

AMERICAN CASTING ASSOCIATION

RULES AND TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS



AmericanCastingAssoc.org

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RULES AND TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS OF THE AMERICAN CASTING ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- 1. ANNUAL OUTDOOR TOURNAMENT** - There shall be held annually at such time and place as the Board of Directors shall appoint an Annual Tournament held out of doors at which time casters will compete for various National Championships and Awards.
- 2. MANAGEMENT OF TOURNAMENT** - The Annual Tournament may be managed by a Member Club, State or District Association or a combination of Member Clubs and/or State or District Associations.
- 3. GOVERNMENT OF TOURNAMENT** - The Annual Tournament shall be governed by the National Tournament Committee and shall be conducted strictly in accordance with the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Association.
- 4. IDENTIFICATION** - Each Tournament shall be identified as the First, Second, Third, etc. (as the case may be) National or International (as the case may be) Bait and Fly Casting Tournament of the American Casting Association (and if conducted and managed by a local Member Club) by the (name of club).
- 5. SELECTION OF LOCATION** - A Member Club or Association desiring to conduct and manage an Annual Tournament and Meeting shall make official application to the Board of Directors in writing for any one of the next three Annual Tournaments and Meetings. Within sixty (60) days therefrom, the Board of Directors shall announce its decision, as appropriate, for the place and time for the next Annual Tournament and Meeting, and the place for either or both of the next two succeeding Annual Tournaments and Meetings. The selection shall not be limited to any official application so made, nor to any choice that may be expressed at an Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors may at any time for good cause change the time, place, postpone, or cancel the Annual Tournament and Meeting. The Board of Directors shall be the sole judge of what constitutes good cause. A majority vote of the Board of Directors shall be necessary to select the location of an Annual Tournament and Meeting or to later modify that decision.
- 6. SCHEDULE AND FEES** – The Board of Directors shall select the schedule of events and fix the fee schedule.
- 7. RECORDS** - Only scores cast outdoors at Annual Tournaments in a scheduled event shall be considered in determining national records. Records shall count for the division for which the caster is singularly qualified - unless the caster freely chose to participate in a different division.
- 8. ONE TOURNAMENT** - No other tournament sponsored by a Member Club or State or District Association shall be held in conjunction with the Annual Tournament and Meeting.
- 9. INDOOR TOURNAMENT** - In addition to the Annual Tournament and Meeting as specified above, there may be scheduled annually at such time and place designated by the Board of Directors an Indoor National Tournament at which time casters will compete for various Indoor National Championships and Awards. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for all aspects of the management of an Indoor National Tournament. Awards and Combined Championships described under “Rules Governing National Championships” and “Rules Governing National Tournament Awards” shall not be applicable for the Indoor National Tournament unless otherwise specified.
- 10. CHAMPIONSHIP** - The National Tournament shall be the ACA tournament of the highest level of recognition for casters from the States and Territories of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, the Panama Canal Zone and Canada.
- 11. US OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS** - Upon request by the host club(s), the Board of Directors may designate a National Tournament as the "US Open Championships". This shall have the effect of adding US Open Championship men and women divisions (see section Competitive Divisions). A winner in such divisions shall be known as "US Open Champion.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEES

- 1. NATIONAL TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP** - The National Tournament Committee shall be composed of six (6) members: the President of the Association, who shall be

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- Chairman, the National Tournament Captain, the executive Secretary (if applicable), who shall serve as an ex-officio member, and five (3) Club Members or members of the Association appointed by the President.
- 2. NATIONAL TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE DUTIES** - The National Tournament Committee shall be responsible for the programming and government of the Annual Tournament and Meeting. Specifically, the Committee shall:
- A) Have the right to reject any entry or entries for good cause.
 - B) Shall approve all distance and accuracy courses prior to the beginning of each event.
 - C) Approve any course changes while an event is in progress.
 - D) Approve all special regulations (Ground Rules)
 - E) Decide any question submitted by the Club Tournament Committee.
 - F) Determine and announce the amount of the protest fee applicable during the tournament.
- 3. DISTRIBUTION OF ENTRY FEES** - Seventy percent (70%) of the per-event fees and one hundred percent (100%) of other registration fees, if any, collected at the Annual Tournament shall be allocated to the Association with the remainder allocated to the organization(s) that host(s) the Tournament. The percentage of per-event fees in the US Open Divisions allocated to the Association shall be set by the Board of Directors.
- 4. APPEALS COMMITTEE** - The Appeals Committee shall be as specified in Article VI, Section 12. This Committee shall hear all and adjudicate all disputes relative to the conduct of the Tournament. In addition, any caster dissatisfied with his classification may appeal to this Committee. Any appeal shall be decided before the conclusion of the Tournament.
- 5. CLUB TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP** - The Club Tournament Committee shall be selected by the organization(s) that manage the Annual Tournament. The organization(s) shall select the Chairman of the Club Tournament Committee.
- 6. CLUB TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE DUTIES** - The Club Tournament Committee shall assist the National Tournament Committee in all matters of detail. Specifically the Club Tournament Committee shall be responsible for all clerical activities, data handling, and shall:
- A) Register all casters at the Tournament.
 - B) Collect all entry fees at the Tournament.
 - C) Maintain a list of all casters.
 - D) Issue cards for recording scores.
 - E) Post a list of all casters, designating the order of casting, in each event.
 - F) Compile all scores and announce award winners and champions. The association shall reimburse the host club/s for the cost of printing the "Official Results" document.
 - G) Designate recipient of each National Championship, place and award.
 - H) Classify all competitors into the various divisions and/or classifications provided.
 - I) Appoint the Tournament Captain.
 - J) Provide all officials necessary for the conduct of the Tournament.
 - K) Perform other duties as directed by the National Tournament Committee.
 - L) Provide the printed program for the Annual Tournament and Meeting. The association shall reimburse the host club/s for the cost of printing the "Official Program" document.

Total reimbursement costs for the two (2) documents listed in sections 6F and 6M shall be for actual expenditures only and shall not exceed three hundred (\$300.00) dollars. All costs in excess of three hundred (\$300.00) dollars shall be paid by the host club/s. The host club/s shall provide a copy of all invoices for the Association's records. Pre-registration may be handled by an ACA officer so designated by the President.

- 7. TOURNAMENT CAPTAIN** - The Tournament Captain shall be the executive official of all events. The Tournament Captain may appoint an Event Captain to assist in the conduct of an individual event. The Tournament Captain shall be responsible for:
- A) The arrangement of target course(s) or distance course(s).
 - B) Personnel responsible for judging scoring, timekeeping, equipment checking, and all others required for the efficient operation of the casting area.
- 8. CLUB TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE ACTIONS** - All actions of the Club Tournament Committee, including the Tournament Captain, shall be subject to the review and approval of the National Tournament Committee.

COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS

- 1. LIST OF DIVISIONS** - The competitive divisions for the events cast at an Annual Tournament shall be as follows:

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>EVENTS</u>
Men	All scheduled events
Women	All scheduled events
Senior Men	All scheduled events
Senior Women	All scheduled events
Intermediates	All scheduled events
Juniors	All recognized events and events approved by the Board
Youth	All recognized plug accuracy events and events approved by the Board
US Open Men	All scheduled events
US Open Women	All scheduled events

The two US Open divisions apply only to tournaments given "US Open Championship" designation.

- 2. ELIGIBILITY** (non-US Open divisions) - Only Club Members, Individual Members, Life Members, and Honorary Members may compete for awards in any tournament where National recognition is involved. Casters who are not such members or do not meet the geographic requirements of section "National Tournaments", Point 10 may only participate as guests at the end of the casting order in their respective competitive divisions without any entitlement to Association awards or prizes. Citizenship or legal residence (for a minimum period of six (6) months) shall be required to meet the geographic requirements. Casters representing the United States internationally must meet all non-guest qualifications for National tournaments and those set forth by the international organizers. Canadian casters are not eligible to represent the United States internationally.
- 3. ELIGIBILITY** (US Open divisions) - Any caster - regardless of origin, citizenship status, or age - may register for and participate in the US Open division for their gender. The Board of Directors has the authority to approve exclusions for what it considers good cause. Casters who are also eligible for non-US Open divisions may elect - for each event separately - to participate in the US Open division for their gender.
- 4. REPRESENTATION** - At the time of registration, the caster shall declare the club, if any, he/she will represent at the Tournament. A caster who is an active member of more than one club may select any one of these clubs. Once registered, the declaration applies throughout the tournament for all individual and team events.
- 5. PARTICIPATION BY MEN, WOMEN, INTERMEDIATES, JUNIORS AND YOUTH** - At any Tournament where national recognition is involved, Participation by Men, Women, Intermediates, Juniors and Youth shall be governed by the following:
- A) Men Division** - Men seventeen (17) years of age or older.
 - B) Women Division** - Women seventeen (17) years of age or older.
 - C) Intermediate Division** - Boys and girls who have attained their thirteenth (13th) birthday, but not their seventeenth (17th) birthday.
 - D) Juniors Division** - Boys and girls who have attained their ninth (9th) birthday, but not their thirteenth (13th) birthday.
 - E) Youth Division** - Boys and girls under nine (9) years of age.
 - F) Women, Intermediates, Juniors, and Youth** that choose to compete in any event in a division other than the division in which they are singularly qualified, whenever such later division is programmed and cast, shall thereafter forfeit all rights to compete in that division.
 - G) Women** may compete in any event in the Men's Division without jeopardizing their singular status, provided that the Women's Division in that event is not programmed and cast.
- 6. PARTICIPATION BY SENIOR MEN AND SENIOR WOMEN** - A man or woman caster who has reached sixty (60) years of age on or before the day of competition shall be eligible to participate in regular or Senior Division competition. Participation in the Senior Division shall be by voluntary payment of the set fee. A caster who meets the age restriction may elect to enter either the Senior Division or the Regular Division for which the caster is qualified but not both.
- 7. RECOGNIZED EVENTS** - The Recognized Events of the Association shall be as indicated in "Rules Governing National Championships," Rule 1.

- 8. SPECIAL EVENTS** - The Special Events of the Association shall be as indicated in “Rules Governing National Championships,” Rule 2.
- 9. DEMONSTRATION EVENT** - A demonstration event shall be defined as a casting event with rules and regulations differing from current Recognized and Special Events.
 - A)** A demonstration event may be considered for scheduling at an Outdoor or Indoor National Tournament through application to the Board of Directors.
 - B)** The event must have a history of participatory interest at conclaves, sports or trade shows or at the ACA local, district, or state level. Submittal of documentation (scoring results, etc.) and a complete set of rules and equipment are mandatory.
 - C)** A trial period of two (2) years must elapse before any proposed amendments concerning Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations related to any demonstration event can be accepted and voted upon.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

These regulations shall constitute the ground rules and procedures governing the conduct of the Annual Tournament.

The objectives and jurisdictions of the American Casting Association shall prevail in deciding any question that may arise that is not covered by these regulations.

- 1. AUTHORITY** - Every person registering at the Annual Tournament shall accept any and all decisions rendered by tournament officials and shall abide by the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Association.
- 2. SPECIAL REGULATIONS** - Special regulations not inconsistent with the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Association may be enacted or revised by action of the National Tournament Committee. Such special regulations shall be posted in a prominent place at the registration table and shall be available for the inspection of any contestant during the tournament.
- 3. ELIGIBILITY** - Eligibility for participation in the Annual Tournament shall be in accordance with the Section Competitive Divisions, Point 2.
- 4. OPENING CEREMONIES** - Opening ceremonies shall be conducted by the host club on the day preceding the first scheduled event. Minimum formalities shall include an opening address by an official of the agency managing the tournament and raising of the American Flag and/or the Canadian flag and the Association flag.
- 5. CLERICAL ACTIVITIES AND DATA HANDLING** - In accordance with Section Tournament Committees, Point 6, all clerical activities and data handling necessary for conducting and managing an Annual Tournament shall be the responsibility of the Club Tournament Committee.
- 6. CLOSE OF REGISTRATION** - Registration for an event will close fifteen (15) minutes before the time an event is scheduled to be cast.
- 7. CASTING ORDER** - The Club Tournament Committee shall be responsible for assigning divisions to stations and determining the sequence of divisions. Taking into consideration the differences in the conditions on the available stations and possible changes of the conditions over time, the assignments shall be made with the goal of maximum fairness of the competition and with the following conditions:
 - A)** Casters competing in the same division shall cast on one or more stations with approximately the same conditions and on all such stations at the same time.
 - B)** The competitive divisions shall be divided into the following groups:
 - i)** Women and Senior Women
 - ii)** Men and Senior Men
 - iii)** Intermediates
 - iv)** Juniors and Youth
 - v)** US Open Men and US Open WomenDivisions in the same group shall be scheduled back to back on the same station(s) or simultaneously on stations with approximately equal conditions.
 - C)** Remaining assignments such as the order of groups and the order of divisions within the groups shall be decided by lot.
 - D)** The order of casters in each division and their assignment to stations shall be decided by lot. Exceptions to the random assignments are permitted for casters who serve as judges in the same event.

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- E) After once decided by lot, casting positions and stations may only be changed with the approval of the Tournament Captain or their delegate.
- 8. CALL-UP** - Casting orders shall be posted at a dedicated place and the posting shall be announced. Casters shall be given time to review the casting order and to prepare for the event. This time shall be a minimum of ten (10) minutes before the event and five (5) minutes before any cast-offs.
- A) At the time a caster is scheduled to cast, their name shall be called. It is the caster's duty to appear and be prepared to cast when called. Failure to appear may be grounds for disqualification. The Board of Appeals shall be the sole judge of what constitutes grounds for disqualification.
- 9. JUDGES** - Minimum personnel required for judging and scoring at each station shall consist of:
- A) **Fly Accuracy:** One (1) Judge and at least one (1) assistant judge, plus one (1) scorekeeper-timekeeper.
- B) **Plug Accuracy:** One (1) Judge and at least one (1) assistant judge, plus one (1) scorekeeper.
- C) **Fly Distance:** One (1) Judge plus sufficient personnel for spotting and staking each cast.
- D) **Plug Distance:** One (1) Judge plus sufficient personnel for spotting and staking each cast. The Tournament Captain or his delegate shall record each measured cast.
- E) Additional personnel may be appointed as required provided, however, that no more than two (2) assistant judges shall be permitted at any one (1) station in an accuracy event. The Judge shall be the senior official at the station and, after deliberating with the assistant judge(s), shall be responsible for reporting to the caster and the scorekeeper the score of a cast, penalties and other information necessary for the operation of that station.
- 10. TIME KEEPING PROCEDURE** - In all events or parts of events, requiring a time factor, it is the timekeeper's responsibility to announce the expiration of allotted time. When the caster may cast beyond the allotted time, the timekeeper shall announce the beginning of each minute of overtime. In addition, the caster may request the timekeeper to announce time at any point or points during the event.
- 11. RIGHT OF REDRESS** - The decision of the Judge shall be final except in those matters involving an interpretation of Rules. In such cases, any caster or team official shall have the right of redress to the Board of Appeals (Article VI, Section 12) provided that notice of such appeal is given to the Tournament Captain. There shall be a protest fee in an amount to be established by the National Tournament Committee. Any caster or team official observing a rule infraction (not including judgment calls by the judge/s) shall have the right of redress to the Board of Appeals. Notice of such appeal must be given to the Tournament Captain before the close of the event. A written appeal and a protest fee (Article X, Section 2, Subsection F), made payable to the Association, must be submitted to the Tournament Captain within thirty (30) minutes of said notice. If the Board of Appeals rules in favor of the appeal, the entire protest fee shall be refunded.
- 12. RECORDING OF SCORES** - The scorekeeper shall insure that all scores and penalties assessed by the Judge are clearly entered on the official scorecard. Upon completion of an event, the Tournament Captain or his delegate shall insure that all scorecards are delivered to the Club Tournament Committee.
- 13. EXCLUSION AREAS** - No one except those acting in an official capacity for the conduct of the tournament shall be allowed within ten feet of the Judges or a caster in an active casting box.
- 14. WILLFUL DISTRACTION** - Any participant who willfully attempts in any manner to distract the caster or any tournament official shall forfeit all rights and claims and be barred from further participation in the tournament.
- 15. CASTING DIRECTION** - Target course(s) and distance course(s) shall be located in a general direction downwind from the casting box. Should there be a significant wind shift during the progress of an event, the position of a target course or measuring line may be changed at the option of the Tournament Captain. Should such a change be made, a caster who has already completed the casting program shall have the option of casting the event over, if in the opinion of the Tournament Captain conditions were unfavorable.
- 16. DISTANCE COURSE** - Whenever practical fly distance events shall be cast over water. However, should the physical facilities at the tournament site, wind condition, time factor, or other constraints render such procedure inadvisable, and at the discretion of the Tournament Captain, the fly distance may be cast on land.
- 17. NUMBER OF CASTING COURSES** - More than one target course or more than one distance course may be used at the discretion of the Tournament Captain.
- 18. PRACTICE CASTING IN ACCURACY EVENTS** - If practice facilities are not available, practice casting on an accuracy casting course may be permitted up to fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the event or until such time as the Tournament Captain may decree.

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19. **EXTRA FLIES** - In all fly accuracy and all fly distance events extra flies shall be available close to the casting box for use in case of a lost fly.
20. **TACKLE BREAKAGE** - In case of broken tackle, caster shall be allowed to repair or replace same. There shall be no time out for repair or replacement of broken tackle unless caused by outside interference.
21. **TIES (ACCURACY EVENT)** - All ties for any of the first three places in an accuracy event shall cast off either immediately after the event or at a time designated by the National Tournament Committee. The use of the delayed cast-off option must be announced before the start of the event and is limited to the same venue and on the same day. The order of casters involved in a cast off shall follow that of the event. If multiple stations are used, and if time permits, all casters in the same competitive division should cast off on the same station.
22. **TIES (DISTANCE EVENT)** - In case of a tie, in a distance event, the second long cast shall determine the winner or place. If a tie still exists for any of the first three places, duplicate awards shall be given. If a tie still exists beyond the first three places, it shall be decided by lot.
23. **TACKLE VERIFICATION** - All tackle restricted as to weight or length shall be checked by tournament officials and may be impounded until the caster enters the casting box or marked so as to verify that such tackle conforms to the appropriate restrictions subject to the tolerances listed in Equipment Regulations.
24. **DISQUALIFICATION** - Any caster who is disqualified for cause shall be barred from further participation or competition in the tournament and shall forfeit any and all entry fees, rights in competition, and awards and trophies won.

REGISTERED TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

1. **GOVERNMENT** - Whenever appropriate, National Tournament Regulations shall govern the conduct of Registered Tournaments. Special conditions specifically related to Registered Tournaments are listed herein.
2. **REGISTERED TOURNAMENT** - With the approval of the Board of Directors as to time, place and payment of the required fee as set by Board of Directors action, Member Clubs in good standing may hold Registered Tournaments. A Registered Tournament shall conform to the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Association.
3. **ELIGIBILITY** - Any caster may compete in a Registered Tournament upon payment of the required entry fee established by the agency hosting the tournament, but only Club Members, and Members of the Association may compete for Association awards. While the scores of non-member casters shall not be recognized in the official records of a Registered Tournament, non-member casters may win any award, which the agency hosting the tournament may make available to them.
4. **A) COMPETITIVE CLASSES** - Competition at Registered Tournaments shall be on a competitive class basis. The agency hosting the Registered Tournament may elect to schedule any or all of the competitive classes for any of the recognized or special events that are to be cast. Classification of a caster shall be in accordance with his known ability or average. In case of a dispute, an ad hoc committee consisting of at least three (3), but not more than five (5), members of the caster's club shall rule. If a caster is not a member of a club, at least three (3) but not more than five (5) members of the agency hosting the Registered Tournament shall rule.
B) RIGHT OF REDRESS - There shall be a protest fee in an amount to be established by the agency hosting the Registered Tournament. The decision of the Judge shall be final except in those matters involving an interpretation of Rules. In such cases, any caster or team official shall have the right of redress to an ad hoc committee consisting of at least three (3) but not more than five (5) members of the agency hosting the Registered Tournament. The intent to appeal must be announced to the Registered Tournament Captain and a fee made payable to the Member Club/s shall be submitted along with the written appeal within thirty (30) minutes of said announcement. In the event the appeal is ruled in favor of the caster or team official, the entire fee shall be refunded.
5. **CLASSIFICATION STANDARD** - Classification for Registered Tournament competition shall be in accordance with the following:

Recognized Accuracy Events

Championship

Class B

Class C

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Trout Fly	95 and Up	85 – 95	Under 85
Bass Bug	94 and Up	85 – 94	Under 85
1/4 oz. (7.5g) Plug	94 and Up	85 – 94	Under 85
5/8 oz. (18g) Plug	95 and Up	85 – 95	Under 85

Recognized Distance Events

	<u>Championship</u>	<u>Class B</u>	<u>Class C</u>
Angler's Fly	130' Up	110-130'	Under 110'
1/4oz. (7.5g) Singlehanded	230' Up	200-230'	Under 200'

Special Accuracy Events

	<u>Championship</u>	<u>Class B</u>	<u>Class C</u>
Dry Fly	95 and Up	85 – 95	Under 85
3/8 oz. Plug	95 and Up	85 – 95	Under 85
Skish Plug	70 & Up	50 - 69	Under 50
Spincast	90 & Up	80 - 89	Under 80
Skish Fly	85 & Up	70 - 84	Under 70
Wet Fly	95 & Up	85 - 95	Under 85

Special Distance Events

	<u>Championship</u>	<u>Class B</u>	<u>Class C</u>
Fly Singlehanded	150' Up	125-150'	Under 125'
Fly Doublehanded	190' Up	160-190'	Under 160'
5/8oz. (18g) Plug Revolving Spool, Doublehanded	300' Up	250-300'	Under 250'
5/8oz. (18g) Plug Spinning, Doublehanded	330' Up	300-330'	Under 300'
5/8 oz. (18g) Plug Distance - Singlehanded	400' Up	350-400'	Under 350'

- 6. BEGINNING CASTERS** - Casters who have never cast in a Registered Tournament shall be entered in Class C, unless their demonstrated ability or average qualifies them for a higher class. The class in which a caster competes shall have no effect on their eligibility for any Registered Tournament Achievement.
- 7. ONE CLASS ONLY** - A caster may register and compete in any recognized or special event in only one class, but a caster may register and compete in different recognized or special events in different classes. A caster may win only in the class in which they register and compete.
- 8. CHANGING CLASSES** - Once a caster has competed in a higher class, they cannot compete in a lower class in that event for two (2) years. However, if the class in which they are qualified to cast is not scheduled at a particular Registered Tournament, then this restriction shall not apply.
- 9. GOLD STAR** - A caster who makes a score or 95 or better in each of any four accuracy events shall be eligible for a Gold Star chevron.
- 10. SILVER STAR** - A caster who makes a score of 91 or better in each of any four accuracy events shall be eligible for a Silver Star chevron.
- 11. ALL ACCURACY** - A caster who makes a total score of 364 or better in any four accuracy events shall be eligible for an All Accuracy chevron.
- 12. ACCURACY BAITS** - A caster who makes a total score of 182 or better in any two accuracy plug events shall be eligible for an Accuracy Baits chevron.
- 13. ACCURACY FLIES** - A caster who makes a total score of 182 or better in any two accuracy fly events shall be eligible for an Accuracy Flies chevron.
- 14. ONE HUNDRED CLUB** - Any caster making his first perfect score in an outdoor Registered Tournament shall receive a "100" award. A chevron shall be awarded for any repeat performance. A cast off score shall not qualify for membership in the One Hundred Club.
- 15. RECORDS** - Scores cast at outdoor Registered Tournaments that exceed official National Records shall be considered as Unofficial National Records.

GENERAL TOURNAMENT RULES

- 1. CASTING BOX - Accuracy and Distance:** All scoring casts shall be performed from a distinctively marked casting box. Paint, tape, or other materials used to mark the casting box shall be considered part of the box. Exceptions to the boundary inclusion are permitted but must be prominently announced and be part of the ground rules. Penalties apply if a caster fails to be "in the box" the entire time from the release of the scoring cast until the fly or plug has landed. In all events, the caster is considered "out of the box" if any part of the caster or any part of the caster's attached clothing touches the surface in front of the front edge of the casting box or its infinite extensions left and right. Additional rules apply for accuracy and distance events.
 - A)** In all accuracy events, the casting box shall measure four (4) feet square. To be "in the box", the caster must have at least part of one foot touching the box and, as specified above, must not touch the surface in front of the box. For every scoring cast not delivered from box, the caster shall receive a penalty of three (3) demerits in addition to any other applicable demerits.
 - B)** In all distance events, the casting box shall measure six (6) feet square - unless otherwise specified in the event rules. The back of the box shall remain open. To be "in the box", no part of the caster or the caster's attached clothing may touch the surface outside the three box boundaries or their infinite extensions for the duration of the scoring cast as specified above. Penalties for overstep are covered in the respective event rules.
- 2. POSITION POINTS** - The position points achieved by a caster in a particular event shall be one (1) plus the number of casters who performed better than this caster before considering any tie breakers.

TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

These regulations shall constitute the procedures for weighing and measuring the caster's tackle and for standardizing the equipment necessary for the conduct of the tournament.

The objectives and jurisdictions of the American Casting Association shall prevail in deciding any question that may arise that is not covered by these regulations.

- 1. SPECIAL REGULATIONS** - Special regulations not inconsistent with the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Association may be enacted or revised by action of the Board of Directors.
- 2. STANDARD LINEAR MEASUREMENTS** - Linear measurements may be taken in either English or metric and may be converted to the other system for record purposes. When a distance event is held on land, a tape or an equally accurate electronic measuring instrument shall be used to measure casts. When a fly distance event is held on water the method of measurement shall have the approval of the National Tournament Committee.
- 3. STANDARD WEIGHTS** - All weights shall be in avoirdupois weight (437.5 grains to the ounce) and measured on a beam balance. Digital grain scales that can be calibrated to zero (0) shall also be permitted.
- 4. OFFICIAL PLUGS** - In all Plug events a tolerance of nine (9) grains shall be permitted. Plugs may be painted provided their shape remains unaltered and weight limitations are met.
- 5. OFFICIAL FLIES** - In all fly events the flies used shall conform to the standards listed in the Rules for each event. No tolerances to these standards shall be permitted.
- 6. LEADER LENGTH** - Any tag end left in place when attaching the fly to the leader shall be included when verifying maximum leader length specifications. It shall not be included when verifying minimum leader length. Tag ends in other places are never included.
- 7. FLY LINES** - In those Fly events where a diameter restriction is imposed, a tolerance of one thousandth (0.001) inch shall be permitted, and the line shall not be stretched after it is stripped from the reel for verification by tournament officials.
- 8. ROD LENGTH** - In all events where restrictions of rod length are imposed a tolerance of one (1) inch shall be permitted.
- 9. LENGTH VERIFICATION** - The rod, reel, reel seat (if used), and any butt extension whether fixed or removable must be fully assembled prior to measurement by tournament officials. The overall length shall be measured from the extreme tip of the tip top guide to that part of the rod, reel seat, or butt extension that is the farthest distance from the tip top guide.
- 10. TARGETS** - Targets may be constructed of any suitable material. Unless otherwise defined in Rules Governing Events, targets shall be thirty (30) inches outside diameter round ring constructed of tubular material having a maximum outside diameter of one and one-half (1&1/2) inches.

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- A) Targets shall float no more than seven-eighths (7/8) inch above the water line.
- B) Suggested color of targets is one each of red, white, blue, green and yellow to a set of five. It is suggested that the sixth (far) target in the Bass Bug Accuracy be an easily visible color such as white or yellow. Wet Fly accuracy targets may be all one color.
- 11. JUDGING RINGS** - At the discretion of the agency hosting the tournament, concentric rings may be used in the Plug Accuracy and Fly Accuracy events as an aid in judging scores. If used, they shall be provided by the agency hosting the tournament and shall consist of a fifty-four (54) inch outside diameter round ring constructed of tubular material not more than one (1) inch in diameter, attached concentrically to the thirty (30) inch regulation target. The judging ring shall float no higher than the regulation target.
- 12. PLATFORM HEIGHT** - The surface height of any casting box where the event is cast from a platform on water should be no higher than eighteen (18) inches above the water line. In all events cast on land, the casting box shall be at ground level.
- 13. MINIMUM LINE DIAMETERS** - Crash micrometers and other convenient tools may be used to pass or fail lines for which a minimum diameter restriction exists. However, if a diameter reading made with such a tool is ambiguous due to rounding, compression of the line, or other reasons, the pass/fail decision must be finalized with a more accurate technique essentially free of these ambiguities.
- 14. MAXIMUM LINE DIAMETERS** - A line shall not fail a maximum diameter verification for the sole reason that a knot exists in this line - provided that it is the same line throughout the knot and remains a single line above and below the knot.

EVENT RULES

Events described in this section are either recognized or special events (see Rules Governing National Championships sections 1 and 2). Additional special event rules are listed in the document "ACA Special Programs and Events."

DRY 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 - Unrestricted, but shall not be marked in anyway that would indicate distance, nor fastened to the reel at less than fifty (50) feet.

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

E) Fly

- i) Description - Official Dry Fly adopted by the ACA. The hackle shall not be less than 3/4 inch nor more than one inch in diameter.
- 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. Each target shall be anchored so that the total movement for any reason will not exceed one foot in any direction. At no time shall the distance be less than the minimum distance specified in Section 2 B i or exceed the maximum distance specified in 2 B ii.

B) Distances

- i) Near Target - The near target shall be placed from twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) 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 from forty-five (45) to fifty (50) 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 remaining targets shall be placed randomly in the intervening space, and not in a straight line perpendicular to the casting box.

3. Time

A) 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 eight (8) 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, two (2) at each of the five targets in the target course, in the order and as directed by the Tournament Captain. All five targets must be cast before any target may be cast again. Consecutive casts shall not be made on any target. All casters shall cast the same order of targets. Caster must enter casting box before beginning the casting program.
- ii) Responsibility - After stepping into the casting box, the 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 feet of line extending beyond rod tip. All remaining line must be on the reel when entering the casting box.
- ii) 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, pulling line in 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 shall not measure line by stripping along the rod. Caster has the option of holding any loose line in either hand or of letting it drop. Caster shall not allow fly to dangle or be blown over a target in spite of wind conditions.
- iii) 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 (see Section 5). The front edge of the casting box shall be defined as an imaginary line extending one hundred eighty (180) degrees out from each side of the front of the casting box. Laying down the extended line, leader and fly anywhere behind the front edge of the casting box is acceptable. The fly shall float and be left floating a few seconds. After the Judge has ascertained whether or not the fly is floating, he shall call "Score" and the caster shall proceed to the next target.

D) 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, or 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.
- ii) Tick - Should the line, leader or fly extended 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 caster is in or out of the casting box and whether or not the fly is on. A penalty of three (3) demerits shall be assessed for each tick.
- 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 a sunken fly and a penalty of three (3) demerits shall be assessed. The Judge must be cognizant of extreme water surface conditions that would not permit the untreated fly to float no matter how delicately the delivery cast is laid. The Judge also must be alert that small ripples caused when the fly lands on the water do 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 scored an improper retrieve. A penalty of three (3) demerits shall be assessed for each such improper retrieve.
- v) Improper Cast - Should the caster allow the fly to dangle or to be blown over a target, it shall be scored an improper cast. A penalty of three (3) demerits shall be assessed for each such improper cast.
- vi) Fly or leader in Hand and no length more than leader plus two (2) feet of line extending beyond rod tip – A penalty of three (3) demerits shall be assessed for either infraction if caster fails to begin the round as specified in Section 4 C i.

E) Interruption of Casting Program

- i) Outside Interference - In the event the caster is interrupted during the Dry Fly round due to outside interference, as determined by the Judge, the caster, if they desire, may make a final forward cast to the last target scored. When the Judge is satisfied that the caster has the approximate line length required to reach the last scored target, they shall then notify the caster the time has started and the caster shall lift the line from the water and proceed to the remaining targets. If the caster does not wish to cast to the last target scored, they may proceed as in Section E 2, except that time will start with the first false cast.
- ii) Other Interruptions - If the caster is interrupted during the Dry Fly round for reasons other than outside interference, the caster shall begin false casting and proceed to the remaining targets.

5. Method of Scoring

A) General

- i) No final forward cast shall be scored unless the line leader and fly are intact. The Judge shall notify the caster whenever they notice that the fly is off.
- ii) Each final forward cast shall be scored where the fly first strikes the water, 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.
- iii) If the line or leader strikes the water, in front of the casting box, on a final forward cast, when the fly is not intact, it shall be scored a tick whether or not the Judge has notified the caster that the fly is off, unless the fly is lost during that final forward cast. In that eventuality, no penalty shall be assessed.

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.

TROUT FLY ACCURACY

1. Equipment

A) Rod

- i) **Length** - Shall not exceed nine feet (9') overall.
- ii) **Weight** - Unrestricted

B) Reel - Unrestricted

C) Line

- i) Type - shall be standard fly fishing line of plastic floating type.
- ii) Size - Maximum diameter shall not exceed 0.053 inches. Line shall not be stretched after it is stripped from the reel, for verification by tournament officials.
- iii) Length - Line shall not be fastened to the reel at less than fifty (50) feet and shall not be marked in any way that would indicate distances.

D) Leader - Shall consist of a single leader of natural or artificial gut or gut substitute not less than nine (9) feet in length with a tippet at least eighteen (18) inches long that does not exceed .008 inches in diameter.

E) Fly

- i) Description - Official Trout Fly adopted by the ACA. The hackle shall not exceed one-half (1/2) inch in diameter.
- 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. Each target shall be anchored so that the total movement for any reason will not exceed one foot in any direction. At no time shall the distance be less than the minimum distance specified in Section 2 B i or exceed the maximum distance specified in 2 B ii.

B) Distances

- i) Near Target - The near target shall be placed from twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) 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 from forty-five (45) to fifty (50) 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 remaining targets shall be placed randomly in the intervening space, and not in a straight line perpendicular to the casting box.

3. TIME

- A) 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 six (6) minutes to complete the casting program.
- 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** - If the caster has not completed the casting program within the allotted six (6) minutes, the caster shall retire from the casting box and a penalty of two (2) demerits shall be assessed for each unscored target.

4. METHOD OF CASTING

A) Casting Program

- i) General** - The casting program shall consist of three (3) rounds, a Dry Fly round, a Wet Fly round and a Roll Cast round. Caster must enter casting box before beginning the casting program. After stepping into the casting box, 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 at target nearest to the casting box and proceed to the next nearest target and so on until all targets have been cast.

B) CASTING STYLE - Singlehanded

5. DRY FLY ROUND

A) Procedure

- i) General** - The Dry Fly round begins with the first false cast after the caster steps into the box. It consists of five (5) final forward casts and ends when the last final forward cast has been scored or when time expires.
- ii) 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. All remaining line must be on the reel when entering the casting box.
- 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 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 shall not measure line by stripping along the rod. Caster has the option of holding any loose line in either hand or of letting it drop. Caster shall not allow the fly to dangle or be blown over a target in spite of wind conditions.
- 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 (see Section 5). The front edge of the casting box shall be defined as an imaginary line extending one hundred eighty (180) degrees out from each side of the front of the casting box. Laying down the extended line, leader and fly anywhere behind the front edge of the casting box is acceptable. The fly shall float and be left floating a few seconds. After the Judge has ascertained whether or not 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, 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, or attempt to measure the line by stripping along the rod, it shall be scored an improper strip. A penalty of one (1) demerit shall be assessed for each such strip.
- ii) Tick** - Should the line, leader, or fly extended 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 the entire round, whether caster is in or out of casting box and whether or not the fly is on. A penalty of one (1) demerit shall be assessed for each tick.
- 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 a sunken fly and a penalty of one (1) demerit shall be assessed. The Judge must be cognizant of extreme water surface conditions that would not permit the fly to float no matter how delicately the delivery cast is laid. The Judge also must be alert that small ripples caused when the fly lands on the water do not, for that reason alone, constitute a sunken fly.

- iv) Improper Retrieve - Should the caster retrieve line or lift the fly from the water after a final forward cast, before the Judge calls "Score", it shall be scored an improper retrieve. A penalty of one (1) demerit shall be assessed for each such improper retrieve.
- v) Improper Cast - Should the caster allow the fly to dangle or to be blown over a target, it shall be scored an improper cast. A penalty of one (1) demerit shall be assessed for each such improper cast.
- vi) Fly in Hand and no length more than leader plus two (2) feet of line extending beyond rod tip – A penalty of two (2) demerits shall be assessed for either infraction if caster fails to meet the initial conditions, as specified in Section 5 A ii.

C) INTERRUPTION OF CASTING PROGRAM

- i) In the event the caster is interrupted during the Dry Fly round due to outside interference, as determined by the Judge, the caster, if they desire, may make a final forward cast to the last target scored. When the Judge is satisfied that the caster has the approximate line length required to reach the last scored target, they shall then notify the caster that the time has started and the caster shall lift the line from the water and proceed to the remaining targets. If the caster does not wish to cast to the last target scored, they may proceed as in Section 6 B, except that time will start with the first false cast.
- ii) Other Interruptions - If the caster is interrupted during the Dry Fly round for reasons other than outside interference, the caster shall begin false casting and proceed to the remaining targets.

D) METHOD OF SCORING

i) General

- a) No cast shall be scored unless the line, leader, and fly are intact. The Judge shall notify the caster whenever they notice that the fly is off.
- b) Each final forward cast shall be scored where the fly first strikes the water, 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.
- c) If the line or leader strikes the water in front of the casting box, on a final forward cast, when the fly is not intact, it shall be scored a tick, whether or not the Judge has notified the caster that the fly is off, unless the fly is lost during that final forward cast. In that eventuality, no penalty shall be assessed.

ii) Demerits for Accuracy

- a) 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.
- b) 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.
- c) Maximum demerits for any single final forward cast shall be two (2).

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

6. WET FLY ROUND

A) Procedure

- i) General - The Wet Fly round begins with the first false cast after the Dry Fly round has ended. It consists of five (5) final forward casts and ends when the last final forward cast has been scored or when time expires.
- ii) Initial - Upon completion of the Dry Fly round, caster shall retrieve line in any way practical, except for the following restrictions:
 - a) None of the retrieved line shall be placed on the reel.
 - b) Caster may not hold loose line in any way.
 - c) False casting is not permitted during the retrieve.
 - d) Before the first final forward cast, the caster shall meet the initial conditions of having the fly or leader in hand and no more than leader plus two (2) feet of line extending beyond the rod tip.
- iii) First Target - Caster may false cast as many times as required to measure distance to the nearest target before making a final forward cast. The fly is not required to float during the Wet Fly round.
- iv) Remaining Targets - After making a final forward cast at the first target, and the Judge calls "score", the caster shall proceed to the next nearest target, and so on, as in the Dry Fly round. One (1) false cast shall be permitted between targets.

B) PENALTIES - Shall be the same as the Dry Fly round except, that the fly shall not be required to float, and a penalty of one (1) demerit for each false cast in excess of the one (1) allotted false cast for each target, after the nearest target. If the caster fails to begin the Wet Fly round as specified in Section 6 A ii, a penalty of two (2) demerits shall be assessed for each infraction.

C) INTERRUPTION OF CASTING PROGRAM

- i) Outside Interference - In the event caster is interrupted during the Wet Fly round due to outside interference, as determined by the Judge, the caster shall make a final forward cast to the last target scored. When the Judge is satisfied that the caster has the approximate line length required to reach the last scored target, they shall then notify the caster that the time has started and the caster shall lift the line from the water and proceed to the remaining targets.
- ii) Other Interruptions - If the caster is interrupted during the Wet Fly round for reasons other than outside interference, they shall be required to take a penalty of one (1) demerit for each false cast used to return to his casting sequence.

D) METHOD OF SCORING

- i) General
 - a) No final forward cast shall be scored unless the line, leader, and fly are intact. The Judge shall notify the caster whenever they notice that the fly is off.
 - b) Each cast shall be scored where the fly first strikes the water, regardless of where the fly may ultimately settle.
 - c) If the line or leader strikes the water in front of the casting box, on a final forward cast, when the fly is not intact, it shall be scored a tick, whether or not the Judge has notified the caster that the fly is off, unless the fly is lost during that final forward cast. In that eventuality, no penalty shall be assessed.
- ii) Demerits for Accuracy
 - a) 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.
 - b) 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.
 - c) Maximum demerits for any single final forward cast shall be two (2).
- iii) Demerits for penalties - Penalty demerits shall be in addition to accuracy demerits.

7. ROLL CAST ROUND

A) Procedure

- i) General - The Roll Cast round shall consist of no more than fifteen (15) roll casts at the target course.
- ii) Initial - Upon completion of the Wet Fly round caster shall retrieve line to the closest target while the fly is still on the water. None of the retrieved line shall be placed on the reel.
- iii) Roll Cast - Caster shall roll cast to the closest target until a perfect is scored and then proceed to the next nearest target and so on. 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.
- iv) Extending Line - Caster may extend additional line by side motion of the rod before execution of a roll cast. False casting shall not be permitted or scored. The Judge shall call out "Perfect" or "Miss" for each cast and also call the attempt number of each cast. Each deliberate forward motion of the rod shall constitute a roll cast whether or not the fly leaves the water.

B) Penalties - Each false cast shall count as a roll cast attempt and a penalty of two (2) demerits shall be assessed.

C) Interruption of the Casting Program

- i) Outside Interference - In the event the caster is interrupted during the Roll Cast round due to outside interference, as determined by the Judge, the caster shall continue the sequence where interrupted. When caster begins, the Judge shall notify the caster that the time has started and the caster shall proceed to the remaining targets.
- ii) Other Interruptions - If the caster is interrupted during the Roll Cast round for reasons other than outside interference they shall roll cast to the next target in the casting program.

D) Method of Scoring

- i) General - No cast shall be scored unless the line, leader, and fly are intact. The Judge shall notify the caster whenever they notice the fly is off. Each cast shall be scored where the fly first strikes the water regardless where it may ultimately settle.
 - ii) Scoring for Accuracy
 - a) Only perfects shall count and a caster shall remain on target until scoring a perfect.
 - b) Two (2) demerits shall be assessed for each target not hit within the allocated fifteen (15) roll casts or if time expires.
 - iii) Demerits for Penalties - Penalty demerits shall be in addition to accuracy demerits.
- 8. CASTER'S SCORE** - One hundred (100) points less the total number of demerits for accuracy and penalties shall constitute the caster's score.

BASS BUG ACCURACY

1. EQUIPMENT

A) Rod

- i) Length - Shall not exceed nine feet, three-fourth inch (9'3/4") overall.
- ii) Weight - Unrestricted

B) Reel - Unrestricted

C) Line

- i) Type - Shall be standard fly fishing line of plastic floating type.
- ii) Size - Maximum diameter shall not exceed 0.068 inches. Line shall not be stretched after it is stripped from the reel, for verification by tournament officials.
- iii) Markings - Shall not be 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 with a tippet at least twelve (12) inches long that does not exceed 0.014 inches in diameter.

E) Bug

- i) Description - Official bass bug with cork body adopted by the ACA. The cork body shall not be shorter than three-fourths (3/4) inch in length nor smaller than one-half (1/2) inch in diameter. The hair tail shall not be shorter than one (1) inch.
- ii) Application - Only one bug may be attached to the leader at the tip end. The bug may be changed at any time, or a lost bug replaced, with a bug approved by the Judge.

2. TARGET COURSE

A) Targets - Six (6) 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. At no time shall the distance be less than the minimum distance specified in Section 2 B i nor exceed the maximum distance specified in Sections 2 B ii or 2 B iii.

B) Distance

- i) Near Target - The near target shall be placed from twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) 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 from sixty-five (65) to seventy (70) feet, as measured from the center of the target to the center of the front edge of the casting box.
- iii) Second Farthest Target - The second farthest target shall be placed from forty-five (45) to fifty (50) feet, as measured from the center of the target to the center of the front edge of the casting box.
- iv) Other Targets - The three (3) remaining targets shall be placed randomly in the intervening space between the near and the second farthest target, and not in a straight line.

3. TIME

- A) 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 five (5) minutes to complete the casting program.
- 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 bug, unless that loss is caused by external contact such as a tree or a snag on

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a target, shall not be considered interference. The loss of a bug caused by striking any part of the casting platform shall not be considered outside interference.

C) Penalties - A penalty of two (2) 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 two (2) rounds. The caster must enter casting box before beginning the casting program. After stepping into the casting box, 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 at the target nearest the casting box and proceed to the next nearest target and so on until all targets have been cast.

B) Casting Style - Singlehanded.

5. ROUND ONE

A) Procedure

- i) Initial - Line shall be stripped from the reel, by caster or Judge, and bug placed at least ten (10) feet beyond the farthest target. Caster then retrieves line in any way practical except for the following restrictions:
 - a) None of the retrieved line shall be placed on the reel.
 - b) Caster may not hold loose line in any way.
 - c) False casting is not permitted during the retrieve.
 - d) Before the first final forward cast, the caster shall meet the initial conditions of having the bug or leader in hand and no more than leader plus two (2) feet of line extending beyond the rod tip
- ii) False Cast - The false cast, in which the line, leader, and bug are moved through the air without intentionally striking the surface in front of the casting box, is the mechanism for letting line out and measuring distance to the next target.
- iii) Final Forward Cast - Whenever the intact line, leader and bug settles in front of the casting box on a final forward cast, it shall be scored for accuracy (see Section 8). The front edge of the casting box shall be defined as an imaginary line extending one hundred eighty (180) degrees out from each side of the front of the casting box. Laying down the extended line, leader and fly anywhere behind the front edge of the casting box is acceptable.
- iv) First Target - Caster may false cast as many times as required to measure distance to the nearest target before making a final forward cast.
- v) Remaining Targets - After making a final forward cast at the first target, the caster shall proceed to the next nearest target and so on until all targets have been cast. No more than two (2) false casts shall be permitted between each of the remaining targets.
- vi) Penalties
 - a) Tick - Should the line, leader, or bug, extended beyond the rod tip, strike the surface in front of the casting box during a false cast, it shall be scored a tick. The penalty for a tick shall count during the entire round, whether caster is in or out of casting box and whether or not the bug is on. The penalty of one (1) demerit shall be assessed for each tick.
 - b) Extra False Casts - A penalty of one (1) demerit shall be assessed for each false cast in excess of the allotted two (2).
 - c) A penalty of two (2) demerits shall be assessed for each infraction, if caster fails to begin the round as specified in Section 5 A i.

6. ROUND TWO

A) Procedure

- i) Initial - At the conclusion of the sixth final forward cast of Round One, caster shall retrieve line in any way practical, except for the following restrictions:
 - a) None of the retrieved line shall be placed on the reel.
 - b) Caster may not hold loose line in any way.
 - c) False casting is not permitted during the retrieve.
 - d) Before the first final forward cast, the caster shall meet the initial conditions of having the bug or leader in hand and no more than leader plus two (2) feet of line extending beyond the rod tip. The round begins with the first false cast.
- ii) All Targets - Caster shall then repeat the procedure of Round One, except that after completing the final forward cast at the nearest target, only one (1) false cast shall be allowed between each target.
- iii) Penalties - Same as Round One, except that one (1) demerit shall be assessed for each false cast in excess of allotted one (1) false cast.

7. INTERRUPTION OF CASTING PROGRAM

- A) **Outside Interference** - In the event the caster is interrupted due to outside interference, as determined by the Judge, the caster shall make a final forward cast at the last target scored. When the Judge is satisfied that the caster has the appropriate line length required to reach the last scored target, they shall then notify the caster that the time has started and the caster shall lift the line from the water and proceed to the remaining targets.
- B) **Temporary Hang-ups** – A special case of outside interference occurs when the line, leader or bug temporarily hang-up at a target or other obstruction in the water during the pick-up after a final forward cast. In this event, the caster shall have the right to abort all casting motion and restart as in section A) – with the following differences:
 - i) The caster must stop the casting motion before the first forward cast and declare a “temporary hang-up”. Failure to stop as specified forfeits the right for a restart and all forward casts count towards the limit of permitted false casts;
 - ii) The judge acknowledges the restart request after which the caster is permitted to place the bug near the last scored target. As in section A), the judge shall notify the caster when the caster may proceed with the casting program;
 - iii) There is no time out for temporary hang-ups.

8. METHOD OF SCORING

A) General

- i) No final forward cast shall be scored unless the line, leader, and bug are intact. The Judge shall notify the caster whenever they notice that the bug is off.
- ii) Each final forward cast shall be scored where the fly first strikes the water, any portion of a target, a scoring ring, or the platform in front of the casting box, regardless of where the bug may ultimately settle.
- iii) If the line or leader strikes the water in front of the casting box, in a final forward cast, when the bug is not intact, it shall be scored a tick, whether or not the Judge has notified the caster that the bug is off, unless the bug is lost during that final forward cast. In that eventuality, no penalty shall be assessed.

B) Demerits for Accuracy

- i) A bug 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 bug misses the extreme edge of the target on a final forward cast, a demerit of one (1) shall be assessed. Maximum demerits for accuracy for any final forward cast shall be two (2) except for the far target where the maximum shall be five (5).

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

- 9. **CASTER'S SCORE** - One hundred (100) points less the total number of demerits for accuracy and for penalties shall constitute a caster's score.

ACCURACY PLUGS

1/4oz. (7.5g) - 3/8oz. - 5/8oz. (18g)

The rules for the three accuracy plug events are similar except For Equipment. The equipment is described by event. The Target Course, Method of Casting and Method of Scoring are described collectively.

1. EQUIPMENT

A) 1/4oz. (7.5g) Plug Accuracy (Fixed Spool Reel)

- i) Rod - Unrestricted**
- ii) Reel - Fixed Spool**
- iii) Line - Unrestricted**
- iv) Plug - Any official 1/4oz. (7.5g) accuracy plug adopted by the Association.**

B) 3/8oz. Plug Accuracy (Unrestricted Reel)

- i) Rod Unrestricted**
- ii) Reel Unrestricted**
- iii) Line Unrestricted**
- iv) Plug - Any official 3/8oz. accuracy plug adopted by the Association.**

C) 5/8oz. (18g) Plug Accuracy

- i) Rod - Unrestricted**
- ii) Reel – Revolving-Spool Reel.** The reel shall be unrestricted for all casters who meet the requirements of any of the following exceptions:
 - a) Young casters – Casters 16 years of age or younger**
 - b) Exemption – Casters who feel that their current physical condition does not allow the use of a revolving-spool reel may apply for an exemption. The application must be done in writing and shall include their detailed reasoning. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to grant temporary or permanent exemptions.**
- iii) Line - Unrestricted**
- iv) Plug - Any official 5/8oz. (18g) accuracy plug adopted by the Association.**

2. TARGET COURSE

A) Targets - The following options are permitted in the target course:

- i) OPTION 1: One (1) station with five (5) targets.** Near target shall be placed as specified in Section 2Bi and one far target shall be placed as specified in Section 2Bii. The remaining targets shall be placed at intervening distances and not in a straight line perpendicular to the casting box.
- ii) OPTION 2: Two (2) stations with five (5) targets at each station.** Each station shall be as indicated in Option 1.
- iii) OPTION 3: Five (5) stations with two (2) targets at each station.** Two (2) near targets shall be placed as specified in Section 2Bi and two (2) far targets shall be placed as specified in Section 2Bii. The other targets shall be placed at intervening distances. In general, at any station the target distances shall be no more than approximately twenty-five (25) feet apart.
- iv) OPTION 4: Ten (10) stations with one (1) target at each station.** Two (2) near targets shall be placed as specified in Section 2Bi and two (2) far targets shall be placed as specified in Section 2Bii. The remaining targets shall be placed at intervening distances.
- v) OPTION 5: More than two (2) stations but less than five (5) stations so that the total number of targets is ten (10).** Two (2) near targets shall be placed as specified in Section 2Bi and two (2) far targets shall be placed as specified in Section 2Bii. The other targets shall be placed at intervening distances. Distribution of targets, among the stations, shall be determined by the Tournament Captain. In general, at any station the target distance shall be no more than approximately twenty-five (25) feet apart.

The purpose of Options 2, 3, 4 and 5 is to affect a continuous flow of casters through the target course. The option selected will depend upon the physical facilities of the location and the number of entries.

B) Distances

- i) Near Target - The near target shall be placed from forty (40) to forty-five (45) 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 from seventy-five (75) to eighty (80) feet, as measured from the center of the target to the center of the front edge of the casting box.
- iii) Youth - The target course shall not exceed sixty (60) feet and their ten (10) targets will be selected from the regular course at the option of the Tournament Captain.

3. METHOD OF CASTING

A) Casting Program

- i) General - The casting program shall consist of a total of ten (10) scoring casts using one of the target course options of Section 2A in the order and as directed by the Tournament Captain. Whenever possible, at outdoor National Tournaments, each caster shall cast individually at a station until completing all scoring casts required at that station. If this procedure is followed, Options one (1) through five (5) [Section C – i through v] shall not apply. All casters shall cast the same order of targets, except Youth.
- ii) Scoring Cast - A scoring cast is a cast 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 assessed by the Judge.

B) Casting Style - Singlehanded, except Youth may cast Doublehanded.

C) Procedure

General - The procedure for the accuracy plug events will depend upon the selected target course option in Section 2 A.

- i) OPTION 1 uses one (1) station and five (5) targets. There should be no more than five (5) casters in a group. The first caster steps into the box, makes a scoring cast at the first target, and steps out of the box. Then the first caster retrieves their plug while the second caster steps into the box and makes a scoring cast at the same target. This procedure shall be repeated until all casters have made scoring casts at the first target and in a similar manner until all five (5) targets have been cast. The procedure is repeated until all casters have made ten (10) scoring casts. All five (5) targets at the station must be cast before any target may be cast again and successive casts at any one target are not permitted.
- ii) OPTION 2 uses five (5) targets at each of two (2) stations. There should be no more than five (5) casters in a group. The procedure is similar to Option 1 except that when the last caster in the group completes a scoring cast, on the fifth target of the first station, the entire group moves to the second station and a new group of five (5) casters moves to the first station.
- iii) OPTION 3 uses five (5) stations and two (2) targets at each station. Two (2) casters should cast in a group. The first caster steps into the box, makes a scoring cast at the first target, and steps out of the box. Then the first caster retrieves their plug while the second caster steps into the box and makes a scoring cast at the same target. The procedure is then repeated for the second target. The first group of casters then moves to the second station, and the procedure is repeated, while a second group of two (2) casters, begin on the first station. This procedure is repeated until all casters have made ten (10) scoring casts.
- iv) OPTION 4 uses ten (10) stations with one (1) target at each station. Each caster casts individually stopping at each of the ten (10) stations in turn.
- v) OPTION 5 uses more than two (2) stations but less than five (5). The procedure is similar to Option 3.

D) Authorized False Cast - Regardless of the Option used for the target course, each caster shall be permitted three (3) authorized false casts. An authorized false cast is a cast executed only when it is the casters turn to cast and made only after the approval of the Judge. The caster shall step outside the casting box and cast reasonably away from any target, which constitutes any part of the target course. If the caster does not conform to the above, any such cast shall be considered an unauthorized cast, except that any cast made from the casting box shall be considered to be a scoring cast, regardless of the approval granted by the Judge. For each unauthorized cast, or for each false cast in excess of three (3) authorized false casts, a penalty of five (5) demerits shall be assessed.

4. METHOD OF SCORING

A) General - Each scoring cast shall be scored where the plug falls, whether in front of or behind the forward edge of the casting box, whether or not the line is intact. If a scoring cast is arrested so as to abort the cast, a penalty of five (5) demerits shall be assessed regardless of whether or not the plug strikes fixed object or is caught by a caster.

B) Demerits for Accuracy

i) A plug falling within or on any portion of the target above the water line shall be scored a perfect and shall be assessed zero (0) demerits.

ii) For each foot or fraction thereof the plug misses the extreme edge of the target a demerit of one (1) shall be assessed.

iii) The maximum demerits for accuracy for any 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 penalties shall constitute a caster's score.

PLUG DISTANCE

1/4oz. (7.5g) Singlehanded - 5/8oz. (18g) Singlehanded - 5/8oz. (18g) Doublehanded

The rules for the three plug distance events are similar except for Equipment. The Equipment is described by event. The Distance Course, Method of Casting and Method of Scoring are described collectively.

1. EQUIPMENT

A) 1/4oz. (7.5g) Plug Distance, Singlehanded

i) Rod

- a)** The complete rod shall not exceed eight feet, two inches (8'2").
- b)** The inside diameter of the tip ring shall not exceed twenty-five sixty-fourths (25/64) inch or ten (10) millimeters.
- c)** The inside diameter of the guide ring shall not exceed one and twenty-five sixty-fourths (1&25/64) inch or fifty (50) millimeters.

ii) Reel - Fixed Spool.

iii) Line according to one of the two following options.

Option A: Continuous line, devoid of knot(s), splice(s), or built in taper (no diameter restriction).

Option B: Running line with a diameter of at least 0.0071 inches (tolerance down to 0.18mm) and leader with a diameter of at least 0.010 inches (tolerance down to 0.25mm). The leader must extend from the plug to at least one full turn on the reel.

iv) Plug - A.C.A. approved 1/4oz. (7,5g) distance plug.

B) 5/8oz. (18g) Plug Revolving Spool Distance, Doublehanded

i) Rod - Unrestricted

ii) Reel - Revolving Spool Reel of standard manufacture of at least one hundred (100) units – otherwise unrestricted

iii) Line - The minimum diameter of the line shall not be less than ten thousandths (0.010) inches with a tolerance such that the minimum diameter is 0.25 millimeters. Shock lines shall be used and there must be at least one (1) complete turn of the shock line around the spool. If any part of the shock line has a diameter less than 0.014 inches (allowable tolerance down to 0.35 mm), its maximum length is three (3) rod lengths.

iv) Plug - A.C.A. approved 5/8oz. (18g) distance plug.

C) 5/8oz. (18g) Plug Distance, Doublehanded

i) Rod - Unrestricted

ii) Reel - Fixed Spool

iii) Line - The minimum diameter of the line shall not be less than ten thousandths (0.010) inches with a tolerance such that the minimum diameter is 0.25 millimeters. Shock lines shall be used and there must be at least one (1) complete turn of the shock line around the spool. If any part of the shock line has a diameter less than 0.014 inches (allowable tolerance down to 0.35 mm), its maximum length is three (3) rod lengths.

iv) Plug - A.C.A. approved 5/8oz. (18g) distance plug.

2. DISTANCE COURSE - The Distance Course shall be a court of sufficient length with a maximum width of 180 degrees and a minimum width of 100 feet at a distance of 200 feet. Both the left and right court boundaries shall be marked before the event begins. The marking should consist of ropes or tape secured to the ground or a series of clearly visible stakes or flags.

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 or Doublehanded, as specified in Section 1.

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 shooting cast shall be determined to the nearest foot via one of the following methods.

- i) Default method – The distance is measured along the straight line from the location where the plug comes to rest to the center of the leading edge of the casting box.
- ii) Alternate method – The distance is taken along a predetermined direction. The spot where the plug comes to rest is projected perpendicularly onto the predetermined direction and the distance from the projected spot to the casting box is measured.

The alternate method may only be used if it was declared at the time the “schedule of events” was first approved by the Board or if all participating casters agree to its use before the event begins.

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.

FLY DISTANCE

Angler's Fly Distance - Fly Distance Singlehanded - Fly Distance Doublehanded

The rules of the fly distance events are similar except for Equipment, allowable time, and the use of a line tender. The Equipment is described by event. The Distance Course, Method of Casting, (with exceptions noted) and Method of Scoring are described collectively.

1. EQUIPMENT

A) Angler's Fly Distance

- i) Rod** - The complete rod shall not exceed nine feet, one inch (9'1") in length and shall be singlehanded.
- ii) Reel** - Unrestricted, except reel must be attached to the rod and must be capable of holding the entire line.
- iii) Line**
 - a) Shooting head** shall be no longer than thirty-one (31) feet nor shorter than twenty-eight (28) feet and shall weigh not more than three hundred ten (310) grains.
 - b) Running line** - Unrestricted except that the diameter shall not be less than 0.015 inches.
- iv) Leader** - Shall consist of a single leader of natural or artificial gut or gut substitute not more than twelve (12) feet nor shorter than nine (9) feet in length.
- v) Fly**
 - a) Description** - Official distance fly adopted by the Association. The hackle shall not be smaller than five-eighths (5/8) inch in diameter.
 - b) 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.

B) Fly Distance, Singlehanded

- i) Rod** - The complete rod shall not exceed nine feet and nine inches (9'9") in length.
- ii) Reel** - Unrestricted, except reel must be attached to the rod and must be capable of holding the entire line.
- iii) Line**
 - a) For Men, Senior Men, and Intermediate boys**, the shooting head shall not be less than forty-four feet four inches (44' 4") in length and shall not weigh more than six hundred fifty (650) grains.
 - b) For Women, Senior Women, and Intermediate girls**, the shooting head shall not be less than forty-four feet four inches (44'4") in length and shall not weigh more than five hundred twenty four (524) grains.
 - c) Running line** - Unrestricted.
- iv) Leader** - Shall consist of a single leader of natural or artificial gut or gut substitute and not longer than twelve (12) feet nor shorter than six (6) feet in length.
- v) Fly**
 - a) Description** - Official distance fly adopted by the Association. The hackle shall not be smaller than five-eighths (5/8) inch in diameter.
 - b) 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.

C) Fly Distance, Doublehanded

- i) Rod** - The complete rod shall not exceed seventeen (17) feet in length.
- ii) Reel** - Unrestricted, except reel must be attached to the rod and must be capable of holding the entire line.
- iii) Line**
 - a) Shooting Head** - The shooting head shall not be less than forty-nine feet three inches (49'-3") or fifteen (15) meters in length and shall not weigh more than eighteen hundred fifty five (1855) grains.
 - b) Running Line** - Unrestricted
- iv) Leader** - Shall consist of a single leader of natural or artificial gut or gut substitute not longer than seventeen (17) feet nor shorter than six (6) feet in length.
- v) Fly**
 - a) Description** - Official distance fly adopted by the Association. The hackle shall not be smaller than five-eighths (5/8) inch in diameter.

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b) 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. DISTANCE COURSE - The Distance Course shall be a court of sufficient length with a maximum width of 180 degrees and a minimum width of 100 feet at a distance of 200 feet. Both the left and right court boundaries shall be marked before the event begins. The marking should consist of ropes or tape secured to the ground or a series of clearly visible stakes or flags.

3. TIME

A) General - Time starts when caster calls "score" or at the expiration of the two (2) minute preparation time. Caster must call "score" before the fly passes the casting box on the way forward for a shooting cast.

B) Limits - The time limits shall be:

i) Angler's Fly Distance - Five (5) minutes

ii) Fly Distance, Singlehanded - Five (5) minutes

iii) Fly Distance, Doublehanded - Seven (7) minutes

iv) In order that a shooting cast shall be measured, the fly must have passed the casting box on the way forward, before time expires.

C) Preparation Time - Two (2) minutes of preparation time shall begin when the judge declares the box open.

D) 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, shall not be considered outside interference. The loss of a fly caused by striking any part of the casting platform, water, or land surface, shall not be considered outside interference.

4. METHOD OF CASTING

A) Casting Program

i) General - The casting program shall consist of as many shooting casts as the caster desires to make during the allotted time.

ii) Shooting Cast - A shooting cast shall be the released cast in a sequence of false casts or casts that have been made in an effort to obtain distance.

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 or Doublehanded as specified in Section 1.

C) Procedures

i) Initial

a) Angler's Fly Distance - Caster may have assistance in removing line from the reel and in straightening line before and during preparation time. Caster shall be allowed no assistance during casting time.

b) Fly Distance Singlehanded and Fly Distance Doublehanded - Caster shall be allowed a line tender who shall assist caster in initially extending and stretching line and in retrieving line as required throughout the duration of the preparation time and casting program.

ii) False Casts - Caster may make as many false casts, or other casts as desired, before making a shooting cast.

iii) Release of Shooting Cast - From the time the fly passes the casting box on the way forward for a shooting cast, until the fly strikes the land surface at the conclusion of the shooting cast, all parts of the caster's body, and all attached clothing, must contact only the surface of the casting box. However, any false casts made prior to the release of the shooting cast may begin from outside the casting box.

5. METHOD OF SCORING

A) General - No shooting cast shall be scored unless the line, leader, and fly are intact. The Judge shall notify the caster whenever they notice that the fly is off.

B) Measurement - The length of a shooting cast shall be determined to the nearest foot via one of the following methods.

i) Default method - The distance is measured along the straight line from the location where the fly comes to rest to the center of the leading edge of the casting box.

ii) Alternate method - The distance is taken along a predetermined direction. The spot where the fly comes to rest is projected perpendicularly onto the predetermined direction and the distance from the projected spot to the casting box is measured.

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The alternate method may only be used if it was declared at the time the “schedule of events” was first approved by the Board or if all participating casters agree to its use before the event begins.

- C) Penalties - Overstep:** If any part of the caster's body, or any attached clothing, touches any part of the surface outside of the casting box, between the time that the fly passes the casting box on the way forward for a shooting cast, until the fly strikes the land surface at the conclusion of the shooting cast, that cast shall not be measured.
- D) Caster's Score -** The caster's longest shooting cast shall constitute the caster's score. The second longest shooting cast shall be recorded, but shall be used only to break ties.

RULES GOVERNING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. **RECOGNIZED EVENTS** - The recognized events of the Association shall be:
 - A) **Trout Fly Accuracy**
 - B) **Bass Bug Accuracy**
 - C) **1/4oz (7.5g) Plug Accuracy**
 - D) **5/8oz (18g) Plug Accuracy**
 - E) **Angler's Fly Distance**
 - F) **1/4oz (7.5g) Plug Distance - Singlehanded**
2. **SPECIAL EVENTS** - The Special Events of the Association shall be:
 - A) **Dry Fly Accuracy**
 - B) **3/8oz Plug Accuracy**
 - C) **Fly Distance - Singlehanded**
 - D) **Fly Distance - Doublehanded**
 - E) **5/8oz (18g) Plug Revolving Spool Distance - Doublehanded**
 - F) **5/8oz (18g) Plug Spinning Distance - Doublehanded**
 - G) **Team Accuracy Plug - 5/8oz (18g)**
 - H) **Skish Plug Accuracy**
 - I) **Spincast Accuracy**
 - J) **Skish Fly Accuracy**
 - K) **Wet Fly Accuracy**
 - L) **5/8 oz. Plug Distance - Singlehanded**
 - M) **5-wt. Accuracy, 5-wt. Distance, or 5-wt. Combination.**
 - N) **Any event in the current list of events of the International Casting Sport Federation (I.C.S.F.).**
3. **Minimum Number of Events** - A minimum of 10 events shall be scheduled to cast at an Annual Tournament. This shall include all Recognized Events listed in point 1 and any selection from the Special Events listed in point 2. Approved demonstration events may be scheduled but shall not count toward the minimum.
4. **SINGLE EVENT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS** - For each of the recognized and special events in the casting divisions, specified in section Competitive Divisions, that have been scheduled and cast at an Annual Tournament, there shall be a National Champion determined by competition. Any records established shall be considered as official records. There shall be no required number of entries and all awards shall be given.
 - A) **Accuracy Events:** The National Champion in an accuracy event shall be the caster having the highest score. In case of a tie, the cast off procedure, as specified under National Tournament Regulations, shall be used to determine the winner.
 - B) **Distance Events:** The National Champion in a distance event shall be the caster having the longest scoring cast. In case of a tie the second longest scoring cast shall determine the winner. If a tie still exists, duplicate awards shall be given.
5. **COMBINED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS** - There shall be Combined Championships for each of the casting divisions scheduled and cast at the Annual Tournament. Awards shall only be given if at least two events belong to a combination. The recognized events belonging to each combination are listed below. The Board must approve the addition of any proposed special events. The default method for determining the winner is listed below. The Board may approve the use of position points instead of scores. A caster having registered for a particular event in a US Open division shall only be eligible for US Open Combined Championships in all combinations that include that event.
 - A) **Accuracy Flies** - The National Accuracy Flies Champion shall be the caster having the highest total score in Trout Fly Accuracy and Bass Bug Accuracy plus any Board-approved special events.
 - B) **Accuracy Plugs** - The National Accuracy Plugs Champion shall be the caster having the highest total score in 1/4 oz. Plug Accuracy and 5/8 oz. Plug Accuracy plus any Board-approved special events.
 - C) **All Accuracy** - The National All Accuracy Champion shall be the caster having the highest total score in the events that comprise the Accuracy Flies and Accuracy Plugs Combinations.
 - D) **Distance Flies** - Provided there are at least two events in this category, the National Distance Flies Champion shall be the caster having the highest total footage score in Angler's Fly Distance plus any Board-approved special events.

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- E) Distance Plugs** - Provided there are at least two events in this category, the National Distance Plugs Champion shall be the caster having the highest total footage score in 1/4 oz. (7.5g) Plug Distance plus any Board-approved special events.
 - F) All Distance** - The National All Distance Champion shall be the caster having the highest total footage score in Angler's Fly and 1/4 oz. (7.5g) Plug Distance plus any Board-approved special events.
 - G) All Angler's Combination** - The National All Angler's Combination Champion shall be the caster having the lowest position points total for the six recognized events. Awards shall only be given in division where all six events were scheduled and cast with at least 5 participants. Casters who cast all six events, but whose division is ineligible, will be included in the Men's Division, without affecting their eligibility for other awards in their division.
 - H) ALL-AROUND** - The All-Around Champion shall be the caster having the lowest position points total for all recognized and special events that were scheduled and cast. Only casters who have cast all of those events qualify to be included in the determination of the position points. At tournaments without "US Open Championships" designation, the title shall be "National Grand All-Around Champion". All qualifying casters - regardless of division - are combined into a single All-Around group for determining the position points. At tournaments with "US Open Championships" designation, there shall be two such awards: the US Open Men's All-Around Champion and the US Open Women's All-Around Champion. All qualifying male and female casters - regardless of division - are combined into their respective gender's group for determining the position points.
- 6. TIES** - In case of a tie, in any of the combined championships, duplicate awards shall be given.

RULES GOVERNING NATIONAL TOURNAMENT AWARDS

- 1. TROPHY IDENTIFICATION** - In no tournament except the Annual Tournament shall any trophy be awarded that is identified as "ACA Championship Trophy." In no tournament except an Annual Tournament with US Open Championships designation shall any trophy be awarded that is identified as "ACA US Open Trophy."
- 2. SINGLE EVENT AWARDS** - There shall be appropriate awards for first, second, and third place winners in each recognized and special single event in the Annual Tournament. Additional awards may be given at the discretion of the National Tournament Committee.
- 3. COMBINED EVENT AWARDS** - There shall be appropriate awards for each Combined Championship described in Rules Governing National Championships, Section 4.
- 4. ALL AMERICAN TEAM** - At each Annual Tournament there shall be named an All American Team constituted as follows:
 - A) Grand All Around Champion**
 - B) Angler's All Around Champion**
 - C) Five Ranking Casters in the combination of:**
 - i)** the events belonging to the Accuracy Flies Award
 - ii)** the events belonging to the Accuracy Plugs AwardThe ranking method approved by the Board applies.
 - D) Three Ranking Casters in the combination of:**
 - i)** the events belonging to the Distance Flies Award
 - ii)** the events belonging to the Distance Plugs AwardThe number of ranking casters reduces to two if only one event is cast in a category.Results of all registered casters regardless of competitive division shall be included in determining rankings for the All American Team. Casters who do not meet the residency restrictions outlined in "Competitive Divisions, point 2. Eligibility (non-US Open Divisions) shall be excluded.
- 5. ONE HUNDRED CLUB** - There shall be an appropriate medal awarded to any caster making his first perfect score, in any scheduled event involving accuracy, at an Annual Tournament. A cast off score shall not qualify for membership in the One Hundred Club.
- 6. BASKET BUTTON** - An appropriate button award shall be presented to each caster who makes a total score of at least five hundred and forty-six (546), in the six (6) recognized accuracy events.
- 7. ATTENDANCE AWARD** - Appropriate button awards shall be presented to any caster who has attended and registered in five (5), ten (10), and fifteen (15) Annual Tournaments. A special attendance award shall be presented to any caster, who has attended and registered in twenty (20) Annual Tournaments and beyond in five (5) year increments. Qualified casters shall make application in person at an Annual Tournament.
- 8. PROCUREMENT OF AWARDS** - The Board of Directors is responsible for the selection and procurement of National Tournament Awards. The Board may designate the host club (if volunteering) or an ACA officer to handle the detail tasks.

ADDITIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Further rules and regulations such as Certified Casting Instructor Regulations, Master Angler Award Regulations, Rules for Special Events, Surf Events Rules and Regulations, and Correspondence Tournament Regulations are maintained in a separate document. This 'Special Programs and Events' document can be obtained from the association website and from the secretary.

APPENDIX

FLY LINE STANDARDS

AFTMA FLY LINE STANDARDS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Range</u>
1	60	54 – 66
2	80	74 – 86
3	100	94 – 106
4	120	114 – 126
5	140	134 – 146
6	160	152 – 168
7	185	177 – 193
8	210	202 – 218
9	240	230 – 250
10	280	270 – 290
11	330	318 – 342
12	380	368 – 392

Weight is in grains, based on first 30 feet (exclusive of any taper tip).

Range allows for acceptable manufacturing tolerances.

IDENTIFICATION SYMBOLS:

- L = Level
- DT = Double Taper
- WF = Weight Forward
- ST = Single Taper
- F = Floating Line
- S = Sinking
- I = Intermediate (float or sink)

EXAMPLES:

- DT-9-F = Double Taper 240 grain floating line
- L-4-I = Level 120 grain intermediate line
- WF-12-S = Weight forward taper 380 grain sinking line

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

MEASURES

ENGLISH

1 inch

1 foot

.0394 inch

.3937 inch

3.2808 feet

METRIC

2.54 centimeters

25.4 millimeters

.3048 meter

30.48 centimeters

1 millimeter

1 centimeter

1 meter

WEIGHTS

AVOIRDUPOIS

1 grain

1 ounce

.0353 ounce (oz)

METRIC

.0648 gram (g)

28.3495 grams (g)

1 gram (g)

CONVERSION FORMULAS

Inches to Centimeters _____ inches x 2.54

Feet to Meters _____ feet x .3048

Centimeters to Inches _____ centimeters x .3937

Meters to Feet _____ meters x 3.2808

Grains to Grams _____ grains x .0648

Ounces to Grams _____ ounces x 28.3495

Grams to Grains _____ grams x 15.44

Grams to Ounces _____ grams x .0353

PLUG WEIGHTS (+/- 9 grains)

1/4oz. (7.5g) = 100.375 to 118.375gr.

3/8oz. = 155.063 to 173.063gr.

5/8oz. (18g) = 264.438 to 282.438gr.