

'HDSA' Beach Fishing League Rules 2018/19

Book in at the venue at least 60 minutes before the start time and pegs will be drawn 45 minutes prior to the start.

Anglers will draw lots for peg numbers and peg 1 will normally be the right end (facing the water) and the highest peg number will be to the left. The match organiser may decide on peg position on the day if the beach is already occupied at the mark or the weather conditions dictate.

Joint pegs may be requested e.g. where a beginner is being taught by an experienced angler, sharing of transport etc. No reasonable reason will be refused.

The spacing between pegs will depend on the numbers fishing, sea conditions and state of the tide & beach.

Any angler who is going to be late must contact the match organiser in advance to have a peg drawn for them. The match organiser will use their discretion if an angler has not requested a peg in advance, but turns up late.

The aim is for the fishing to be enjoyable, but if conditions (e.g. wind, waves or weed) would make the venue overly difficult then an alternative location may be chosen. This may be done in advance or on the day, so always check e-mails and texts.

If it is known the venue is going to be changed in advance, then an e-mail and/or text message will be sent no later than 2100hrs the evening before. Anyone not receiving the angling e-mails or texts needs to check in advance if conditions look doubtful.

It is each angler's responsibility to do the chasing.

If the match has started, but abandoned soon after, then all sizeable fish will count.

All matches will be fished (unless nobody turns up). There must be a minimum of two anglers present at each competition for verification purposes.

Abandoned matches will only be re-scheduled if there is insufficient opportunity to complete the minimum of matches (e.g. six from eight etc). Match committee will decide on additional dates & venues if required.

Two rods will be allowed with a maximum of four hooks between them, with Pennell rigs counting as two hooks and spare traces may be baited.

Three hooks will be allowed on a single rod providing the second rod is not used.

Feathers and lures can be used. Treble hooks can be used (e.g. lures) but only one rod can be in use at any onetime.

The competition will be catch and release, but sizeable fish can be kept for the plate.

The SAMF length to weight ratio will apply and the angler most 'length' (e.g. points) will be the overall winner.

Each angler must provide their own official competition grade measuring stick (and bucket). Ordinary builders type (or flexible) tape measures will not be allowed.

An additional 20 points will be allocated to each angler for each species caught (per comp).

All fish of 18cm and over will count, but channel whiting will start at 28cm.

Rules for catch & release

1) All fish must be rounded down to the nearest CM and all fish over 18cm will count with the exception of channel whiting, they will start at 28cm.

2) Fish must be placed in a bucket of sea water and taken to the adjacent angler to be measured, witnessed and recorded on your match card. The fish must be returned to the sea **immediately in front of that angler**. Fish that are to be kept for the table must have their tail clipped.

All fish must be witnessed and signed for at the time of catching and fish cannot be produced at the end of the competition unless they are being weighed as a specimen.

**** The nominated match organiser will carry a set of digital scales for confirming the weight(s) of specimen fish.***

3) Fish length, weight (points) and running total must be recorded and signed by the adjacent angler, **before the next cast is retrieved**.

4) Match cards must also be signed off at the end of the session and total weight (points) recorded and witnessed by the adjacent angler.

5) All anglers are stewards. It is in yours and everyone's interest to see that correct procedures are adhered to, to ensure fair play.

6) Damaged and unreadable cards may be disqualified.

7) Weavers, Mackerel, Sea Trout, Salmon and all Shads are banned.

8) Failure to comply with any of the above, or any match rules may lead to disqualification.

9) Fish longer than stated in the SAMF chart will be awarded points marked in red for every additional centimetre.

In the unlikely event that an unspecified species is caught the angling committee will decide which band it should be in.

The angling committee will also be responsible for all disputes.

Any dispute must be raised as soon as possible with the angling committee and their decision will be final.

Bass – Size limit is 42cm (check on catch and release rules for Bass). Cod under 35cm must be released.

Wrasse, Silver Eels, Sharks (except LSD), Undulate Ray must be returned alive.

Point's summary:

Points will be allocated based on SAMF rules using the length to weight ratio whereby the weight is a point's conversion.

Additional 20 points per species (per comp) will be added.

League Points will be allocated for each competition as follows:

1st – 12 points

2nd – 9 points

3rd – 7 points

4th – 4 points

Anglers in attendance and catching fish (but not finishing in the places) will get 2 points).

Anglers in attendance, but not catching fish will be awarded 1 point.

6 league points will be awarded for a specimen fish that is equal to the Angling Trust specimen weights. A specimen fish must be weighed using a pair of official scales. This can be done at the HDSA clubhouse (if no scales available on the beach) and witnessed by a club member. East Sussex has been determined as 'Area E' by the Angling Trust.

Additional Information:

The angler with the most overall length (to weight points conversion) for each competition will be declared the winner on the night and awarded league points as above.

There will be a number of fixed date competitions (between 8 &10) and the best 6 results (total league points) from each completed competition will be added together to create an overall score. The Angler with the most league points will be declared the overall winner. ***Note: the number of competitions (and best results) may vary owing to weather etc and the match organiser will adjust accordingly.***

When dropping the unwanted matches any specimen points and/or points awarded for heaviest Flat & Round fish will be retained.

The competition will be for HDSA members only and guests can be invited to fish, but will not form part of the competition.

The format of the competition will be singles only.

*Additional league point(s) will be awarded to the angler(s) with the heaviest Flat & heaviest Round. Two anglers sharing either the flat or round pool will share the point e.g. two anglers with the same size to weight flounder will get ½pt each.

Note: *No mechanical devices (e.g. quad copters, rockets etc.) can be used for launching baits/rigs.*

Feathers and lures can be used – Note lures count as three hooks therefore only one rod can be used at any one time.

***All decisions will be made in good faith by the angling competition committee:
and will be overseen by Bob Bantock***