

## **WFSA Constitution, updated April 2018.**

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## **Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers**

Members of:-

Sea Angling Liaison Committee of Great Britain & Ireland

F.I.P.S. World Governing Body

Federation of Welsh Anglers Ltd trading as Angling Cymru

### **PATRON**

G. Hefin Jones MBE

### **PRESIDENT**

Robert Roberts

### **CHAIRMAN**

Dr John O'Connor

### **VICE CHAIRMAN**

Helen Pearce

### **VICE PRESIDENTS**

RS Brown Esq, RGB Elliot Esq, B Meade Esq, A Beechey Esq, M Davies Esq,

### **GENERAL SECRETARY**

Colin Doyle

23 Park Road, Bargoed, Mid Glamorgan, CF31 8SQ

# **INTRODUCTION**

## **WELSH FEDERATION OF SEA ANGLERS**

The Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers (WFSA) was formed in 1955 and is the Governing Body of Sea Angling in Wales. The WFSA is a member of the World Governing Body for Sea Angling (CIPS/FIPS), the Sea Angling Liaison Committee of Great Britain and Ireland (SALC), Federation of Welsh Anglers and is recognised by the Welsh Government and Sport Wales as the National Governing Body for sea angling in Wales. Most angling clubs in Wales are affiliated to the WFSA and benefit not only from the awards and trophies that are given by the Federation, but also from the efforts of the hard working Committees who arrange major angling events at National and Regional level. The Federation fights for member clubs where access to, or fishing from, facilities are threatened. The WFSA is responsible for the election of teams and Individuals to represent Wales in International angling competitions. Members of an affiliated club and personal members are entitled to all the benefits that can be derived from the Federation.

## **CONSTITUTION AND RULES**

### **TITLE**

The name of the Federation is the Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers

### **1. PURPOSE**

1.1 The Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers is recognised by Sport Wales as the National Governing body, responsible for the development of sea angling at all levels within Wales.

1.2 To make rules concerning the sport of sea angling.

1.3 To promote the sport of sea angling with rod, reel and line

1.4 To foster Welsh National Championships or Festivals by either direct promotion or through affiliated clubs.

1.5 To watch over the interests of sea angling within Wales and to make representation to the appropriate authorities where necessary, through selection of representatives on Inshore Fisheries Groups and the Chairman's seat on the Wales Marine Fisheries Advisory Group.

1.6 To be responsible for the furtherance of International competitions, and for the selection and control of Welsh international teams.

## **2. LIMITATIONS**

2.1 The WFSA shall have no local or national political affiliations and shall have no restrictions based on colour or creed regarding membership.

## **3. COMPOSITION**

3.1 The composition of the WFSA will consist of Officers and National Executive, designated Regions, Affiliated clubs and Personal and Honorary members.

## **4. GOVERNMENT**

4.1 The government of the Federation is vested in general meetings. The National Executive shall administer Federation affairs between general meetings.

4.2 Local administration will be by regions, which may be formed by members of five clubs at the discretion of the National Executive.

4.3 The National Executive will consist of the National Officers, Regional delegates and Personal member representatives.

4.4 Regional Executives will consist of the representatives from the Regional clubs and Personal members.

## **5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

5.1 The National Executive will hold the AGM of the Federation in March every year at a place and date as determined by the NEC. Advance notification asking for nominations, resolutions and items for the agenda must be given to the club officers or the personal members Secretary at least eight weeks before the January NEC meeting. All nominations, resolutions and items for the agenda, must be in writing and lodged with the General Secretary prior to the January NEC meeting, attendance at the AGM is necessary to move such items; otherwise they deem not to be moved and withdrawn.

5.2 All reports and balance sheets and the agenda must be distributed to the officers, club and personal members Secretaries at least fourteen days before the meeting.

5.3 The agenda will be prepared by the General Secretary in consultation with the National Chairman and will include the receiving of reports, balance sheets, election of officers and variation in rules.

5.4 Those to be elected at the AGM are the Officers, specifically: Patron, President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Fish Recorder, Cup Custodian, Press Officer, Coaching and Developing Officer, Personal Members Secretary, Boat Team Manager, Shore Team Manager, Ladies Team Manager, Youth

Team Manager, Junior Team Manager, Surfcasting Team Manager, Environmental Officer, Web Master, National Match Angling Co-ordinator, Vice Presidents & Internal Auditors. (All past Chairmen of the Federation are eligible for election as Vice Presidents).

5.5 A quorum for the General meetings shall consist of representation from at least eight affiliated clubs, or seven affiliated clubs and Personal Members delegates. Those present must represent at least three regions or two regions and Personal Member delegates. A person may exercise only one vote at any time.

5.6 Each affiliated club will be entitled to one vote from each of its two delegates, those delegates names to be submitted to the General Secretary in writing, prior to the AGM (by post or by email).

5.7 Other members of an affiliated club or Personal Member of the Federation may attend the AGM but will not be allowed to take part in any debate.

5.8 Executive Officers will not be allowed to vote, unless in attendance as a delegate of an affiliated club or a Personal Members delegate. The Chairman of the meeting may exercise a casting vote.

5.9 Rules may only be rescinded, amended, altered or added by a two thirds majority of the voting strength in attendance at the AGM or at a meeting called for that purpose.

## **6. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

6.1 These may be called at any times by any 6 of the duly elected officers, the National Executive or by 8 affiliated clubs. Notification of such a meeting shall be sent to the General Secretary, stating the full object of the meeting, and must give the text of any resolutions to be moved. No other business may be discussed, except that for which the meeting has been called. Notice for such a meeting will be sent out to Officers, affiliated clubs and Personal Members Secretary at least twenty one days before the meeting to be held. The meeting will be held within thirty five days of the receipt of the request for the meeting.

## **7. ADMINISTRATION**

7.1 Those elected under 5.4 as Officers, two delegates from Personal Members, plus the regional delegates will form the National Executive Committee and be responsible for the administration of the Federation. Regional delegations should consist of one officer and two other persons, all to be from currently affiliated clubs or personal members. It will have the authority to make such Standing Orders for the conduct of its business and such regulations and by-laws for the smooth running of the Federation as it may think fit. All Standing Orders, Regulations and by-laws

thus made will operate until the next AGM at which time they will come up for ratification.

## **8. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

8.1 NEC meetings will be opened whenever possible by the President who will also occupy the chair during the election of officers, or on occasions where both the chairman and vice chairman are absent. If all three are absent, a chairman will be elected by the members present. A quorum will be deemed to exist when a minimum of five delegates are present simultaneously of two regions and a Personal members section.

8.2 NEC meetings will be held in January, May, July and October.

8.3 Due and adequate notice of Executive meetings, stating place, date and time thereof shall be issued to all persons entitled to be present by the person responsible. Generally, fourteen days' notice shall be deemed to be adequate.

8.4 All executive reports to be submitted to the Secretary 14 days before the meeting for circulation to the Committee members prior to the meeting.

8.5 Except in the case of prolonged illness or leave of absence granted by the National Executive, an officer or Committee member may be replaced if absent on two occasions consecutively without his or her apology, or after three consecutive time with apologies, any such apologies must be in writing. Verbal apologies will be accepted on merit at the discretion of the National Executive.

## **9. DISCIPLINE**

9.1 The National Executive Committee will have the power to refuse, suspend or terminate affiliated or personal membership where the person or club fails to meet either requirements of membership, or has been found guilty of conduct, which in the opinion of the Executive, warrants disciplinary action being taken. Such members will have the right to appeal against the any disciplinary action having been taken against them at the next AGM. Registration of intent to appeal must be given to the General Secretary in writing within twenty eight days of notification of such disciplinary action; such notification will be sent by recorded delivery.

9.2 Where a complaint is made against a National Officer, it shall be made in writing to the General Secretary in the first instance. The National Officer will be notified of the complaint and given a copy of the complaint in writing. The complainant will be informed of the date, time and venue of the meeting where the complaint will be discussed. The complainant will be given the opportunity to attend the meeting at which the complaint will be discussed.

## **10. REGIONS**

10.1 Regions may elect officers to run their respective Regions, as they require, with the exception of Patrons and Presidents.

10.2 Each Region shall hold its AGM at least six weeks prior to the AGM of the Federation.

10.3 Regions are expected to keep minutes of meetings and financial accounts, both of which may be inspected at any time by the NEC

10.4 Each affiliated club and Personal Members as a collective group shall be entitled to two representatives at Regional level. Each representative being entitled to one vote only. Executive Officers may vote if present as a club or Personal member's representative.

10.5 Regions may make additional rules to aid them with the smooth running of the region. These rules must be submitted in writing to the National Executive for ratification. No regional rule will be allowed to conflict with National rules.

10.6 Each region of the Federation will appoint three delegates to attend National Executive Meetings

10.7 The National Executive will decide regional boundaries. The National Executive will decide club designation to a region also in the first instance by the clubs headquarters, or by the Secretary`s address.

Regional boundaries are defined as:-

- a) East – Severn Bridge to Briton Ferry Bridge
- b) Southwest – Briton ferry Bridge to the south bank of the Teifi
- c) West – north bank of the Teifi to Porthmadog
- d) North – Porthmadog to the Dee

10.8 All open competition date applications to be referred to the appropriate Regional Executives for approval.

10.9 In the event of the winding up of a region or Personal Members Section, the finances and assets will be conveyed to the National Body who will administer the funds.

## **11. MEMBERSHIP**

11.1 Any properly constituted and correctly Insured Club, Association or Society, which must include a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, is eligible for affiliation to the Federation. Groups, consortia or combines of the above will not be eligible. All affiliation applications will be directed to the General Secretary, who will notify Regional Secretaries of the proposed applications. The National Executive will authorise membership and determine the region to which the club will be attached. In accordance with Rule 9.6 Regional Executives are empowered to grant provisional membership to new clubs, on payment of the appropriate fee, subject to the approval at the next National Executive meeting. All monies must be forwarded in full to the General Secretary.

11.2 Personal Membership is open to any person completing the appropriate form and paying the appropriate fee. Personal Members will be entitled to all the privileges of the Federation. The only exception being that they may not qualify to fish for Welsh teams unless they qualify as in rule 16.3.

11.3 Officers, Personal Members, Honorary Life Members and members of affiliated clubs are entitled to all the privileges of the Federation apart from the exception in 11.2 and may compete for trophies and prizes offered by the Federation.

11.4 Honorary Life Membership may be awarded to a person who has given the WFSA exceptional service. Nominations for life membership must be directed to the National Executive who will then make a recommendation at the Annual General meeting. Persons may speak on the nomination at the AGM. Acceptance or refusal of life membership will be a majority decision.

11.5 A condition of membership to the WFSA will be that all member clubs carry a minimum of PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE. Entrance to the block insurance scheme is to be encouraged, but proof of the individual club insurance will be accepted, providing the standard is at least equal to that of the block insurance cover.

11.6 Each affiliating club will pay the Federation an annual fee as determined by the AGM. The fee is to be paid by the 1st January as does the insurance premium if this is required.

11.7 Only affiliated clubs are entitled to the rights, benefits and privileges of membership. Each year, at the time of affiliation, each club will submit a list of club members (from the previous year) with their application for affiliation.

## **12. FINANCE**

12.1 The financial year shall for all accounting purposes terminate on the 31st December.

12.2 A balance sheet showing the final disposition of the Federation at the end of the preceding financial year shall be prepared and submitted to the Executive meeting before the AGM for discussion prior to the submission to appointed auditors.

### **13. DISSOLUTION**

13.1 The Federation may only be dissolved by the resolution of two consecutive General meetings, notice of which must be served separately. Such resolutions must be supported by three quarters of those present entitled to vote, which shall represent at least half of the voting strength of the Federation. If such a resolution is passed the National Executive Committee will have the power forthwith to liquidate the affairs of the Federation and if there be any assets on realisation, they be handed to the Sport Wales

### **14. STANDING ORDERS**

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

a) The General Secretary or his deputy will prepare the agenda & all items so circulated on the agenda shall have priority over other business.

b) Any member wishing to introduce other business to the meeting may do so if it can be proved that the item has become subject matter for the meeting after circulation of the agenda.

c) An attendance book shall be available at the meetings in which all members present may record their names and capacity of attendance

#### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting should be moved and adopted as an accurate record. No motion or discussion shall be allowed on the minutes except in regards to their accuracy.

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

Any member may move a proposition on an item from the agenda during consideration of this at a meeting.

#### **AMENDMENTS**

Any number of amendments may be put to a motion, but only one amendment shall be before the meeting at any one time. Members may speak for or against a motion or amendments and any member may indicate his intention of moving another amendment, should the amendment under discussion be defeated, but he may not move the amendment until the one under discussion has been disposed of. An

amendment on being carried will then be submitted as the substantive motion. Members may then if required, propose further amendments.

### **TIME OF SPEAKERS**

The mover of a motion shall be allowed to speak for a single period of ten minutes. The time may be extended at the discretion of the Chairman. The mover of a motion shall have the right to reply.

### **CLOSURE OF DEBATE**

A debate may be closed by the moving of either of the following motions to be put immediately by a member who has not previously spoken at any time during the debate. This may only be expressed once per item on the agenda.

(1) That the meeting proceeds to the next business: if carried, all discussion on the subject will stop without a vote being taken but the matter can be brought up at a subsequent meeting: if lost, the discussion on the original subject is resumed.

(2) That the motion be put: if carried, to the vote at once, with the right of the mover to reply to the debate; if lost, the discussion on the original subject is resumed.

The Chairman may close the debate when s/he considers fair discussion has been allowed, but in the event of a dispute on an important matter the decision must rest with the meeting.

### **VOTING**

The declaration of the Chairman as to the result of the vote shall be conclusive, provided that if the voting has been by show of hands and there has been no immediate objection to the accuracy of the result as declared by the Chairman.

If an immediate challenge is made to the accuracy of the result declared by the Chairman then a poll should be taken forthwith.

Once a vote has been taken on an item, there can be no further discussion of that item, at that same meeting.

### **ORDER OF ADJOURNMENT**

It shall be the power of the Chairman to:

(a) Preserve Order.

(b) To adjourn the meeting when it is impossible to maintain Order.

(c) Generally to conduct the meeting that the business thereof may be facilitated and the results clearly and well defined.

The Chairman shall not have the right, except as in 8(a) and (b) above, to adjourn the meeting except with the consent of the members present, unless the business for which it was convened has been concluded.

## **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

Standing Orders may be suspended on a majority vote of the members present. The motion of suspension must state the purpose and the time period of the suspension of the Standing Orders.

## **15. POLICIES**

The following FWA policies have been adopted by the WFSA and are available in full on the WFSA ([www.wfsa.org.uk](http://www.wfsa.org.uk)) or FWA ([www.anglingcymru.org.uk](http://www.anglingcymru.org.uk)) websites:-

- 1) Safeguarding Policy
- 2) UK Anti-Doping Policy & CIPS Anti-Doping Policy
- 3) Coaching Strategy
- 4) High Performance Plan
- 5) Conflict of Interest Policy

The WFSA will adopt further FWA policies for its use to ensure good governance.

## **16. INTERNATIONAL TEAM SELECTION**

Other sections formed must conform to best practice and procedures as laid down for existing sections.

### **16.1 BOAT**

Home Internationals and European Championships- The squad consists of eight qualifying anglers from the fish off stages, plus, either the ninth placed individual or a 'wild card'.

Home Internationals and World Championships- The squad consists of nine qualified from the fish off stages, plus, either the tenth placed individual or a 'wild card'.

#### **16.1.1 Last team Member Selection**

The Boat Team Manager will decide upon the last team member based on the qualifying legs and by any extenuating circumstances that may involve the adoption of the 'wild card' system.

### 16.1.2 Wild card Criteria and Guidelines

Individual Gold / Top Rod - if an angler wins Gold or top Rod position in the European or World Championships, this angler should be given the opportunity to defend the title. NB the angler must fish that year qualifiers to be considered. Team Gold - In the event of Gold in a team event, from the previous year's team, all barring one angler must have qualified through the merit of the qualifying stages. This can then result in the possible selection of the last member via a 'wild card'. Further to this, qualification does not guarantee a team place in the previously won event. Fishing venues and type of fishing play a major part in team selection. For example, fishing at anchor for Conger does not equal drifting for Pollack. The Boat Manager must ensure that the strongest team is being sent for the venue to be fished.

Missing any qualifier leg - should an angler miss any qualifier leg through no fault of their own, the 'wild card' selection may be adopted. Criteria relating to 'no fault of their own' are as follows:-

Hospitalisation of the Individual or immediate family bereavement of a member, which necessitates the angler's absence from any leg.

Scoring an Individual who misses one leg - the average % of the angler's any legs should be calculated. This average will then be added to the total % of the legs fished. Only if this score is then sufficient to have made the squad through the merit of the qualifiers the angler becomes eligible for possible selection via the 'wild card'.

## **16.2 SHORE TEAMS**

### 16.2.1 Men

The top 15 anglers will make up the National Squad selected for the Home and World championships, 5 for home, 5 for world, a reserve for each team, plus a 'wild card' to be selected from anywhere in the qualifier pool.

### 16.2.2 Ladies and Youth

The top nine anglers at the end of the qualifiers will make up the National Team selected for the Home and World Championships. The Manager through the 'wild card' system will select the final place. If any of the top nine anglers become unavailable for any reason the tenth place will qualify and so on down the positions they finished.

### 16.2.3 Juniors

The team will be selected for the Home International team through a selection process involving one match (minimum 6 anglers attending) and an assessment of each anglers performance, angling ability & suitability for the championship venue.

A junior will cease to be a junior on their 16th birthday. A junior who starts fishing as a junior at the beginning of the year of their 16th birthday will remain a junior to the end of the year.

### 16.2.4

In the event that an individual angler wins a European or World title, then that angler will be given the opportunity to defend his or her title on condition that he or she participates in the Welsh National qualifiers

## **16.3 TRIALS**

1. All trials are to be fished in daylight except to comply with 16.3 where some Championships are held during hours of darkness.
2. Duration of fishing will not exceed six hours.
3. Venues on which trials are to be fished are to be similar characteristics to the International venue to be fished whenever possible, i.e. species, rock, sand: shore-long or short casting; boat – up-tiding or down-tiding.
4. All trials to be fished to International Rules as laid down by the Sea Angling Liaison Committee or CIPS/FIPS as appropriate.
5. Members qualifying for shore events would not be elected for boat events unless qualified as in Rule 15.1.
6. All trials will be fished on a Catch and Release basis.
7. It is the Team Managers responsibility to ensure that when competitions are finished, all beaches are left in a clean condition.
8. For all trials minimum sizes may be omitted, depending on the venues to be fished in the forth-coming events. Team managers will inform all individuals fishing of the points system prior to the trials.

## **16.4 ELIGIBILITY**

A qualifying period of three years residence in Wales, and a member of a club, which has been affiliated to the WFSA for three consecutive years, or be a Welsh National or have a Welsh born parent or grandparent The Personal Members are classed as a

club for these purposes. Any person who has represented another country would not be eligible for selection in a Welsh Team.

## **16.5 TEAM MANAGERS**

Team managers will be elected by the AGM. These persons may, or may not, be a member of the team(s).

The manager will be the first point of contact on all matters relating to the National Team.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The team manager may appoint area team leaders from anglers who have applied to fish. Such area leaders must be acceptable to both officers and anglers of that Region and will liaise with the Region before any proposed venue or accommodation is finalised. Area leaders will be the local point of contact for the managers and anglers alike. The area leaders will The Team manager is to make maps and notes of all venues that are fished to build up a useful reference book on possible International venues.

The Team manager is to look for other International events that the WFSA could involve itself with on a yearly basis. peg the venue after discussion with the Team Manager.

The shore team managers are jointly responsible for the organising the Home International competitions including agreement on venues. The Code of Conduct for Welsh International Anglers is to be followed at all times.

## **Code of conduct for Welsh international anglers**

### **Dress (Official)**

The dress for all members of a team, including if appointed non fishing officials, at all official functions associated with the event for which they have been selected shall be:

1. Men, youth and juniors – black blazers
2. Ladies –red blazers

The official badge of the WFSA displayed on the left breast pocket. This badge is to be the gold wire badge displaying the Welsh dragon.

3. Men, youth and juniors - grey trousers
4. Ladies - black trousers

5. Men, youth and juniors – white shirt and green tie displaying the Welsh dragon
6. Ladies – white blouse and green scarf
7. All internationals will wear black shoes and wear appropriate socks of a discreet colour.

The Team Manager will present first time international Anglers with a WFSA gold wire badge and a WFSA tie, all future replacement badges and ties must be purchased by the individual. Blazers may be removed during official functions if the climate is such that this is required for comfort.

### **National Team Flash**

The National team Flash in gold wire to be displayed on the left breast pocket below the WFSA official badge. All items of clothing are to be provided by the individual at their own expense.

The National Team Flash will be provided by the National Team Manager prior to the event, on the understanding that should the member of the Team then not fish the event due to his or her non-attendance, and then the Flash must be returned to the Team Manager.

### **Dress (Fishing)**

The dress for actual fishing will be left to the discretion of the Team Manager, with the exception that where WFSA badges are issued to team members then these will be worn on the left breast of the outer garment. In the event of a sponsor being obtained to supply clothing then the outer garment(s) shall be those of the sponsor. Only official approved sponsorship will be acceptable, as directed by the Team Manager.

### **Team Manager**

For all international events, where the governing body of sea angling in Wales has entered teams, a team manager will be elected. The election of this official will be by the AGM of the WFSA.

Team Captains will also be appointed. It is therefore possible, but not obligatory, that a Team Manager may also be appointed as Team Captain.

The Manager's authority will be paramount and s/he will always, without exception, submit a written report to the National executive, within the period preceding the next National Executive Meeting. If more than one event has taken place then a separate report on each event will be required.

## **Duties of the Team Manager**

The Manager will be responsible to the National executive for the conduct and behaviour of his or her whole party.

He or she will collate the travel arrangements to ensure that, for the duration of the event, his or her party is in attendance at the international venue.

He or she will act as official spokesperson for the whole party and as such will respond to official greetings when required.

He or she will receive, where applicable, all monies paid to the party as part sponsorship or grant aid towards travel, and ensure said monies are correctly distributed to those entitled.

He or she will ensure that in so far as the international event is concerned that all hotel accounts are settled before leaving the venue.

## **Team Managers disciplinary powers**

Under very exceptional circumstances, s/he may suspend a member from taking further part in an international event, if in her or his opinion, and of at least one other responsible person (another team manager, captain or other person) that a members conduct is totally unacceptable as a member of an International Team. In this event, all members of the party will be summoned to a meeting of the National executive to state their cases. A full written report will be submitted to the General Secretary, with copies to the Chairman and President, within seven days, if this action was ever implemented.

## **Team Captains**

Team Captains will be fishing members of the teams. They will be responsible to the Team Manager for the code of conduct and discipline of their team when not directly under the jurisdiction of the Team Manager.

They are required to support the Team Manager in all his or her decisions during the international event. Their senior position allows them to advise and discuss the team's tactical approach. Any disagreement will be submitted to the National Executive, in writing, once the teams have dispersed.

The Captain of any designated A Team will take over tour duties of the Team Manager if the latter is too ill to carry out their duties. If the Team manager is already the A team captain then the person taking over as the A Team captain will also take over as Team Manager.

## **Team Members**

All members of the Welsh International Sea Angling Teams are elected on the understanding that they will totally abide by this Code of Conduct and may be required to sign a declaration to this effect before the event.

Whilst social functions are a very important point in the international angling events, members should always have in mind the reason they are there is to represent Wales in angling and it is as a representative of Wales that they will be judged. Their conduct and sportsmanship should reflect this responsibility.

A Team Manager is elected and a Team Captain appointed. If some of the decisions made affecting anglers are not to their liking, they should reflect that both officials are also anglers, but with the added responsibility of being officially responsible to the National Executive for the behaviour of the whole party.

The assistance of all the Team members in making the task of both officials an enjoyable one is required by their immediate acceptance of their decisions.

By accepting the responsibility of fishing for Wales, it must be clearly understood that anglers accept this code of conduct and its implications

## **FIPS/MER WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Each year the WFSA may enter two of its affiliated clubs to compete in the FIPS/MER World Club Championships. Any currently affiliated club that wishes to put forward their club team for this competition must apply and qualify through the following process:-

Eligible clubs will be those affiliated to the WFSA and remain so for the year of the competition itself.

Clubs will be notified of the following years event venue and likely date after the AGM in March. Clubs will be invited to submit their chosen team (maximum of 8 names to be listed with a team captain who will be responsible for co-ordinating the team) by 1st July.

If there are more than two teams interested in competing in the event then the Men's Shore Team Manager or delegated WFSA Officer will discuss with team captains a fish-off match to decide which teams will enter the championships.

Entry fees for the club team for the championships will be paid to the WFSA Treasurer, before the stated deadline, who will forward the payment to the organising nation.

Club teams will be responsible for all expenses involved in taking part in the event.

Club Teams competing in the Championships will be representing the WFSA and will be bound by its code of conduct.

A non-refundable entry fee of £500 per team is made to the WFSA on application and will be used to fund the entry of the two successful teams.

## **CHAMPIONSHIP AND COMPETITION RULES**

### **GENERAL**

1. The WFSA will promote annually, National Championships that it may from time to time decide to organise, National Championships will be given priority over Club and Regional open events. Regions or member Clubs desiring to organise a National Championship should make application to the General Secretary no later than eight weeks before the AGM. Clubs holding National Championships are to forward an agreed percentage of profits from the competition to the WFSA National body.

The WFSA will if needed appoint a representative to sit on the organising committee of any National Championship.

2. Names of Team members and reserves must be registered with the organisers prior to the commencement of the event where appropriate.

3. WFSA matches to be fished on a catch & release where possible returning all fish with care. All fish caught must be placed in a bucket of water prior to casting. The fish must be measured or weighed before the angler continues to reel in again. It should be returned in front of the witness. Any fish kept for the table should be killed immediately and humanly and have its tail cut. In the case of club catch and release matches the sizes and rules may be set by the event organisers.

4. Tackle - Only one rod and reel with running line may be used. A second rod may be assembled ready for use, but terminal tackle must not be attached. Hand lines, casting other than with a rod, or any (other) methods of angling are forbidden. A maximum of three hooks may be used, double and treble hooks will only count as one hook.

5. Pegged matches should be pegged with a minimum of 15 paces between anglers.

6. Foul hooked Fish - Any fish, which is deemed to be caught fairly, will register, and provided that it has been hooked by only one angler and is not landed on previously lost tackle.

7. Minimum Sizes - All fish brought to the scales for weighing must conform to the current WFSA fish size and weight and also those of the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs whichever is the greater. Catch and release match sizes and rules are at the event organisers discretion.

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

9. Fish Landing - Where the competitor does not have use of a suitable net, tailer or gaff or where it would be impracticable to use any of these methods he 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 waterline or boat side, and it can be lifted immediately clear of the surface and not be pulled through the water towards the competitor.

10. End of Contest - Competitors must commence reeling in at the end of a prescribed fishing time. Competitors with a large fish in play at the time may have time to land the fish. A fish will be deemed to be in play if the tackle is not snagged, running free and the fish capable of taking line. Any cause for late arrival at the weigh in must be reported in writing to the organising committee, and any decision by the committee will be final and binding.

11. Rejection of Certain Species - Certain species may not be accepted as part of the catch these species are listed by the organising committee of the event and should be checked on entry to the event. However, these species may be weighed for a specimen prize where applicable. No species protected by the law will be accepted or considered for acceptance under any circumstances.

12. Protests and Disputes - All protests must be lodged in writing to the organising committee within an hour of the competition finishing. The decision of the organiser, or if applicable, the adjudicators will be final.

13. Tying - In event of a tie for the heaviest bag of fish or aggregate length of fish, the award shall go to the one whose catch contains the greater number of fish. Then if there is still a tie then the competitor with the longest fish, then if this is tied then the longest pair of fish.

14. Weighing Time - No bags of fish, or if the case may be, single fish, shall be accepted for weighing after the specified time, unless subject of rule 12. No fish shall be returned to the competitors until after the weigh in has been completed. Bags of fish or single fish shall be the responsibility of the competitor until accepted by the weigh in steward.

15. Responsibility - The WFSA accepts no responsibility for the loss of any item/s which may occur during or by reason of any competition.

16. At no time during the playing of a fish shall the rod be supported wholly or in part except by the competitor in question. This is applicable to competition fishing from piers, shores, breakwaters, boats etc. Harness may be used.

17. Competition advertising must clearly state the classification of the prizes or award list: i.e. Heaviest Fish, Best Specimen, Aggregate Weight etc.

18. Acceptance of the competition rules is a condition of entry and participation. Competitors should make themselves familiar with all notices posted at the competition headquarters

19. The leaving of litter of any description on the beach is prohibited in any competitions organised by the WFSA and it's affiliated, clubs. Any angler reported for leaving litter on the beach, via the WFSA Protests and Disputes procedure, if proven guilty, will receive a formal warning. A second offence could result in a ban from fishing events organised by the WFSA or it's associated clubs. .

### **RULES APPERTAINING TO SHORE EVENTS**

1. Only in the case of a person being incapable of casting for themselves is it permissible for assistance to be given; even then, only with the permission of an organising steward.

2. Wading above mid-thigh is not permitted.

### **RULES APPERTAINING TO BOAT EVENTS**

1. No complete team will be allowed to fish together in the same boat except in a specifically advertised event.

2. No person or persons will be allowed to reserve a boat for their own use in any open Championship, except in one that is specifically organised to allow this, as in the case of specifically advertised small boat event. The organising committee shall be responsible for organising by ballot the competitors for each boat.

3. The organising committee shall be responsible for organising by ballot the competitors for each boat. This selection to take place after registration and prior to the championship or event; the procedure will be as follows:-

The names of all competitors will be placed in a container and the names of all the boats be placed in another container.

The name of the first boat will then be drawn out and the number of required competitors to fill this boat will then be drawn.

In the case of International teams participating then all of their names shall be placed in a separate container and drawn out against individual boat names in the first instance, ensuring that no international team has more than one team member per boat, as far as is practical in relation to the number of boats available.

4. A boat captain will be designated to take charge of each boat, as far as angling is concerned. The boat captain should not be a member of an international team. They will be responsible for the following:-

Liaison with the skipper of the boat

Observance of the rules.

Observance of the commencement and finishing times for fishing.

The drawing of boat positions, once they are decided they will be strictly adhered to.

The reporting of any matter concerning safety or well-being of competitors and any incident relevant to the late return of the boat.

5. In all boat competitions a points system will be used. The fish points system will be pre-arranged at regional level.

6. In all national boat qualifiers a percentage system will be used. The percentage system will be:-

(a) 1st place = 100%

(b) 2nd place = 2nd place competitors point score divided by the top score to yield a % and so on until the last place.

7. Conger Eel & other large un-net able fish - in the interests of conservation when a large fish is fairly hooked, deemed to be beaten and in gaffing distance of the boat, then a token of gesture by the skipper or other elected responsible person should suffice the fish to be released at the side of the boat.

8. Results of the day will be placed on all notice boards at the Championship Headquarters as soon as completed as to a basis for records of the day.

9. Movement of the boat during fishing time will be undertaken when:

(a) The boat skipper decides that for some reason the boat position is unsafe.

(b) By majority vote of the competitors.

10. The organising committee may, with permission of the federation, change a rule or make additional rules to meet local conditions.

Note; Organisers will ensure that all boats booked are fully licensed and insured for the anglers that they carry.

## **METHOD OF CAPTURE – Specimen Awards and Record claims**

Fish caught at sea will be eligible for consideration for awards if the boat used has set out from a port in Wales and returns to a Welsh port within a period of 24 hours, without having called at any port outside Wales. Except for the award for the best specimen fish caught outside of Wales

Claims can only be accepted in respect of fish caught with rod and line and rule 6 of the Championship and competition rules applies.

Shore fishing is defined as from the landmass of Wales, or an immovable object attached to the landmass of Wales, i.e. a pier, permanent breakwater, a bridge or an island which is part of the Principality. Or a permanent breakwater offshore

No claims will be accepted for specimen awards or record claims where the fish has been played or rod handled by more than one angler

## **BASIC CLAIMS PROCEDURE - for Specimen Awards and Welsh Records**

Claim forms must be completed in BLOCK CAPITALS in full and sent to the Regional or National Fish Recorder no later than 14 days after the capture of the fish. It is the responsibility of the captor to ensure that this form is completed correctly and handed to the Regional or National Fish Recorder or posted in time. Claim forms can be downloaded from the WFSA website

No fish needs to be killed in pursuit of a claim for a specimen or record.

For Specimen awards one witness is required and for a Welsh Record claim two witnesses are required for capture and weight

If no witnesses or witnesses are available the claimant MUST verify the claim by affidavit.

All claims should be accompanied by clear photographic evidence. But where a Welsh record fish is to be claimed the fish should also be photographed alongside a measure. Numerous photographs should be taken of the fish to substantiate the claim. Welsh record claims must be weighed on certified scales.

For Welsh Record claims where identification is difficult or questionable positive means of identification must be submitted with the claim form such as clear photographs or a Department of Marine Biology Certificate.

Specimens weighed on board a boat will be accepted. However, to enter into a Trophy award the fish must be accompanied by a colour photograph.

Tope, sharks & smoothound may be assessed by using the girth/ linear chart (also distributed) with measurements taken as per the diagram. These species may also be weighed on board as per the above paragraph.

All claims for Welsh Record fish will be discussed on their individual merit. Claimant should make all efforts to get good measurements, photos etc. At least two independent witnesses to independently certify length and girth measurements for sharks such as tope, blue shark etc.

Fish entered for Welsh record purposes may be weighed on scales or steelyards used for the sale of goods to the general public (shop scales) and which are subject to weights and measures department scrutiny. If a club or individually owned scales are used then this must carry a weights and measures certificate of accuracy. A copy of such a test certificate must be sent to the Fish Recorder with the initial claim subsequent entries need only provide the relevant data.

The sensitivity of the scales should be appropriate to the size of the fish i.e. small fish should be weighed on finely graduated scales.

A stamped addressed envelope must accompany any claim if a receipt is required. The Fish Recorder will not accept any claim queries without production of a receipt

A specimen claim form may be submitted on behalf of a club member by the clubs official Fish Recorder, provided a club claim form has been completed and signed by the captor and witnessed and handed to the National Fish Recorder. The captor's signature may then be omitted and the form duly signed by the Fish Recorder instead of the Chairman or Secretary.

If no witness to capture is available, the claimant may verify the claim by affidavit.

Fish Recorders reserve the right to reject any claim where the rules have not been adhered to.

Regional Fish Recorders will send a monthly return to the National Fish Recorder.

There is one nationally recognised procedure for calculating fish percentages for specimen awards. This is to work out the specimen fish weight in relation to the Welsh Record weight. Copies of this procedure are available from the National Fish Recorder.

All record claims will be discussed and either accepted or rejected at the next NEC meeting following the claim submission. At least 60% of the appointed officials must be present the NEC meeting to discuss any claim or claims. Should less than 60% be present at the following meeting then all outstanding claims will be discussed and written submissions from absent members regarding held over claims

will be taken into account and a decision will be taken to accept or reject the claim at that meeting.

COMPLAINTS - Where a record claim is made or ratified by the National Executive Committee and declared a Welsh record, individuals or organizations who wish to object to the claim must do so in writing to the National Fish Recorder or General Secretary within 28 days. The official letter of complaint must be accompanied by a payment of £25.00. Where objections are upheld and evidence provided leads to the claim being dismissed the complaint fee will be returned. If complaints are received after the 28 day time limit they will be dismissed and any payments made will be refunded.

### **Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers Award List**

The award list will commence from the 1st January and end on the 31st December each year. Claims must be received by the Regional or National Fish Recorder within 10 days of capture –the postmark of the envelope will be used to determine this rule. It is the responsibility of the individual submitting the claim to ensure that this rule is complied with.

### **Champion of Wales Cup**

Awarded annually to the best individual match angler in Wales. Qualifying process:-

- a) Each currently affiliated club may nominate 3 anglers.
- b) The current years International Team qualifiers, the top 6 from the boat and each shore discipline.
- c) Personal Members – the top 6 anglers from each PM regional section.
- d) Regional events – top 6 from nominated qualifier events
- e) Selected open competition winners
- f) All past winners of the championship

### **Specimen of the month awards**

Awarded monthly to the anglers catching the best specimen during the given month from both boat and shore

### **Best specimen of the year awards**

Annual awards are given to the captors of the best species of the year in the following categories: boat, shore, ladies, junior, Personal members, mini species, best out of area specimen & Specimen Hunter of the Year award. The Specimen Hunter of the Year Award will be awarded to the person submitting the greatest

number of specimen claims for the greatest number of different species. Only the largest specimen of each species will count.

### **Junior Championship**

The junior champion will be awarded the Junior Championship Trophy annually

### **Surfcasting**

#### **Minimum requirement**

The 'Club' needs to hold the relevant Insurance to cover casting events and have a democratic constitution to ensure fair play.

The 'Club' event should be open to all members of the public able to hold a rod and reel of all genders and abilities.

The casting court can be set out in either meters or yards provided there is a minimum of three lines consisting of a non-stretch material either nylon wrapping tape or steel wire (as used by the UKSF) with set measurements marked and set out appropriately.

The court will have two outer lines and a centre line which will form a fan shape generally set out with flagged markers showing distance spaced generally 180,220,240,260 using string whilst the 200 marker will be of a constant measure generally made from nylon tape that forms the court radius enabling all lines to be kept straight from the 'ochey' which form the typical fan shape of the court.

Personal Best Casts can be measured from the nearest line to the 'ochey' using an engineering tape in imperial or metric depending on whether the actual casting court is set out in yards or meters.

Welsh Record Claims, provided the event is an open and conforms to all criteria set out by the WFSA, records can be set.

The cast must be measured by no less than 2 witness's including the caster no less than three measurements in as straight a line as possible using an engineering tape preferably 100m in length from the centre of the 'oche' to the point where the lead has landed in the soil. Please note a meter wheel cannot be used as it will not be accurate enough.

The witnessing casters should ideally be a member of the Club/organisations committee and preferably an away/travelling caster this will remove any bias in the event of discrepancy.

Whilst the cast has been set and the line is out a micrometer should be used every 20 meters to ensure that the line diameter matches the criteria set for the

line/weight ratio as set down by the UKSF (we use this formula as a yard stick both Nationally and Internationally).

Line to weight ratio - .25 x 100g, .28 x 125g, .31 x 150g & .35 x 175g.

After measuring the cast x 3 an average can be taken giving a true account of what should be a great occasion.

Provided the criteria have been met, set by the Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers and on completion of ratification by the National Executive Committee the record can be claimed.

If the claim is from a Welsh club that is not affiliated to the WFSA then proof of insurance must be submitted with the claim.

### **Distance and Accuracy Casting**

Awards will be given to the winners of the annual distance and casting event for men, women and juniors.

### **WFSA National Championships**

There are six National Championships each year, these can be hosted by any affiliated Club who will organise the event and advertise it as a National Championship. The WFSA will provide the trophy for the event and the host club will give an agreed amount of income for the WFSA. Hosting a national event is good advertising for your Club.

The categories are: bass, conger, ray, flounder, and cod. And the All Wales Championships for ladies, junior, youth, pairs and teams. To host one of these events the Club must apply in writing to the National Executive for approval. These championships will be awarded to clubs or regions on a first come first served basis each year.

October 2017