

Bedford Angling Club – Match Rules – As amended from the Angling Trust Model Match Rules – Version: 2026-2027

1. The starting and finishing times for the match will be prominently displayed on all promotional material relating to the match and made clear again at the draw.
2. The duration for a contest shall be five hours unless otherwise specified by the match officials.
3. The match must be a pegged down competition. All pegs should be sensibly spaced apart and when used under normal conditions must be of a state to give competitors a practicable and reasonable chance to fish his or her swim.
4. All officials participating in the organisation of the match will be highlighted to competitors at the draw of each match as clear evidence of their authority.
5. Each competitor on drawing their number shall proceed to the corresponding number on the bank and this will be considered their fishing ground where they will fish. The peg must remain in position until the weigh-in is completed.
6. Every competitor must fish from within two metres either side of their designated peg save in exceptional circumstances where the officials agree to a variance to this. As we fish on flowing water, and for the avoidance of doubt, the competitor may fish in the direction of the flow as far as the next peg.
7. The competitor will restrict their angling activities completely to these boundaries, neither their person, their tackle, their hookbaits or groundbaits may intrude into their neighbour's swim.
8. In an extreme situation, for example, snagged tackle or a snagged fish, a competitor must seek permission from their neighbour/s before moving from their designated peg to try and remedy the situation.
9. A competitor must not cause annoyance to, or seek to interfere with, another competitor and must act in a sporting manner at all times.
10. Mobile phones may be used during the course of the competition but may not be used to give or seek advice related to the match.
11. No competitor may move their peg or exchange their peg or draw card with another without the official's consent.
12. No competitor shall buy more than one entry ticket for themselves from which it follows that all competitors must be strictly restricted to one draw.
13. Competitors must retain all fish in keepnets which comply with the relevant EA Byelaws. Competitors must take every practicable step to keep their fish alive and, after weighing them, must ensure their careful return to the water. If, for any reason fish are seen to be in

distress, a competitor or official has the right to request that they be weighed immediately and returned to the water during the course of the match. See below in respect of larger fish.

14. A competitor shall have in use one rod or pole, one line and one single hook at one time, but may have other rods or poles and tackle assembled for use in position behind them, if possible, providing that no such other tackles are baited.

15. Any bait, subject to local rules, can be used except live or dead fish, frogs, spinning baits or artificial lures.

16. No competitor shall have live or dead fish in their possession before a match. All competitors must submit to a search if requested by an official.

17. Before the starting signal no competitor must on any account introduce groundbait or loose feed the swim but will be allowed to wet a line, plumb the depth and test the float, mix and wet groundbait, clear their ground of weed or obstructions and position their equipment. On no account must a loaded feeder be used before the starting signal. A ledger weight or empty feeder may be cast to find depth and distance etc, but a no time must the line be left in the water whilst continuing to set up other tackle.

18. Competitors may receive assistance to or from their peg, or both, for themselves or their tackle, or both.

19. All groundbait may be thrown in by hand, or by use of one or two handed catapults, throwing sticks, swim feeders, bait droppers and bait cups, but no other mechanical means of projecting groundbait is allowed. No bait shall be introduced with a pole cup or bait dropper attached to an extra rod/pole whilst continuing to fish.

20. All hooks on all waters should be barbless or micro-barbed (Maximum size 8).

21. Maximum permitted length of poles is 16 metres.

22. A competitor must strike, play and land his own fish.

23. Hand lining fish is not permitted, this includes handling elastics and line. Also not allowed is the practice of trapping stretched elastic with the hand down the length of poles sections. Fish should never be bullied like this. This does not affect the use of Pulla bungs and similar devices.

24. Keepnets should be dry when arriving to fish as dry nets do not spread disease. Fish must never be handled with gloves or towels.

25. Competitors shall use common sense in deciding whether to ask the officials weigh in larger fish individually and before the end of the match to reduce the risk of harm to the fish. The final decision will be with the officials.

26. No bait, equipment or information can be given to any competitor during the course of the match.
27. Any competitor who abandons their peg having decided to cease taking part in the match but who decides to continue fishing must do so outside the confines of the length being used for the match.
28. A competitor may wade provided that the water does not extend above the knees unless they can touch the bank with fingertips, in which case the water can extend above the knees. When platforms are used, the water must not come over the knees when standing on a river bed.
29. No competitor shall leave their peg at any time during the course of the match other than to answer the call of nature or check upon a fellow competitor and then they must not leave their baited hook in the water. At the end of the match any competitor detailed for scalesman duties must have a witness to the weighing of their own catch.
30. A competitor must cease fishing at the finishing signal. Should they still be playing a fish hooked before the signal is given, they will be permitted no more than fifteen minutes after time has been called to land the fish.
31. All fish caught are eligible for weighing with the exception of game fish, pike and crustaceans. It will be the responsibility of the competitor to return all live fish to the water after weighing and dispose appropriately of any dead fish.
32. Any fish suspected of being weighted or any fish considered suspicious by the scalesmen must be laid before the officials and the competitor's weight be not confirmed until a ruling has been obtained.
33. If the scalesmen recommended the disqualification of a competitor they will weigh their fish in case the ruling is not upheld.
34. All catches will be weighed to the nearest quarter of an ounce or ten grammes rounded up.
35. Each competitor will be responsible for checking the correct weight of their catch is recorded by the scalesmen.
36. In any dispute the decision of the scalesmen and the officials will be final.
37. All fish must be weighed at the competitor's peg. Unless the bankside terrain renders it impossible with no catch shall be carried more than fifteen yards to the scales.
38. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their pegs are clear of litter and no competitor may have their catch weighed in who has litter lying on the banks of their swim.
39. Any objection to a competitor's conduct, for whatever reason, must be raised with a officials or scalesmen within one hour of the end of the match. In all cases the objector shall

inform the offender of their intentions at the time in order that they may speak in their own defence. Should an offender after receiving such a warning leave the match scene, the objection shall be deemed to have been sustained and the officials must inform them of their findings and punishment (if any) within seven days.

40. All the foregoing rules are subject to the byelaws of the Environment Agency, and any local rules applicable to a fishery.

41. All holders of trophies must, on presentation of them must agree to keep them safely and shall undertake to return same (when applicable) in a clean and presentable condition when asked by the Committee. In the case of a team trophy, all members of that team are obliged under this rule.

42. Any competitor proved to have been in contravention of these rules will be disqualified.

43. The use of lead, including any alloy or compound lead, in the form of split shot or any other suitable thing for weighting fishing lines is prohibited. The prohibition does not apply to weights of lead, alloy or compound lead, of 0.06g or less, or of more than 28.35g. The prohibition also does not apply to weights of lead, alloy or compound less than 28.35g if the said lead, alloy or compound is incorporated in the construction of swim feeders or self cocking floats.

44. In the case of feeder only matches a 10 minute pre-baiting period is allowed. No bait is to be placed on the hook during this period.

Points scoring for regular and feeder only members matches

1. Each match shall be scored with 10 points for the winner down to 1 point for tenth place.
2. If two or more competitors record the same weight that would place them in the top ten, the points will be shared. See worked example below.

13 anglers compete.

Position	Weight	Points
1	11 pounds	10
2	10 pounds	9
3	9 pounds	8
4=	8 pounds 2 ounces	6.5
4=	8 pounds 2 ounces	6.5
6	8 pounds	5
7	7 pounds	4
8	6 pounds	3
9	5 pounds	2
10	4 pounds	1
11	3 pounds	0
12	2 pounds	0

13	Did not catch	0
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3. An angler must catch a fish and weigh in to score a point.
4. All competitors agree to their name and performances being added to the club website/Facebook page.
5. A competitors top 7 out of 10 regular members only matches entered, will count towards the season competitor totals. In the case of feeder only matches, all matches will count.

Points scoring for club representative matches

1. Competitors will all score a point based upon their position in the match, for example the competitor with the highest weight will score one point. The team with the lowest score wins. In the event of a draw on points then the total weight caught by each team will be the decider.
2. All competitors agree to their name and performances being added to the club website/Facebook page.

Prizes

1. Fees and payouts for the current season for matches can be seen in the attached appendix.
2. Trophies related to regular members only match season performances will be awarded at the Club AGM to the top 2 members match competitors across the season. In the event that two competitors have the same number of points the final position will be decided by their total weight of fish recorded in their top 7 matches. A trophy will also be awarded to the competitor who has caught the biggest fish of the season in a regular members only match.
3. In respect of feeder only matches the top two feeder only match competitors will also receive trophies.

APPENDIX

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MATCHES

Match Fees and Payouts for Members Matches 2025-2026

Number of Competitors	Cost per competitor	Pegging fee	Total Prize Pot	First	Second	Third
2	12	4	20	20		
3	12	6	30	30		
4	12	8	40	40		
5	12	10	50	30	20	
6	12	12	60	35	25	
7	12	14	70	40	30	
8	12	16	80	50	30	
9	12	18	90	45	30	15
10	12	20	100	50	30	20
11	12	22	110	55	35	20
12	12	24	120	60	35	25
13	12	26	130	65	40	25
14	12	28	140	70	40	30
15	12	30	150	75	45	30
16	12	32	160	80	50	30
17	12	34	170	85	50	35
18	12	36	180	90	55	35
19	12	38	190	95	60	35
20	12	40	200	100	60	40

Match Fees and Payouts for Representative Matches 2025-2026

Number of Competitors	Cost per competitor	Total Prize Pot	First	Second
12 (6 per team)	10	120	80	40

Match Fees and Payouts for Charity Matches 2025-2026

To be set by the Committee members involved in running the event, in advance of the event.