Angling Trust & Canal & River Trust Cadet, Junior & Youth Championship Rules

1. The Angling Trust (AT) & Canal & River Trust (CRT) will organise a Junior Individual Championship each year. They will appoint a Committee who will be responsible for supervising the arrangements.
2. The Sections to be used in the Championship will be closed for fishing to all competitors from midnight on the Sunday prior to the Championship.
3. The Championship will be "pegged down" competition, pegs to be preferably 20 yards (18 metres) apart, or more where practicable.
4. The Championship is open to anyone aged 10-20 years of age on the day of the Championship. The categories are: Cadets – 7-10 years of age on the day of the Championship, Junior - 11-15 years of age on the day of the Championship, Youth - 16-20 years of age on the day of the Championship.
5. The Draw for pegs will take place on the morning of the match, except where coronavirus restrictions apply.
6. The Senior Steward will have the right to examine all containers carried by competitors prior to commencement of the Championship, at their pegs.
7. Stewards will do their utmost to prevent spectators approaching or interfering with the competitors.
8. No competitor will change their peg. Any angler fishing at the wrong peg will be disqualified.
9. Competitors **must use private transport** to transfer from HQ to their Section and return.
10. Any angler may bring a caddy to help carry their tackle to their peg.
11. No competitor will have live or dead fish in their possession before the Championship.
12. The signal to commence and cease fishing will be given by the Senior Steward.
13. The duration of the Championship will be 3 hours for cadets, 3.5 hours for juniors, 4.5 hours for youth.
14. Before the starting signal no competitor must on any account ground bait or loose feed the swim but will be allowed to wet a line, plumb the depth and test the float, mix or wet ground bait, clear his/her fishing ground of weed or obstructions and position his/her equipment. On no account must a feeder be used prior to the starting signal.
15. Every competitor must fish from within one metre either side of their designated peg. (b) On canals they may fish as far as half the distance between their peg and the pegs on either side. The competitor will restrict their activities completely to these boundaries, neither their person, tackle, bait, ground bait or hooked fish may intrude into their neighbour's swim. In an extreme situation, e.g. snagged tackle or a snagged fish, an angler must seek permission from their neighbour/neighbours before moving from their designated peg to try and remedy the situation.
16. No competitor may leave their peg during the Championship other than to answer the call of nature. However, in the event of an emergency and/or severe weather conditions, a competitor may leave their peg, but only with the express permission of the Senior Steward. In such circumstances the Senior Steward may decide in the best interests of the competitors that fishing should be suspended. In the worst-case fishing may be terminated by the Senior Steward upon an instruction from the AT's team of Championship adjudicators.
17. A competitor **must not** cause annoyance to, seek to interfere with another competitor or **use mobile phones** during the course of the Championship. *They must act in a sporting manner at all times.*
18. A competitor shall have in use one rod or pole, one line and single hook at any one time, but may have other poles or rods and tackle assembled in a position behind them, if possible, providing no such other tackle is baited.
19. Maximum Length of Poles: 10 metres max for cadets, 11.5 metres for juniors, 13 metres for youth. Floating poles are not permitted.
20. Braid hook lengths are not permitted.
21. Any bait, subject to the local rules appertaining at the time of acceptance as a Championship venue, may be used during the Championship, except live or dead fish, spinning baits and artificial lures. **No bloodworm or joker allowed.**

In the interest of all competitors the use of bloodworm and joker will be prohibited.

22. Floating baits, either hook or feed are not allowed
23. The use of electronic fish finders is forbidden.
24. No competitor shall present their baited hooks into their swim by any means other than the pole or rod to which the line is attached.
25. All feed may be thrown in by hand, or by the use of one or two-handed catapults, throwing sticks, swim feeders, bait droppers, bait cups and bait shuttles, but no other mechanical means of projecting feed is allowed. No bait shall be introduced with a pole or bait dropper attached to an extra pole or rod whilst continuing to fish.
26. Competitors must strike, play and land their own fish from the confines of their own peg. (See Rule 15) Hand lining fish is not permitted; this includes hand lining elastics and line. Also not allowed is the practice of trapping stretched elastic with the hand down the length of the pole, fish should never be bullied like this. **This does not apply to the use of Pulla bungs and similar devices.**
27. Competitors must retain all fish in a keepnet that complies with the relevant Environment Agency bylaws. Nets should be dry when arriving to fish, as dry nets do not spread diseases. Fish must never be handled with gloves or towels.
28. All fish caught are eligible for weighing except Game Fish, Pike, Zander and Crustaceans.
29. Competitors must, if practicable, keep all fish caught alive. If for any reason competitors cannot keep fish alive, the Stewards shall have the power to weigh in during the Championship and return the fish alive to the water.
30. Competitors must cease fishing at the signal. Should a competitor still be playing a fish hooked before the finishing signal is given, they will be permitted no more than 15 minutes after time has been called to land the fish.
31. All competitors will remain at their pegs, except for the purpose of clearing litter from their swims, or, for reasons defined rule 16, until details of their catch have been recorded by the Steward, even if they have caught no fish.
32. **Competitors are responsible** for ensuring their pegs are clear of litter and no competitor shall have their catch weighed in who has litter on the banks of their swim.
33. Both the Competitor and Scales Steward MUST ensure that the correct procedure for transferring fish from keepnet to weigh net and weigh net back to the water is followed.

    Keepnet to weigh net: - (a) Swim the fish from the bottom of the keepnet to the top, ensuring that the top ring is out of the water, and gather the rings up from the bottom as the fish move up. Once the fish are between the top ring and the 2nd or 3rd ring (depending on the number of fish in the net), remove the keepnet from the water and gently slide the fish into the weigh net. Should the number of fish require more than one weigh, only slide sufficient fish into the weigh net for the first weigh. Whilst the weigh is taking place, hold the remaining fish back in the water until required for weighing and repeat until all fish have been weighed.

    (b) Remove the keepnet from the water collapsing the net down until the 2nd or 3rd from the bottom can be reached from the inside.

    Pull the chosen ring through the top ring and then gently slide the fish into the weigh net. Should the number of fish require more than one weigh, only slide sufficient fish into the weigh net for the first weigh. Whilst the weigh is taking place, hold the remaining fish back in the water until required for weighing and repeat until all the fish have been weighed.

    After each competitor is weighed in at their peg, it will be the duty of the Scales Steward after each weigh to return the fish to the water.

    Under **NO CIRCUMSTANCES** must the keepnet be removed from the water and fish tipped down from bottom to top.
34. The individual weight of each competitor will be recorded to the nearest 10 grams rounded up (Where 10Kg scales are used) and 20 grams, rounded up (Where 20Kg scales are used).
35. Each competitor **will be responsible** for ensuring that the weight of their catch is correctly recorded by the Record Steward on the Weigh Sheet and on his/her Peg Card. He/She **MUST** sign both to that effect.
36. After being weighed any dead fish are to be suitably disposed of by the Scales Steward.
37. Any fish about which the Stewards have any doubt must be brought before the Management Team and the competitor's weight will not be

confirmed until a ruling has been obtained. Even if a Steward recommends the disqualification of a competitor, they **MUST** weigh the fish in case the Stewards ruling are not upheld.

38. Any objections must be made in writing and lodged with a member of the Championship adjudicators **no later than one hour after the end of the Championship** on the official forms issued to the Senior Stewards. Irregularities which are brought to notice at a later date may be dealt with only by and at the discretion of the Championship adjudicators.
39. The Championship must conform to Environment Agency bylaws. Any competitor reported to the Championship adjudicators by the Environment Agency for being unable to produce a valid licence shall be deemed to be in contravention of the Rules and shall be disqualified. **Local fishery rules will also apply.**
40. The use of lead, including any alloy or compound of lead, in the form of split shot or any other suitable items for weighting fishing lines is prohibited. The prohibition does not apply to weights of lead, alloy or compound of 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.
41. If in the opinion of the Championship adjudicators, any Individual is in breach of these Rules or is guilty of behaviour which is contrary to the best interests of the sport, or upon complaint being received by the Championship adjudicators that there has been an alleged breach of the rules, the Championship adjudicators shall make a decision on all available facts and that decision will be final and binding. **An appeal can be made to the AT Board; a copy of the appeals procedure is available from the Championship adjudicators.**
42. Any competitor proved to be in contravention of these rules will be disqualified.
43. Any individual Angler deemed to be bringing the sport into disrepute will be severely dealt with by the Championship adjudicators.
44. In the cadet and junior sections, the maximum length of pole to be used for the first hour (60 minutes) of the competition is 4 metres and competitors may not fish past the midway point of the canal during this time. This restriction will not apply once 60 minutes of the match have elapsed. Loosefeed or groundbait must not be introduced beyond the midline of the canal for the first 60 minutes of the championships.
45. The following baits and groundbaits are not permitted: Groundbait containing fishmeal, Bloodworm and Joker, pellets, sweetcorn, luncheon meat and boilies.
46. There are more useful guidelines on the Canal & River Trust website: https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/fishing/matches-and-competitions/junior-canal-angling-championships