

# AMERICAN CASTING ASSOCIATION

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



[AmericanCastingAssoc.org](http://AmericanCastingAssoc.org)

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## **CORRESPONDENCE TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS**

These regulations shall constitute the procedures governing the conduct of the Annual Correspondence Tournament.

The Board of Directors of the Association shall decide any questions not covered by these regulations.

- 1. OCCURRENCE** - At the discretion of the Board of Directors, the American Casting Association may, in conjunction with the Registered Tournament program, sponsor a Correspondence Tournament as described herein.
- 2. ELIGIBILITY** - All casters eligible to compete for Association awards in a Registered Tournament shall be eligible.
- 3. STATUS** - The Annual Correspondence Tournament shall be recognized as a national competition and appropriate awards shall be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association.
- 4. TOURNAMENT YEAR** - The tournament year shall be from June 1 through the following May 31.
- 5. CATEGORIES, DIVISIONS AND EVENTS** - Both individual and club categories shall be recognized:
  - A) Individual Category** - In the Individual Category the Divisions and Events shall consist of a Men's Division, a Senior Division, a Women's Division, an Intermediate Division, a Junior Division, and a Youth Division. In all Divisions except the Youth Division the Events will consist of Accuracy Flies, Accuracy Plugs, and All Accuracy. The Event in the Youth Division will be Accuracy Plugs.
  - B) Club Category** - In the Club Category there shall be one (1) competitive division in each of the following events: Dry fly Accuracy, Trout Fly Accuracy, Bass Bug Accuracy, 1/4oz. (7.5g) Plug Accuracy, 3/8oz. Plug Accuracy, 5/8oz. (18g) Plug Accuracy, Accuracy Flies, Accuracy Plugs, and All Accuracy.
- 6. SOURCES OF SCORES** - All Registered Tournament scores shall be included in the Annual Correspondence Tournament provided that they have been received by the Executive Secretary of the Association within thirty (30) days following the end of the Tournament Year in which they were cast.
- 7. FEES** - There shall be no additional fee for participation.
- 8. DETERMINATION OF WINNERS**
  - A) Individual Category** - The winner of each championship in each competitive division listed in Correspondence Tournament Regulation 5A shall be the caster having the highest total score using the caster's highest two (2) scores from each event in the respective combined championship from all registered tournament held during the Correspondence Tournament Year.
  - B) Club Category** - The winner of each Event, listed in Correspondence Tournament Regulation 5B, shall be the Club with the highest total score cast at any two (2) Registered Tournaments, by any five (5) members of that Club. There must be at least five (5) scores available at a given Registered Tournament for a given event before any scores for that event will count. A caster who is a member of more than one (1) Club shall declare at the time of registration the Club to which the scores are to be credited. In case of ties duplicate awards shall be given.

## **CERTIFIED CASTING INSTRUCTOR REGULATIONS**

These regulations shall constitute the procedures governing the certification by the Association of casting instructors. The objectives and jurisdictions of the American Casting Association shall prevail in deciding any questions that may arise that are not covered by these regulations.

- 1. PURPOSE** - The American Casting Association has established the certification of casting instructors as one mechanism of enhancing its educational efforts to promote, encourage and develop the casting phase of outdoor recreational programs.
- 2. CERTIFICATION LEVELS** - There shall be two (2) certification levels. Qualifications and duties for each shall be as indicated below:
  - A) Key Certified Casting Instructor**
    - i) Qualification** - A Key Certified Casting Instructor
      - a) shall meet the competency standards of Regulation 3 below in all basic types of accuracy oriented fresh water casting equipment.
      - b) shall be capable of fulfilling the duties of this level
      - c) shall have a minimum of five (5) years experience in tournament casting in, at least, the district level.
      - d) must be eligible to compete for Association awards in a Registered Tournament.
    - ii) Duties** - A Key Certified Casting Instructor shall be prepared to endorse candidates who are qualified to serve at this level and to approve candidates for the Certified Casting Instructor level. In addition, Key Certified Casting Instructors must be prepared to coordinate or act in an advisory capacity for casting clinics, workshops, etc. at various locations and to otherwise assist in other activities.
  - B) Certified Casting Instructor**
    - i) Qualification** - A Key Certified Casting Instructor shall meet the competency standards of Regulation 3 below in at least one basic type of accuracy oriented fresh water casting equipment and shall be capable of fulfilling the duties at this level. There shall be no Association membership requirement for certification at this level.
    - ii) Duties** - A Certified Casting Instructor shall be prepared to instruct others in casting in their area of expertise and generally to assist Key Certified Casting Instructors as required.
- 3. COMPETENCY STANDARDS** - Candidates for either level shall record a minimum score of eighty-five (85) points in ACA recognized fly accuracy events or revolving-spool plug accuracy events and eighty (80) points in spinning plug accuracy events.
- 4. CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE** - Candidates for the Key Certified Instructor level shall make application for approval to the Executive Secretary of the Association, using a form approved by the Board of Directors and provided for this purpose. The appropriate registration fee must accompany the application. If possible, the form should be endorsed by a Key Certified Casting Instructor.
- 5. REGISTRATION FEE** - A one-time registration fee of ten dollars (\$10) shall be assessed for certification at either level.

## MASTER ANGLER AWARD REGULATIONS

These regulations shall constitute the procedures governing the Master Angler Award. The objectives and jurisdictions of the American Casting Association shall prevail in deciding any question that may arise that are not covered by these regulations.

- 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF AWARD** - The American Casting Association has established the Master Angler Award as one mechanism of enhancing its efforts to promote, encourage and develop the angling phase of outdoor recreational programs.
- 2. ELIGIBILITY** - All casters eligible to compete for Association awards in a Registered Tournament shall be eligible provided that any fish caught must be legally caught by casting an artificial lure. Specifically, fish caught by trolling or with live bait shall not be considered.
- 3. JURISDICTION** - Fish must be caught from U.S. or Canadian waters.
- 4. SPECIES AND WEIGHTS** - Eligible species of fish and minimum weight are:

Largemouth Bass*	5 lb.
Smallmouth Bass	4 lb.
Crappie	2 lb.
White Bass	2 lb.
Bluegill	1 lb.
Brown Trout	4 lb.
Rainbow Trout	4 lb.
Speckled Trout	4 lb.
Northern Pike	10 lb.
Muskellunge	15 lb.
Walleye	5 lb.
Coho Salmon	8 lb.
Chinook Salmon	12 lb.
- 5. APPLICATION** - Application for the Master Angler Award shall be made to the Executive Secretary of the Association using a form approved by the Board of Directors and provided for this purpose. Weight of fish must be taken from certified scales in commercial use and shall be attested to by scale owner or his agent. Photograph of fish showing full side view and distinct enough that species is identifiable shall accompany the application and shall become the property of the Association.
- 6. AWARD** - An appropriate award and certificate shall be sent to each angler who fulfills the above requirements and qualifications.

\*A minimum weight of 6 lb. is required from states of Texas, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Arkansas.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **5/8 Oz. (18g) TEAM ACCURACY**

1. **EVENT RULES** - The rules of the Accuracy Plug 5/8oz. event shall govern the Team Accuracy Plug 5/8oz. (18g) event except as stated herein.
2. **QUALIFICATION** - Any Member Club or Affiliated Club may enter no more than two (2) teams at an Annual tournament.
3. **COMPOSITION OF TEAM** – Each team representing a club shall consist of at least four (4) but no more than five (5) casters who are members of that club and have registered as such.
4. **CASTING CONFIGURATION** - The team shall stand in line facing the targets and maintain their casting positions until the program is completed. However, if in the opinion of the tournament captain, the above specified casting configuration is deemed to be impractical because of existing physical conditions, the team may cast one member at a time in the box. All members shall have cast at the first target before moving on to the second target. This procedure is repeated until all team members have cast at all ten (10) targets.
5. **CAPTAIN** - The Captain, at his option, may or may not cast with the team.
6. **OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE** - As a unit, the team shall be responsible for its resulting score and interference by a team member or by the Captain shall not be deemed outside interference.
7. **CASTING ORDER** - The order in which the teams shall compete and the stations from which they shall cast, if there is more than one station, shall be determined by lot.
8. **TEAM SCORE** – The team score shall be the sum of the best four (4) individual scores.
9. **AWARDS** - Individual or team trophies or emblems may be awarded.

### **SKISH PLUG ACCURACY**

#### **1. EQUIPMENT**

- A) **Rod** - Unrestricted
- B) **Reel** - Revolving Spool
- C) **Line** - Unrestricted
- D) **Plug** - Any official 5/8oz. Accuracy plug adopted by the Association

#### **2. METHOD OF CASTING**

##### **A) Casting Program**

- i) **General** - The casting program shall consist of a total of twenty (20) scoring casts, using one (1) of the target options of Accuracy Plug Rules Section 2A, in the order and as directed by the Tournament Captain. All casters shall cast the same order of targets.
- ii) **Scoring Cast** - A scoring cast is made from the casting box.
- iii) **Responsibility** - After stepping into the casting box, the caster shall be responsible for the results and accept the score and penalties as assessed by the Judge.

##### **B) Casting Style** - Singlehanded

- C) **Procedure** - The casting procedure will depend upon the selected target course option of Accuracy Plug Rules Section 2A, and will follow, in general, the method specified under Accuracy Plug Rules Section 3C, except that two (2) casts shall be made successively at each target.

#### **3. METHOD OF SCORING**

- A) **General** - The successive casts at each target shall be scored as follows: On the first cast, a plug falling within or on any portion of the target above the waterline shall be scored a “perfect” and shall be given six (6) points. The second successive perfect cast shall be scored four (4) points. If a plug falls outside of the target, the cast shall be scored zero (0) regardless of where the plug lands.
- B) **Casters Score** - The total number of points shall constitute the caster’s score.
- C) **Ties** - In the event that two (2) or more casters complete the Event with identical scores, the caster having made the greatest number of initial perfects shall receive the higher position. If, after this determination, a tie still exists, the cast off procedure shall be used.

### **SPIN CAST ACCURACY**

## 1. EQUIPMENT

- A) **Rod** - Unrestricted
- B) **Reel** - Shall have a fixed spool with a mechanical thumbing device that must be the sole means of stopping the line.
- C) **Line** - Unrestricted
- D) **Plug** - Any official 5/8oz. (18g) accuracy plug adopted by the Association.

## 2. TARGETS, CASTING AND SCORING – The rules of the Accuracy Plug 5/8oz. (18g) shall apply.

### SKISH FLY ACCURACY

## 1. EQUIPMENT

- A) **Rod** - Unrestricted
- B) **Reel** - Unrestricted
- C) **Line** - Unrestricted
- D) **Leader** - Unrestricted
- E) **Fly**

- i) Description - Official dry fly adopted by the Association.
- ii) Application - Only one fly may be attached to the leader at the tip end. The fly may be changed, or a lost fly replaced, at any time with a fly approved by the Judge.

## 2. TARGET COURSE

- A) **Size** - Five (5) targets shall constitute the course. Each target shall be anchored so that the total movement for any reason will not exceed one (1) foot in any direction, except that at no time shall the distance of a near target be less than the minimum distance specified in Section 2Bi, nor the distance of the far target be greater than the maximum distance specified in Section 2Bii.

### B) Distance

- i) Near Target - The near target shall be placed at twenty (20) feet, as measured from the center of the target to the center of the front edge of the casting box.
- ii) Far Target - The far target shall be placed at forty (40) feet, as measured from the center of the target to the center of the front edge of the casting box.
- iii) Other Targets - The three (3) remaining targets shall be placed randomly in the intervening space and not in a straight line, perpendicular to the casting box.

## 3. METHOD OF CASTING

### A) Casting Program

- i) General - The casting program shall consist of three (3) rounds, a Dry Fly round, a Roll Cast Round, and a Wet Fly Round. The caster shall enter the casting box before beginning the casting program. After stepping into the box, the caster shall be responsible for the results and shall accept the score and penalties assessed by the Judge.
- ii) Order of Targets - In each round the caster shall start with the target nearest the casting box and shall move from left to right, finishing with the closest right-hand target
- iii) Casting Style - Singlehanded

## 4. DRY FLY ROUND

### A) Procedure

- i) General - The Dry Fly round shall consist of fifteen (15) final forward casts, consisting of the three (3) successive final forward casts to each target.
- ii) Initial - Caster shall start with fly in hand and no more than leader plus two feet of line extending beyond the rod tip.
- iii) False Cast - The false cast, in which the line, leader, and fly are moved through the air without intentionally striking the surface in front of the casting box, is the mechanism for letting line out, or retrieving line, and measuring distance to the next target. The rod must be in motion, in the act of making a false cast, to strip line from the reel. Caster has the option of holding loose line in either hand or of letting it drop. Caster shall not allow fly to dangle or to be brought over the target in spite of wind conditions. At least one false cast must be made between any two final forward casts.
- iv) Final forward Cast - Whenever the intact line, leader and fly settles in front of the casting box, on a final forward cast, it shall be scored for accuracy. The front edge of the casting box shall be

defined as an imaginary line extending one hundred eight (180) degrees out from each side of the front edge of the casting box. Laying down the extended line, leader and fly anywhere behind the front edge of the casting box is acceptable.

- v) Sunken fly - A fly shall float and be left floating a few seconds. After the Judge has ascertained whether or not the fly is floating, they shall call "score" and the caster shall proceed to the next target.

#### **B) Penalties**

- i) Improper Strip - Should the caster strip line from the reel or pull line in through the guides while the fly is on the surface, in front of the casting box, and the rod is not in motion, in the act of making a cast, a score of zero (0) shall be assessed for what would otherwise be the next cast.
- ii) Tick - Should the line, leader, or fly, extending beyond the rod tip, strike the surface in front of the casting box during a false cast it shall be scored a tick. Penalty for a tick shall count during casting time, whether a caster is in or out of the casting box, and whether or not the fly is on. A score of zero (0) shall be assessed for each tick for what would otherwise be the next cast.
- iii) Sunken Fly - Should the fly fail to float, or sink and rise to the surface, on a final forward cast, it shall be scored as a sunken fly, and the score for that cast shall be zero (0) regardless of where the fly shall land. It is the intent of this rule to require that the final forward cast be laid delicately. The Judge must be cognizant of extreme water conditions that would not permit the fly to float no matter how delicately the delivery cast is made. The Judge must also be alert that small ripples caused when the fly lands on the water does not for that reason alone constitute a sunken fly.
- iv) Improper Retrieve - Should the caster lift the fly from the water, after a final forward cast, before the Judge calls score, it shall be called an improper retrieve. The penalty for an improper retrieve shall be a zero (0) score on what would otherwise be the next scoring cast.
- v) No False Cast - Should the caster make a final forward cast, without at least one false cast since the last scored final forward cast, that final forward cast shall be scored a zero (0).

#### **C) Time**

- i) General - After the caster enters the casting box, the judge shall announce the word "Ready" to determine if the caster is ready to begin and then announce the word "Start" or "Time Is In" which shall indicate that the event has begun. If in the opinion of the judge, the caster is stalling for time, whether in or out of the casting box, the judge shall issue a warning and at the judge's discretion shall announce that "Time Is In". Caster shall be allowed two and one-half (2 & 1/2) minutes to complete the Dry Fly round.
- ii) Time Out - There shall be no time out for any reason except for outside interference as determined by the Judge.
- iii) Penalty - If the caster has not completed the Dry Fly round within the allotted time, a score of zero (0) shall be assessed for each unfinished cast.

#### **D) Scoring**

- i) General - A fly landing in or on any portion of the target above the water line shall be scored a perfect. Only perfect casts shall score.
- ii) Points - A perfect on the first successive final forward cast on each target shall be scored five (5) points. A perfect on the second and third successive final forward casts, on each target, shall be scored three (3) points and two (2) points respectively.
- iii) Maximum Score - The maximum score in the Dry Fly round shall be fifty (50) points.

### **5. ROLL CAST ROUND**

#### **A) Procedure**

- i) General - The Roll Cast round shall consist of as many roll casts as necessary to score a perfect on each target before moving on to the next target without exceeding the time limit.
- ii) Initial - Caster shall begin with fly on the surface at the last scored cast of the Dry Fly round. If the caster received a zero (0) score, on the third successive cast on the last Dry Fly target because of a penalty, they shall lay the fly at the fifth (closest right-hand) target before beginning the Roll Cast round.
- iii) Roll Cast - A roll cast is defined as one in which the fly does not intentionally leave the water until the rod is in the deliberate forward motion. The caster may extend line in any way possible, except that false casts shall not be permitted.
- iv) Floating Fly - The fly does not have to float.

**B) Penalties** - If the caster makes a false cast, they must make at least one (1) roll cast before a perfect roll cast will be counted.

**C) Time**

- i) General - Time shall start when the fly strikes the surface on the first roll cast. Caster shall be allowed one and one-half (1 & 1/2) minutes to complete the Roll Cast round.
- ii) Time Out - There shall be no time out for any reason except for outside interference, as determined by the Judge.
- iii) Penalty - If the caster has not completed the Roll Cast round within the allotted time, a score of zero (0) shall be assessed for each target not reached.

**D) Scoring**

- i) General - A fly landing in or on any portion of the target shall be scored a perfect. Only perfect casts shall score.
- ii) Points - A perfect cast shall be scored five (5) points.
- iii) Maximum Score - The maximum score in the Roll Cast round shall be twenty-five (25) points.

**6. WET FLY ROUND**

**A) Procedure**

- i) General - The Wet Fly round shall consist of ten (10) final forward casts consisting of two (2) successive casts at each target.
- ii) Initial - At the conclusion of the Roll Cast round, the caster shall replace the line on the reel, and begin with fly in hand, and no more than leader plus two feet of line extending beyond rod tip.
- iii) Measuring Cast - Caster shall false cast to the first target and shall lay the fly on the water. The measuring cast shall not be a scoring cast. If the caster has stripped more line off the reel, than an amount necessary to reach the first target, the extra line must be wound on the reel while the fly is on the water for the measuring cast, before beginning the Wet Fly round.
- iv) False Casts - After the measuring cast, false casts shall not be permitted.
- v) Final Forward Casts - After the measuring cast, each cast made shall be a final forward cast. Two successive final forward casts shall be made at each target. The caster may strip line off the reel or retrieve line while the fly is on the water.
- vi) Floating Fly - The fly does not have to float.

**B) Penalties**

- i) False Cast - If the caster makes a false cast after the measuring cast is completed, the penalty shall be a zero (0) on what would otherwise be the next scoring cast.
- ii) Extra Line After Measuring Cast - If the caster does not wind extra line on the reel at the measuring cast, the first scoring cast shall be scored zero (0) regardless of where the fly shall land.

**C) Time**

- i) General - Time shall start when the fly strikes the surface on the measuring cast. Caster shall be allowed one and one-half (1 & 1/2) minutes to complete the Wet Fly round.
- ii) Time Out - There shall be no time out for any reason except for outside interference, as determined by the Judge.
- iii) Penalty - If the caster has not completed the Wet Fly round within the allotted time, a score of zero (0) shall be assessed for each unfinished cast.

**D) Scoring**

- i) General - A fly landing in or on any portion of the target above the water line shall be scored a perfect. Only perfects shall score.
- ii) Points - A perfect on the first successive final forward cast on each target shall be scored three (3) points. A perfect on the second successive final forward cast on each target shall be scored two (2) points.
- iii) Maximum Score - The maximum score in the Wet Fly round shall be twenty-five (25) points.

**7. INTERRUPTION OF CASTING PROGRAM** - In the event that the caster is interrupted they shall make a cast at the last target scored and proceed. If outside interference was involved, time shall begin when the cast at the last scored target is made.

**8. CASTER'S SCORE** - The caster's score shall be the net total points achieved in the Dry Fly, Roll Cast and Wet Fly rounds after deducting penalties.

9. **TIES** - In the event that two (2) or more casters complete the event with identical scores, the caster with the greatest number of initial perfects shall receive the highest position. If, after this determination, a tie still exists, the cast off procedure shall be used.

## WET FLY ACCURACY

### 1. EQUIPMENT

#### A) Rod

- i) Length - Shall not exceed nine feet, six inches (9'6") overall.
- ii) Weight - Unrestricted.

#### B) Reel - Unrestricted.

#### C) Line

- i) Type - Unrestricted.
- ii) Size - Maximum diameter shall not exceed 0.068 inches. Line shall not be fastened to the reel at less than fifty-five (55) feet nor marked in any way that would indicate distance.

#### D) Leader - Shall consist of a single leader of natural or artificial gut or gut substitute not less than six (6) feet in length.

#### F) Fly

- i) Description - Official Wet Fly adopted by the Association.
- ii) Application - Only one fly may be attached to the leader at the tip end. The fly may be changed at any time, or a lost fly replaced, with a fly approved by the Judge.

### 2. TARGET COURSE

#### A) Targets - Five (5) targets shall constitute the course. The targets shall be in a straight line normal to the front edge of the center of the casting box and anchored so that there is no target movement.

#### B) Distance

- i) Near Target - The near target shall be placed at thirty-five (35) feet, as measured from the center of the target to the center of the front edge of the casting box.
- ii) Far Target - The far target shall be placed at fifty-five (55) feet, as measured from the center of the target to the center of the front edge of the casting box.
- iii) Other Targets - The three (3) remaining targets shall be located in a straight line in the intervening space such that the distance between centers of any two adjacent targets shall be five (5) feet.

### 3. TIME

#### A) General - Time starts when caster steps into casting box. Caster shall be allowed five (5) minutes to complete the casting program without penalty.

#### B) Time Out - There shall be no time out for any reason except for outside interference, as determined by the Judge. The loss of a fly, unless that loss is caused by external contact such as a tree or a snag on a target, shall not be considered outside interference. The loss of a fly caused by striking any part of the casting platform shall not be considered outside interference.

#### C) Penalty - A penalty of three (3) demerits shall be assessed for each minute or fraction of a minute overtime.

### 4. METHOD OF CASTING

#### A) Casting Program

- i) General - The casting program shall consist of ten (10) final forward casts, consisting of two (2) successive final forward casts at each of the five (5) targets in the target course, beginning at the near target. After the first final forward cast on the near target, no false casts shall be permitted. Caster must enter casting box before beginning the casting program.
- ii) Responsibility - After stepping into the casting box, caster shall be responsible for the results and shall accept the score and penalties assessed by the Judge.

#### B) Casting Style - Singlehanded.

#### C) Procedure

- i) Initial - Caster shall start with fly or leader in hand and no more than leader plus two (2) feet of line extending beyond rod tip.

- ii) First Target - Caster shall work out to the near target in any way practical. When caster is ready to begin the casting program, they shall call "score" and make two (2) successive final forward casts at the near target.
- iii) Remaining Targets - After the second final forward cast at the near target, caster shall strip line from the reel and make a final forward cast at the next nearest target, followed by a second final forward cast at that target, and shall continue in a similar manner to each target in turn, finishing the casting program with a second successive final forward cast on the far target.
- iv) Stripping Line from Reel - Caster shall not strip so much line off the reel nor hold so much loose line in either hand so that further stripping between targets is unnecessary, nor shall caster attempt to measure the line by stripping along the rod.
- v) Floating Fly - The fly does not have to float.

**D) Penalties**

- i) False Cast - A penalty of three (3) demerits shall be assessed for each false cast made after the caster calls "score."
- ii) Improper Strip - Should the caster strip so much line from the reel or hold so much loose line in either hand that further stripping is unnecessary, or should caster attempt to measure the line by stripping along the rod, it shall be scored an improper strip. A penalty of three (3) demerits shall be assessed for each such strip.

**E) Interruption of Casting Program:** If the casting program is interrupted the caster shall have two options of recovery. The caster shall notify the Judge of the option selected.

- i) Caster shall retrieve all the line on the reel and begin on the first target as in Section 4C. The Judge shall begin scoring the casts at the point in the casting program where the interruption occurred.
- ii) Caster shall work out to the target preceding the target where the interruption occurred, call "score" and proceed as in Section 4C. The Judge shall begin scoring the casts at the point in the casting program where the interruption occurred.

**5. METHOD OF SCORING**

**A) General**

- i) No final forward cast shall be scored unless the line, leader, and fly are intact.
- ii) Each final forward cast shall be scored where the fly first strikes the water, or any portion of a target, a scoring ring, or the platform, in front of the casting box, regardless of where the fly may ultimately settle.

**B) Demerits for Accuracy**

- i) A fly falling within or on any portion of the target on a final forward cast shall be scored a perfect and shall be assessed zero (0) demerits.
- ii) For each foot or fraction thereof the fly misses the extreme edge of the target on a final forward cast a demerit of one (1) shall be assessed.
- iii) Maximum demerits for any single final forward cast shall be five (5).

**C) Demerits for Penalties** - Penalty demerits shall be in addition to accuracy demerits.

**D) Caster's Score** - One hundred (100) points less the total number of demerits for accuracy and for penalties shall constitute a caster's score.

**5WT COMBINATION ACCURACY AND DISTANCE EVENT**

**1. GENERAL**

The 5wt Combination event consists of accuracy and distance casting with a 5-weight line. The accuracy and distance parts may be cast as separate event(s) according to the following rules and regulations.

**2. EQUIPMENT**

- A) Rod** – Rod length shall not exceed nine feet (9') overall. A measurement tolerance of one inch (1") shall be permitted. Only one rod may be used during the course of the event unless the judge declares a damaged rod as unusable.
- B) Reel** – Unrestricted, must be attached to the rod for all scoring casts. The line and leader and any backing used to compete in the event must fit completely onto the reel and must be carried on the reel prior to the event.

- C) **Line** – The line shall be a floating weight-forward line that meets the following specifications:
- i) **Length** – The first eighty feet (80') of the base fly line must be one piece – without any splices.
  - ii) **Weight** – The mass of the first forty feet (40') of fly line plus the leader shall not exceed 12.50 grams (193 grains).
  - iii) **Running line** – All line after the head of the fly line is considered running line. Additional level running line may be added to the base line in any practical way. All running line must have a diameter of a least 0.031" and at most 0.037".
  - iv) **Head** – The entire part of the fly line in front of the running line – including all tapers and tip section – is considered the head of the fly line. The head of the fly line must be 35' to 42' long, i.e. the diameter of the level running line must be reached no less than 35' and no more than 42' from the tip of the fly line. The head length requirement shall be met without stretching.
  - v) **Specific gravity** – The head and all parts of the running line must be of floating material.
- D) **Leader** - Shall be constructed of monofilament with a minimum of 7' and a maximum of 9 1/2' in length with a maximum tippet diameter of .009" (including any knots) and minimum tippet length of 18". The length of the leader is measured from the tip of the fly line to the eye of the fly.
- E) **Fly** – A single tournament dry fly with hackle not less than three-fourth inch (3/4") and not more than one (1) inch in diameter may be attached to the leader at the tip end. An attached or lost fly may be replaced at any time with a fly approved by the judge.

### 3. COURSE

- A) **Accuracy** – A square casting box four feet (4') on each side and five (5) targets shall constitute the course. The course may be laid out on any suitable casting surface such as water, grass, or carpet. The casting box may be at the same level as the targets and, if elevated, should not be higher than 18". Each target consists of two concentric rings with outer diameters of thirty inches (30") and fifty-four inches (54"). The ring cross section shall be no more than 1.5". The outer ring must not have a cross section larger than the inner ring. Each target shall be secured in place so that the total movement for any reason will not exceed one (1) foot in any direction. The first target shall be centered in front of the casting box at a distance of 20'-25'. The second target – called the obstacle target - shall be located directly behind and touching the first target. The third and fourth targets shall be at a distance of 35'-40' and 45'-50', respectively. The fifth target – called the bonus target - shall be at a distance of 60'-80', depending on the level of the competition.
- B) **Distance** – The casting box used for distance has the same dimensions as the box for accuracy. If accuracy and distance are cast as a combination, one and the same box is used for both. The distance will be measured along a real or imagined centerline extending perpendicularly from the front edge of the casting box. The space available for landing the fly – the casting lane – must extend at least five feet (5') to each side of that centerline. Lines perpendicular to the centerline, or other means that do not obstruct the casting nor the retrieval of line, may be used to mark certain distances and to determine the position of the fly to the nearest foot.

### 4. TIME

- A) **General** – Each caster shall be allotted time for preparing for the event and time for casting the event.
- B) **Preparation time** – Preparation time starts when the judge has called up the caster and declared the casting box as "open". The caster may use prep time to strip line off the reel and arrange it on the ground in any practical way – with or without assistance. Preparation time ends when one (1) minute expires or the caster declares readiness for start, whichever occurs first.
- C) **Casting time** – The time allotted for casting the 5wt combination shall be five (5) minutes. If accuracy is cast as a separate event, the allotted time shall be three (3) minutes. If distance is cast as a separate event, the allotted time shall be three (3) minutes. The following procedure shall be used to start the casting time. When the caster appears to be ready for the event, but not later than fifty seconds after the beginning of prep time, the judge shall ask: "Caster ready?" Upon a positive reply from the caster or when one minute of prep time has expired, the judge begins the casting time by calling "Start." No score can be obtained

from casts completed after the casting time has expired. A cast counts as completed during casting time when the forward motion of the rod has stopped before time expires.

- D) Time Out** - There shall be no time out for any reason except for outside interference as determined by the Judge. The judge shall only consider unusual interfering circumstances such as third persons, pets, or trees in the course or in the back-cast area as outside interference.

## 5. METHOD OF CASTING

- A) Combination** – The 5wt-combination casting program consists of the accuracy and distance casting as described in sections 6 and 7. A caster must complete all accuracy casts before any distance casts may be scored. There is no time-out or break between the accuracy and distance parts.
- B) Casting Style** – Unrestricted.
- C) Definitions**
- i)** A caster is considered in the casting box when at least one foot is on or above the casting box and no part of the caster or any attached clothing touches the surface in front of the casting box.
  - ii)** When the intact line, leader, and fly settle on the surface or targets in front of the casting box, it shall be considered a final forward cast.

## 6. ACCURACY

- A) Initial** – The caster must begin while meeting the following four conditions simultaneously:
- a) The caster is in the box.
  - b) Caster does not hold loose line in any way that could indicate distance to any target.
  - c) No more than two feet of fly line are extended beyond the rod tip.
  - d) The caster holds the fly in hand.
- No final forward cast will count as a scoring cast until the caster has met all four conditions simultaneously during casting time as determined by the judge.
- B) Target order** – After meeting the initial conditions, the caster shall make a total of eight (8) final forward casts at the targets in the following order: first target, third target, fourth target, first target, obstacle target, third target, fourth target, and bonus target.
- C) Scoring** – Each final forward cast shall be scored where the fly first strikes the casting surface, any portion of a target, or the platform in front of the casting box, regardless of where the fly may ultimately settle. The casting surface inside of the center ring and any part of the center ring above the casting surface scores 500 points. The casting surface between the center ring and the outer ring and any part of the outer ring above the casting surface scores 300 points. Anything outside the outside ring scores 100 points.
- D) Total Score** – The total score for accuracy is the sum of the scores achieved on all targets, at which the caster has cast during casting time, minus the sum of all assessed penalties. In a 5wt combination event, this accuracy score will be added to the distance score.
- E) Penalties** – Penalties are assessed towards the score on the next target at which the caster is supposed to cast. Multiple penalties may be assessed as appropriate. The sum of all such penalties shall be limited to the score achieved at that target. The penalties are:
- a) Tick** – Should the line extended beyond the rod tip, the leader, or the fly strike the casting surface in front of the casting box or any target when no final forward cast was performed, it shall be scored a tick. The penalty for a tick shall count during the entire casting time, whether caster is in or out of casting box and whether or not the fly is on. The penalty for each tick shall be 10% of the score achieved on the next target.
  - b) Obstacle target** – The objective when casting at the obstacle target is to have the line and leader settle without crossing any part of the first target – the obstacle. In case the caster fails to meet that objective, the following penalties are assessed: 400 points if the settled line or leader crosses the inner ring of the first target, 200 points if the settled line or leader crosses the outer ring the outer ring, but not the inner ring, of the first target.
  - c) Out-of-the-box** – A penalty equal to the entire score achieved on the target shall be assessed if the caster performs a final forward cast without being in the box.
  - d) Illegal strip** – A penalty equal to the entire score achieved on the next target shall be assessed if the caster measures line along the rod.

- e) **Early retrieve** – A penalty equal to the entire score achieved on the target shall be assessed if the caster lifts the fly off the casting surface after making a final forward cast before the judge calls “score.”
- f) **Lost fly** – No penalty shall be assessed for the loss of a fly or for a lost fly falling onto the casting surface. A lost or attached fly may be replaced at any time with a fly approved by the judge.

## 7. DISTANCE

- A) **General** – When the casters transition from the accuracy part to the distance part in a combination event or when the caster begins a distance-only event, no special conditions (such as those required for the accuracy part) need to be met.
- B) **SCORING** – The point where the fly first strikes the casting surface in front of the casting box during a final forward cast is used to determine the distance of that cast. All distances are measured along the real or imagined centerline extending perpendicularly from the front edge of the casting box. A real or imaginary square is placed such that one edge is on the centerline and the other edge crosses the spot where the fly first struck the casting surface. The distance of the cast is the distance between corner of the square and the front edge of the casting box. The distance shall be determined accurate to the nearest foot. The score is the number of feet times ten (10).
- C) **Number of casts** – The caster is permitted to make any number of casts during the allotted time. In a 5wt combination event, the scores of the best two (2) casts will be kept and the sum of their scores will be added to the accuracy score. In a distance-only event, the two (2) best casts will be kept. The caster’s longest cast is used to determine the score. The second longest cast shall be recorded, but is only used to break a tie. If a tie still exists, the cast-off procedure described below will be used.
- D) **Penalties** –
  - i) **Ticks** – There are no penalties for ticks.
  - ii) **Out of the box** – If a caster performs a final forward cast without being in the box, the cast is invalid and has a zero score.
  - iii) **Out of bounds** – If a cast was directed such that the fly cannot land on the casting surface, the cast is invalid and has a zero score.
  - iv) **Early retrieve** – If a caster retrieves line before the judge calls “score”, the cast is invalid and has a zero score.
  - v) **Lost fly** – No penalty shall be assessed for the loss of a fly or for a lost fly falling onto the casting surface.

## 8. CAST-OFFS

In case of a tie for any place earning an award such as prizes or medals, cast-offs shall be performed to determine the final order. The rules for the cast-offs differ slightly from the regular event rules as outlined in the following.

- A) **Combination Event** – The casters are given two (2) minutes of casting time to perform the following casts: accuracy casts at the first target, the obstacle target, the third target, the fourth target, and the fifth target, then any number of distance casts of which only the best cast is added to the cast-off score. The general procedure including prep time and initial conditions remains unchanged.
- B) **Accuracy Event** – No changes to the event rules apply. Tied casters cast again until the tie is broken.
- C) **Distance Event** – The casters are given one (1) minute of casting time to perform one (1) cast. The longer cast wins. The general procedure including prep time remains unchanged.

## 5/8oz. (18g) PLUG DISTANCE, SINGLE-HANDED

### 1. EQUIPMENT

- A) **Rod**- Unrestricted
- B) **Reel** - Revolving Spool
- C) **Line** - Unrestricted
- D) **Plug** - ACA Approved 5/8oz. (18g) distance plug.

### 2. DISTANCE COURSE

The Distance Course shall be of sufficient length and shall consist of a court that is a maximum of 180 degrees wide.

### 3. TIME

The caster shall have one (1) minute to release a cast after the Judge has declared the box open.

### 4. METHOD OF CASTING

#### A) Casting Program

- i) General - The casting program shall consist of three (3) casts.
- ii) Scoring Cast - A scoring cast is a completed cast with no line breakage made from the casting box in which the plug strikes the surface within the distance court.
- iii) Responsibility - After stepping into the casting box the caster shall be responsible for the results and shall accept the distance measurement and penalties assessed by the Judge.

#### B) Casting Style - Singlehanded

#### C) Procedure

- i) General - Following the casting order, a caster shall be prepared to cast when the Judge declares box open.
- ii) Delivery of Cast - The caster shall deliver and complete the cast with all parts of the caster's body and all attached clothing contacting only the surface of the casting box. However, any windup motion prior to releasing the cast may begin from outside the box.
- iii) Equipment Check - After completing a cast, the caster shall remain in the casting box until released by the Judge. After the Judge has performed all appropriate equipment checks, and has verified that the line had not broken, the caster may break and retie the line before retrieving the cast.
- iv) Retrieve - After having been released by the Judge the caster shall retrieve the line while walking to the location where the plug rests.
- v) Open Box - When the previous caster has safely cleared the court, the Judge shall declare the box open.
- vi) Equipment Problems - In case of bonafide equipment problems the Judge shall allow a caster to drop to a more convenient place in the casting order only one (1) time during the event.

### 5. METHOD OF SCORING

A) General - Only scoring casts shall be measured.

#### B) Measurement

The length of a scoring cast shall be the distance measured to the nearest foot, from the center of the leading edge of the casting box to the location where the plug has come to rest, within the boundaries of the court.

#### C) Penalties

- i) Overstep - If any part of the caster's body or any attached clothing touches any part of the surface outside of the casting box from the time of the cast's release until the Judge completes the equipment check, the cast shall be scored zero (0).
- ii) Early Movement From Box - If the caster moves from the box for any reason before being released by the Judge, the cast shall be scored zero (0).
- iii) Broken Line - If the caster's line breaks during the cast, at any time after beginning any windup motion and before the caster is released from the box by the Judge, the cast shall be scored zero (0).
- iv) Failure to Retrieve - After having been released from the box by the Judge, if the caster fails to retrieve the line by walking to the location where the plug rests, the cast shall be scored zero (0), unless there is evidence to indicate that a line break occurred due to outside interference.
- v) Overtime - If a caster is not prepared to cast when called to the open box, except as outlined in Section 4Cvi, or if the caster does not release his cast within one (1) minute, the cast shall be scored zero (0).

#### D) Caster's Score

The caster's longest scoring cast shall constitute the caster's score. The second longest scoring cast shall be recorded, but shall be used only to break ties.

## **INTERNATIONAL CASTING FEDERATION EVENTS**

**A Current set of rules of any I.C.S.F. event that is scheduled to be cast at an Annual Tournament shall be furnished by the National Tournament Committee in the printed program of the Tournament.**

# **RULES AND REGULATIONS SURF EVENTS**

## **NATIONAL SURF CASTING TOURNAMENTS**

1. There may be held, not oftener than once a year, at such time and place as the Director, Surf Casting Division, shall designate a National Surf Casting Tournament, at which time surf casters will compete for the National Championships in the various surf events recognized by the Association, and a National Surf Casting Team shall be selected. All National Surf Casting Tournaments shall be governed by a Tournament Committee of surf casters, appointed by the Director, Surf Casting Division. The Director, Surf Casting Division, shall be appointed by the President.
2. The National Surf Casting Tournament may be conducted and managed by a local association, member club or clubs, at the place appointed. They shall conform strictly to the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Association and shall be named the First, Second, Third, etc., (as the case may be) National or International Surf Casting Tournament of the American Casting Association.
3. A member club desiring to conduct and manage a National Surf Casting Tournament shall make official application to the Director, Surf Casting Division who shall, within thirty days thereafter, award the tournament to the best qualified applicant and request the Executive Secretary to notify all members.
4. In no tournament, except the National Surf Casting Tournament, shall any trophy be known as the "ACA Amateur Surf Casting Championship" trophy.
5. Any member caster establishing a new average distance record at a National Surf Casting Tournament shall be awarded a medal to be marked "Distance Record."
6. Competition at the National Surf Casting Tournament may be conducted on a "Championship," "B" and "C" class basis.
7. The program of events to be cast at any National Surf Casting Tournament shall be prepared by the National Surf Casting Tournament Committee, subject to the approval of the Director, Surf Casting Division.
8. Only scores cast outdoors at National Surf Casting Tournaments in officially scheduled events shall be considered as National Surf Casting Records.
9. No member club shall hold a surf casting tournament at the same time as that allotted to the National Surf Casting Tournament, the National Inland Casting, or the National Annual Meeting and Convention.
10. Except wherein there should be a conflict in terminology, the provisions of Article X, By-Laws, governing the functions of tournament committees, shall serve as a guide for the National Surf Casting Tournament.
11. Rules governing events, Classifications and Championships for the Surf Casting Division shall be enacted.
12. For the purpose of clarification and interpretation of the existing By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the ACA, the words "National Tournament" as used herein shall mean and apply to the Inland Division of the Association, and the words "National Surf Casting Tournament" shall apply to the Surf Casting Division.

## **RULES GOVERNING SURF EVENTS**

1. **DEFINITION OF SURF CASTING** - Surf casting shall be that part of the organized sport of casting pertaining to the use of doublehanded rods and weights of 2 ounces and 4 ounces.
2. **WEIGHTS AND REELS TO BE USED** - The 2oz. weight shall be used with fixed or stationary spool reels. The 4oz. weight shall be used with revolving spool reels.
3. **RODS** - There shall be no restriction on the length of the rods, nor of the material of their construction.
4. **LINES** - No restrictions are placed on the material of construction, diameter or breaking strength of lines, except where specifically stated.
5. **SINKERS OR WEIGHTS** - Until such time as these weights may be supplied by ACA, competitors may use their own weights, which must not exceed the specified weight nor be more than 5% under weight.
6. **REELS** - Except that reels must conform to the fixed or revolving spool requirement of the particular event, no other restriction shall apply.
7. **CASTING FIELD OR COURT** - The casting field or court shall have a grade not exceeding one (1) foot in each one-hundred (100) feet in the direction of casting. For distance casting a field shall be used.

There shall be no side lines, and the competitor may cast in any direction they choose, provided they shall at all time remain behind the base line.

- 8. BASE LINE** - All casts shall be made from behind a suitable base line set up at ground level and approximately in the center of the field for distance events.
- 9. CASTING AND SCORING DISTANCE EVENTS** - Each competitor shall make five (5) attempts. The three longest casts shall be averaged and the result will be the competitor's score. The longest cast will be considered for purposes of record. A "no cast" will count as an attempt, but will not be scored.
- 10. METHOD OF MEASUREMENT** - Distances will be measured to the point where the sinker or weight comes to rest. A steel tape shall be used to measure all casts. A cast claimed as a record shall be measured by a certified tape, certified by the Bureau of Standards. All casts, except record distance casts, shall be measured to the nearest foot, and record casts shall be measured to the nearest inch.
- 11. PENALTIES** - The line must remain unbroken until the sinker or weight comes to rest. A competitor must remain behind the casting base line throughout the entire cast. Penalty for violation— No Cast. Penalty for broken line – No Cast. Every event shall be conducted in "rounds" and each competitor must make his attempt for that round while it is in progress. Under no circumstances can a competitor make more than one (1) attempt in a round. A penalty of No Cast will be imposed for any round in which a competitor fails to make an attempt. The Starter may award another attempt where influences outside the competitor's control may have caused interference with their efforts.
- 12. CASTING AND SCORING ACCURACY EVENTS** - Casting shall be two handed. Each competitor shall make one cast at each of five targets from an eight foot square casting box, with targets conforming to the following sizes and distances from the casting box:
  - Target 1 - 4' square, 120' from box
  - Target 2 - 5' square, 140' from box
  - Target 3 - 6' square, 160' from box
  - Target 4 - 8' square, 180' from box
  - Target 5 --10' square, 200' from box
  - A) Scoring** - The sinker falling within or on the target scores 20 points.
    - 1 foot miss scores 19 points.
    - 2 foot miss scores 18 points.
    - 3 foot miss scores 17 points.
    - 4 foot miss scores 16 points.
    - 5 foot miss scores 15 points.
    - 6 foot miss and over scores zero (0).
  - Caster must remain in casting box until sinker comes to rest.**
  - B) Violation** - Violation is scored zero (0) for that cast. No allowance is made for broken line or equipment. All casts are scored where sinker makes initial contact with the surface.
- 13. JUDGES, STARTERS AND MARKERS** - The club conducting the tournament shall appoint officials to properly conduct the events and see that the rules of the ACA are complied with.
  - A) Starter and Judge** - This official shall have complete control of the field or court. They shall penalize a competitor who fails to stay behind the base line with "No Cast." They shall call the competitor to make their attempt and give the "all clear" sign when the cast is to be made. They shall have power to change the order of casting, to suit the exigencies of the moment, but shall not permit a caster to miss a round or to make an attempt after the round is completed, nor can they delay a round unduly, to permit a competitor to make their attempt.
  - B. Marker** - The Marker shall be supplied with a system of flags or markers and shall carefully mark the distance made by each cast. At the discretion of the Tournament Committee, actual measurement of the distances may be delayed until the completion of the round. No cast shall be made until the Marker has pegged the previous cast and indicated to the Starter and Judge their readiness to receive another attempt. They shall rule "No Cast" for broken line.

## RECOGNIZED SURF EVENTS AND TACKLE RESTRICTIONS

- 1) **4 OZ. UNRESTRICTED DISTANCE**
  - A) **Rod** - No Restrictions
  - B) **Reel** - Revolving spool
  - C) **Line** - No restrictions
  - D) **Sinker or weight** - 4 oz.
  - E) **Leader** - Permitted
  - F) **Field** - Open
- 2) **4oz. LEVEL LINE DISTANCE**
  - A) **Rod** - No restriction.
  - B) **Reel** - Revolving spool
  - C) **Line** - Must be parallel throughout the entire length except that one-inch of doubling shall be permitted for attaching sinker or weight.
  - D) **Sinker or weight** - 4 oz.
  - E) **Leader** - Not permitted
  - F) **Field** - Open
- 3) **2 oz. UNRESTRICTED DISTANCE**
  - A) **Rod** - No restriction
  - B) **Reel** - Fixed or stationary spool
  - C) **Line** - No restriction
  - D) **Sinker or weight** - 2 Oz.
  - E) **Leader** - Permitted
  - F) **Field** - Open
- 4) **2 oz. LEVEL LINE DISTANCE**
  - A) **Rod** - No restrictions
  - B) **Reel** - Fixed or Stationary Spool
  - C) **Line** - Must be parallel throughout the entire length except that one-inch of doubling shall be permitted for attaching sinker or weight.
  - D) **Leader** -Not permitted
  - E) **Field** - Open
- 5) **4 oz. SURF ACCURACY**
  - A) **Rod** - No restriction
  - B) **Reel** -Revolving spool
  - C) **Line** - Must be parallel throughout the entire length except that one-inch of doubling shall be permitted for attaching sinker or weight.
  - D) **Sinker or weight** - 4 oz.
- 6) **2 oz. SURF ACCURACY**
  - A) **Rod** - No restriction
  - B) **Reel** - Fixed spool
  - C) **Line** - Must be parallel throughout the entire length except that one-inch of doubling shall be permitted for attaching sinker or weight.
  - D) **Sinker or weight** - 2 oz.

## CLASSIFICATION OF CASTERS

Competition at Registered and National Surf Casting tournaments may be according to Championship, "B" and "C" class basis. Classification of casters according to their known ability or average shall be made by the secretary of the caster's club as follows:

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>CHAMPIONSHIP</u>	<u>CLASS B</u>	<u>CLASS C</u>
4oz. Unrestricted	500' and up	450'-499'	Under 450'
4oz L.L.>	400' and up	350'-399'	Under 350'
2oz. Unrestricted	400' and up	350'-399'	Under 350'
2oz. L.L.	300' and up	250'-299'	Under 250'
4oz. Accuracy	50 pts. & up	25-50 pts.	Under 25 pts.
2oz. Accuracy	50 pts. & up	25-50 pts.	Under 25 pts.

**Casters who have never cast in a Registered Tournament are Class C in all events until they have cast or have been classified in a higher class.**

## COMBINED CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 1. UNRESTRICTED EVENTS DISTANCE CHAMPION** - 4oz. Unrestricted and 2 oz. Unrestricted
- 2. LEVEL LINE EVENTS DISTANCE CHAMPION** - 4oz. Level Line and 2oz. Level Line.
- 3. ALL DISTANCE EVENTS CHAMPION** - All four (4) surf distance events.
- 4. ACCURACY EVENTS CHAMPION** - 2oz. and 4oz.

**NOTE: The above championships will be over and above championships declared in each individual event and shall be awarded to the caster making the greatest total distance, to the nearest foot, in the events designated for each (distance) championship listed above.**