



Proposed modifications to the international FIPS Mouche rules

ARTICLE 4: CHAMPIONSHIP PROTOCOL

4.5. Only the national anthem of the individual and team gold medal winners must be played immediately after the presentation. Only the registered team members may be on the podium at this point in time. During the playing of the anthem the flags of bronze, silver and gold medals are raised.

Proposal:

We propose that **the national anthems be reproduced for all medallists in the team competition.** We suggest this for all categories (European Championships, World Championships, Youths, Women and Masters).

Rationale:

Every athlete who is driven by the right motivation and represents his country does this sport just for a moment of honour on the winner's podium. Earlier, it was standard practice in competitions under the auspices of FIPS Mouche to play the national anthems for all medal positions. More so, our sport is all about friendship and honour. The national anthem is the biggest prize for a fishing athlete of any category. From the bottom of my heart, I wish everyone could experience this moment at least once. That is why I appeal to the international federation, which is there for us - the competitors, to bring back this rule.

ARTICLE 20: CONTROLLERS

Proposal:

We suggest adding a point where the minimum age of controllers is clearly specified. **The minimum age of controllers should be set at 18 years.** Only as an exception to the rules can the organizing country lower the minimum threshold (rules modification), but not less than 15 years of age.

Rationale:

In light of the last Youth World Championships in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we propose this rule, mainly to ensure fairness of the competition. Unfortunately, it has been clearly demonstrated that even training does not help to instruct such young referees (often under

the age of 13). Very erroneous entries, failure to recognize fish species, failure to observe/control the competitor, unwillingness to address problems and worst of all, very easy to manipulate. The ideal rule would be 18 years of age or older, however, we understand and can envision requesting an exception regarding lowering this to 15 years of age.

ARTICLE 25: ELIGIBLE FISH

25.1. Eligible fish species and size limits (minimum 20 cm) must be specified in the Rule Modifications. For measuring purposes, the length will be from the tip of the nose to whichever part of the tail is specified in the Rule Modifications.

Proposal:

Possibility to reduce the minimum possible limit for a valid fish (18 cm), based on the requirements in the Rule Modifications. Rationale:

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We understand the FIPS Mouche effort to protect smaller fish that may be more susceptible to unprofessional handling, etc. However, from experience, we can say that moving this limit will have no effect on their protection. On the contrary, in the case of disputed stocks around 19.5 cm, this will ensure that the competition is fair (all fish will be valid). These disputed stocks around 19 cm are the most numerous in the Europe. Also, we do not see the point in deciding whether the better angler is the one who catches (or finishes) a 200 mm fish or the one who has 198 mm.

25.5. For a fish to be eligible both landing net and fish must be in the water at the point of netting.

Proposal:

Remove this contradictory point.

Rationale:

Related to the point above. We understand the efforts of FIPS Mouche to protect smaller fish. We would understand if the international rule mandated the use of special rubber nets in the landing nets. However, such a contradictory written rule does nothing to protect the fish and only creates confusion in interpretation, judgement and ultimately animosity and condemnation between the teams involved. The rule is "supposed" to prohibit "butterfly fishing", however, written in this way it does not exclude it in principle and again gives room for circumvention and speculation. From our experience in the last two Youths championships, many fish have been carried to the judge for measurement in very high temperatures (many times completely in the air over the island etc), these transgressions should be a priority in our opinion. We would find a far more beneficial rule for fish protection to be a system of "not

measuring" all valid fish, as we have used successfully for years in the Czech Republic, or like at the last championship in British Columbia, where it worked perfectly.

We also seek a vote on discrete elements, rather than a comprehensive approval of bundled proposals.