obtained shall be delivered to all the three first-ranked Nations' official members, who shall be present at the prize-giving ceremony, as well as to the five first-ranked "pairs".

Any other reward shall be equally awarded to all participating Nations. All participating Nations shall provide their flags and the recordings of their national anthems.

During the ceremony announcing the official results, a maximum of 10 people, representing a Nation, may stand on the podium for handling out the medals, while the national anthem of the winning nation is being played.

RULES VERSIONS

-57- In the event of any dispute arising from or in connection with the interpretation of these Rules, only the French version shall be considered as the original and reference text.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE ORGANIZING NATIONS

-58- The organizing Nation of a World or Zone (Europe, etc.) Championship shall:

- a) Have the F.I.P.S.e.d. trophies engraved (plate or logo);
- b) Send out official programs and information about the championship in the two 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.

Barbara DURANTE

