



BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR HOST NATION CONTROLLERS

Last update May 2026

This document should be considered as a general guideline that should be put into practice by the International Organisers for all FIPS-Mouche competitions. We strongly advise members to use them for all national competitions.

The goal is that the control, measuring and recording of fish is done ensuring the least stress and harm to the fish.

Knowledge of FIPS-Mouche rules and rules modifications

This concerns particularly the technical part of the rules: barbless hooks, number of flies allowed, leader length (max twice the length of the rod), distance between knots on leader, use of max 3 micro rings, loops, max 4 mm bead, only one visible bead, buffer zone is strictly neutral, no outside material help during the competition time, only team captain is allowed to communicate with the competitor, eligible species, ... etc.

All controllers should be instructed on how to use the measuring gauge for nymphs (see below).

Equipment for controllers

In order to insure quick and correct controlling of fish caught all controllers should have following equipment:

- Technical : measuring gutter, score card, pen, unhooking tool, tape measure, nymph gauge, material for checking hook is barbless
- Personal : water, sunglasses, boots or waders, cap / hat, sunscreen, ash tray if smoker...etc



Organisation

- Fill in correctly the scoring card identifying session, sector, beat, name of competitor and controller
- Make sure the angler gets at least 30 min preparation time (time of arrival at the beat to start of session)
- Allow angler 3 hours fishing time
- Contact sector judge in case of doubt or problem, make sure you have his phone number.
- No carrying of competitor's equipment during the session **Control of fishing, handling and**

Measuring of fish: IMPORTANT !!!

To minimize harm to the fish the controllers should (cfr Art 23 of CR):

- Stay as close as possible to the angler along the bank and maintain visual contact
- observe the angler closely during the playing of the fish as this can be an indication if the fish is foul hooked
- Put water into the measuring gutter to avoid fish skin contact with a dry surface.

Complete procedure for measuring:

- athlete brings fish to bank with the landing net in the water, athlete may not touch the fish;
- controller verifies if the fish has been hooked correctly, if not the fish is returned without measuring;
- athlete unhooks fish in the net and submits the net to the controller;
- controller measures the fish in the net with the measuring gutter (in case multiple fish are caught, the fish may be taken out of net one by one and measured in the gutter above the net);
- controller records fish on score sheet if length and species are correct;
- athlete releases fish to the water;
- athlete confirms correct registering of catch by signing the scorecard;
- controller verifies the landing net is empty;
- athlete may start fishing again.

Measure the fish in **cm** (change 2025 CR), it's however only important to determine if the minimal size is reached and if the next full cm has been reached. Record on the scoresheet the size of the fish in cm. The size of the fish must be rounded up to the next cm (ie 25.1 is rounded up to 26 cm)



30th FIPS-Mouche European Fly Fishing Championship 2026



Bruno Brito PERES [Portugal]
SESSION: 2 / SECTOR: III Mostar lake / BEAT: 2

No	Specie	Length (mark)										Length (cm)	Time	Remarks	Signature
1	TROUT	60	50	40	30	20						32	09:25	/	BBP
		9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0				
2	TROUT	60	50	40	30	20						22	10:13	/	BBP
		9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0				
3	GRAYLING	60	50	40	30	20						28	10:45	/	BBP
		9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0				
4		60	50	40	30	20									
		9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0				
5		60	50	40	30	20									
		9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0				
6		60	50	40	30	20									
		9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0				
7		60	50	40	30	20									
		9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0				

During the session the competitor must sign after each fish before continuing

At the end of the session:

- The controller must bar out the unused rows
- The controller and competitor must sign the completed scorecard.

The Competitor may take a photograph of the scorecard.

Checking Competitors Equipment

Controllers test kit

Measuring tape

FIPS Mouche approved gauge

Piece of material for checking fly is barbless

If competitor is a smoker he should have a container for storing ashes and butts. Competitor is not allowed to smoke during competition time.



ARTICLE 26: COMPETITION FLY RODS

26.1 One conventional fly rod, may be used at one time

- Minimum length : seven feet six inches/two hundred and twenty nine centimetres
- Maximum length : twelve feet/three hundred and sixty-six centimetres



Athletes may have spare fly rods with them (carried on their body or bank side assembled), as long as only one line is in the water. However, when boat fishing, these must not be assembled nor the reel attached.



26.2 Competitors are responsible for carrying and protecting their own equipment during the competition sessions.

ARTICLE 27: COMPETITION FLY LINES

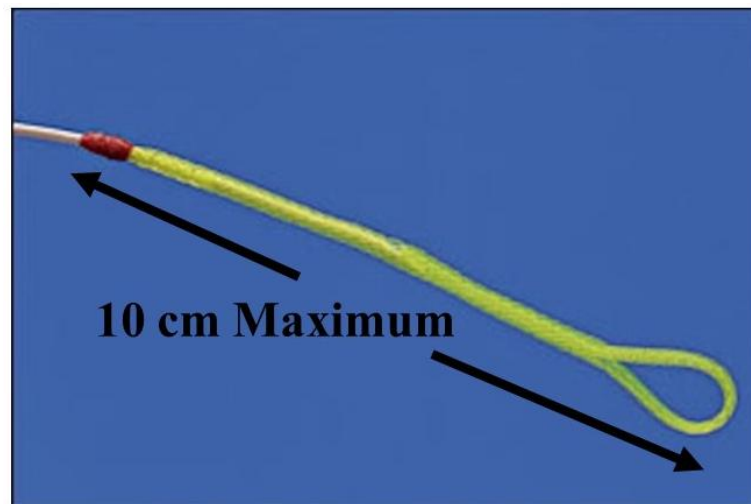
27.1. Any factory made floating, sinking or sink tip Fly Line may be used, except for lead core lines. Every fly line used in a FIPS-Mouche competition shall have a minimum coated diameter of 0,55 mm (0.22"). Only fly lines meeting this requirement are authorised for use in FIPS-Mouche competitions (not to fit in the 0,53 mm slot in the gauge).



27.2. Competition fly lines must be a minimum length of twenty-two metres.

27.3. Shooting heads are not allowed.

27.4. Neither sinking nor floating devices may be added to fly lines.



27.5. One single loop is allowed at the end of the fly line, if desired. If a braided or monofilament loop is used to connect the leader to the fly line, the maximum overall length of such a connector may not exceed 10 cm.

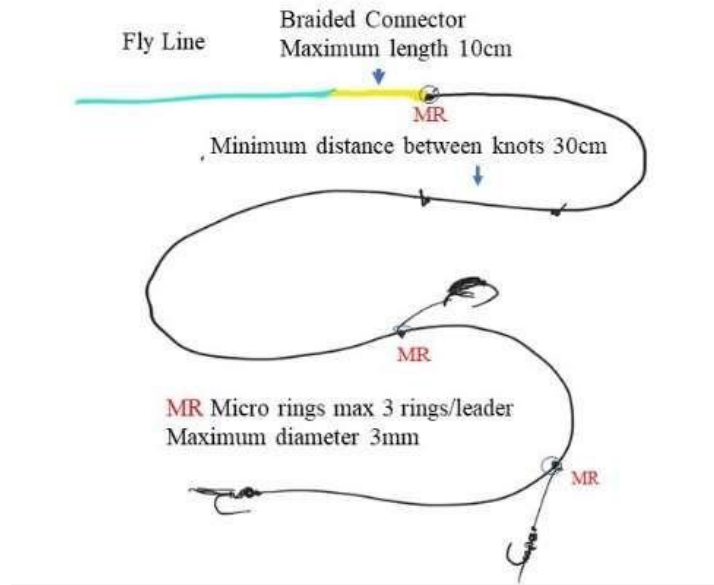
ARTICLE 28: COMPETITION LEADERS

28.1. A single monofilament or poly leader, tippet included, may be used, with a maximum total length of twice the length of the rod used.



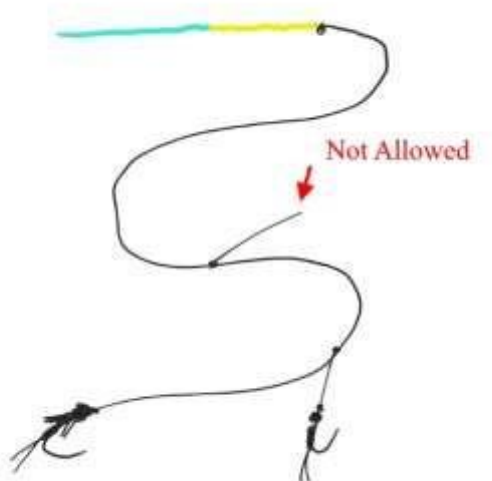
28.2. Leaders may be knotted or knotless, and continuously tapered down or level. A single loop of max. 10 cm length may only be used to connect a leader to a fly line. If the leader is knotted, the minimum distance between the knots is 30 cm, hanging freely.

28.3. Neither sinking nor floating devices may be added to the leader



28.4. A maximum of 3 micro rings (leader rings) of a maximum outer diameter of 3 mm can be used. A maximum of 3 knots can be joined at a micro ring, they are considered as 1 knot.

28.5. A dropper is an equal or smaller diameter monofilament side line to the leader used solely to attach a second or third fly other than the point fly. Only droppers may be used to attach flies whenever more than 1 fly is used by the competitor during that competition. Droppers without fly attached are not allowed. Should a fish break off one of the flies (snagging or double take) during playing the fish this should be seen as “within the rules” and the catch should be registered if eligible.

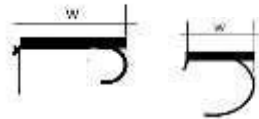


ARTICLE 29: COMPETITION FLIES

29.1. Competitors may use floating or sinking artificial flies

29.2. All hooks must be connected directly to the leader/tippet/dropper.

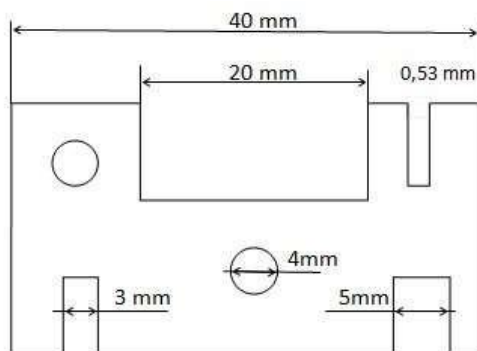
Weighted flies are permitted, provided the weight which must be hidden within the dressing and may not exceed the bend or eye of the hook. The maximum length of added weight (w) is the distance from the eye of the hook to the farthest point of the bend in the hook.



A single visible bead, not more than 4 mm maximum dimension, is also permitted. Painting alone does not constitute dressing.

29.3. If one fly is used, the length and width of the dressed fly will be at the discretion of the competitor (Articles 29.2. & 0 apply).

29.4. If more than 1 fly is used, all weighted flies must comply with the measuring gauge, as demonstrated in the following pictures:



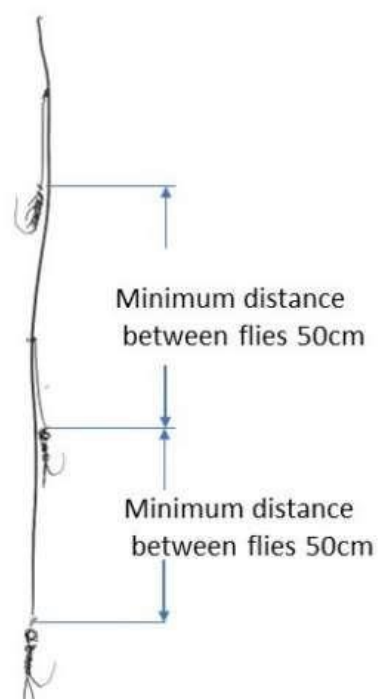
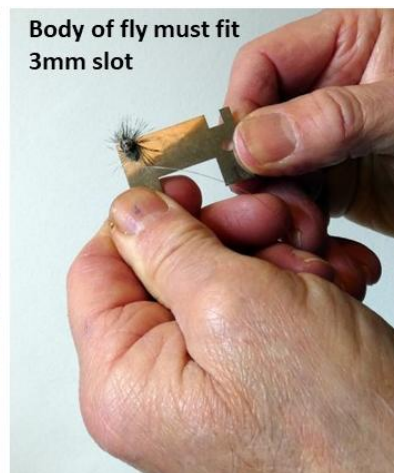
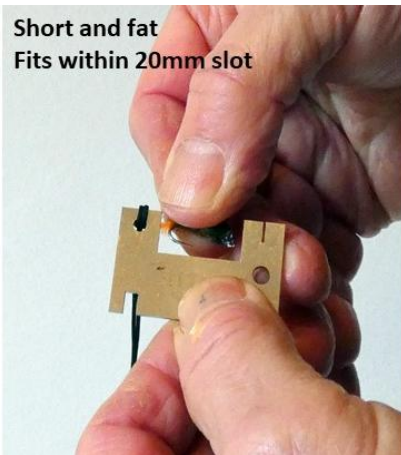
If the hook length fits within the 20 mm horizontal slot, then the maximum body thickness must fit in the 5 mm vertical slot.

The 4 mm round/circular hole is the maximal diameter allowed for a bead

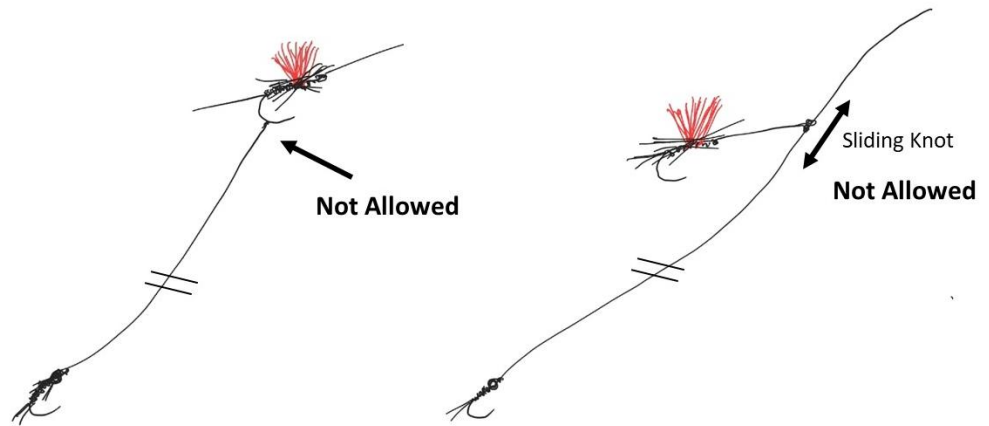
If the hook length is longer than the 20 mm horizontal slot, then the body thickness must fit between the 3 mm vertical slot.

The maximum hook length cannot be longer than 40 mm, the horizontal length of the gauge at its longest part.

Line diameter will be tested in the 0.53 mm slot. The fly line may not fit in.



29.5. A maximum of three flies is permitted which must not be closer to each other than fifty cm, measured eye to eye, hanging freely. The number of flies allowed will be specified in Rule Modifications.



29.6. All flies must be attached to the leader in such a way that neither they nor their droppers move or slide along the leader material.

29.7. All flies must be dressed on barbless single hooks, tandem flies are not allowed.

29.8. If the equipment used and/or flies used are assessed by the controller as repeatedly causing excessive harm to the fish, the use of such flies/equipment may be disallowed by the Controller (after agreement by the Sector Judge or IS).

29.9. Attractor chemicals and the use of light emitters in flies is forbidden.

29.10. Appendages that alter the original concept of an artificial fly or bodies made or moulded/shaped plastic, moulded/shaped silicone or moulded/shaped rubber are banned (moulded/shaped imitations of worms, eggs, baitfish, maggots, twisters...). Rubber or extruded round material, exceeding the bend, shank or eye of the hook is not allowed with exception of maximal diameter 0,53 mm used for leg imitations (diameter shall be checked with measuring gauge unstretched).



29.11. Moulded, extruded or shaped solid part of the fly, made of any floating or air-containing material, are not allowed as a visible strike indicator. (Bung)

ARTICLE 30: LANDING NETS

30.1. The mesh material of a landing net must be rubber/silicon (preferred) or a non-abrasive synthetic or soft cotton material. Nets must now be of knotless construction.

30.2. While bank fishing the landing nets must not exceed forty-eight inches/one hundred and twenty-two centimetres in overall length, when fully extended.

30.3. While boat fishing the size of landing nets must be at minimum forty-eight inches/one hundred and twenty-two centimetres and may not exceed sixty-three inches/one hundred and sixty centimetres in overall length, when fully extended.

