

## Draft Issue 4

### ALCOVE ANGLING CLUB (AAC) CARP MATCH RULES

This set of draft rules is intended for the trial Carp Match on George's Lake, Whitehouse Farm on date TBD. Items that will need to be considered and potentially amended for future matches, perhaps at other venues, are included in square brackets but are not part for the rules for the trial match.

The match will be fished in accordance with these Rules. (No long, impassioned arguments at the draw!) However, this is a trial, intended to shake out any things that can be improved. Therefore, if Competitors or Marshals identify any areas of concern, don't just moan about it on Facebook. Tell Robin or Kevin so that they can address the issues.

#### General

1. All matches shall comply with, in order of precedence:
  - a. English Law and Bye-laws;
  - b. AAC's General Rules.
  - c. these AAC Carp Match Rules.

#### Entry

2. AAC carp match are open to AAC Life, Senior, Adult, Disabled and Junior Members. Child Members may apply to fish by exception. [The restriction on Child Members is in anticipation of future potentially 24 hour matches, when AAC General Rules shall apply.]
3. Match dates and entry opening and closing dates are advertised on Clubmate and AAC's Facebook page.
4. Entry shall be through the booking system on Clubmate. Entries will open 28 days and close 3 days before the scheduled match start time. Tickets shall be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

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5. The entry fee shall be £20, to be paid upon registering at the draw. [In future, entry fees and payouts may be by bank transfer. If this happens, rules regarding timeliness of withdrawals and refunds of entry fees may be introduced.]
6. If entries exceed the pegs available, applicants shall be put on a reserve list, pending withdrawals. Reserve entries shall be allocated on a first come, first served basis.
7. Tickets are not transferrable between AAC Members. All unwanted tickets shall be returned for reallocation through the reserve list system.
8. The organisers reserve the right to refuse entry, cancel or change the dates of the event at their discretion. Any changes will be advertised on Clubmate and AAC's Facebook page.

## Registration and draw

9. Registration and the draw shall take place in the main car park at the venue on the match day.
10. Each entrant shall register with the organiser and pay their entry fee not later than 08.15.
11. The draw shall be held at 08.30. Each entrant shall attend the draw in person and select their own pegs by random draw. Any entrant not present at the start of the draw will be excluded from the draw and the competition. No refunds will be given for exclusion for any reason.

## Fishing

12. The match shall start at 10.00 and finish at 18.00 i.e. 8 hours. The start and finish shall be signified by a whistle blast. [Timings may vary for future matches.]

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13. Competitors may have assistance moving his/her equipment to/from his/her peg. Once at his/her peg, Life, Senior, Adult and Junior Members are not permitted any assistance by any person while setting up or for the duration of the match. Disabled Members are permitted assistance from their designated Associate assistant.
14. The organisers retain the right to search all competitors' tackle at any time to ensure that bait and tackle limits and constraints are complied with.
15. Competitors can only fish from the confines of their peg. Each competitor must set up their rods and accommodation within the boundaries authorised by the Marshals. All angling activities must be done from within this area.
16. Competitors must not cast or place tackle or baits outside the limits of their swim, which shall extend halfway to the bank opposite and normally halfway to the next pegs either side. If, however, a competitor has an empty peg adjacent, he/she may fish up to the nearest point of the empty peg.
17. The limits of each swim will be marked on the lake map provided before/at the draw. Any disputes as to the competitors casting or baiting outside their swim area must be reported immediately to the Marshals. Marshals may require competitors to re-place or re-cast their rods and such requirements must be complied with promptly.
18. Competitors may cast legers to set distances, gauge depths, assess the bottom etc. before the starting signal. Under no circumstances may swim feeders be cast or pole cups/baiting spoons be used before the starting signal. Lines must be reeled in immediately and not left in the water to detect line bites.
19. Only barbuled carp shall count.
20. Competitors shall be permitted to use up to two rods and baited hooks in the water at any time. Each line may only have one single point hook attached. Gripz hooks, Magic Twigs and similar devices are prohibited.
21. Further rods, including plumbing and bait-up feeder up rods, may be set up and used while baited lines are in the water, provided that they have no hooks attached. Marker rods are prohibited.
22. No braid main line, including on bait-up feeder rods. Braided hook lengths are allowed provided they do not exceed 9".

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23. Competitors must bait and cast or place their own rods, using a bait boat or a fishing rod and reel from their peg and play and land their own fish from their platform.
24. All baiting up shall be done from the peg only. There shall be no baiting up by any means other than hand, throwing stick, bait-up feeder, spoon, catapult. bait boat, feeding pole. Free baits may be attached by PVA to the rig.
25. All competitors must have a landing net of minimum size 42”.
26. Carp cradles are required. Cradles must be wetted before fish are put in them.
27. Competitors must have carp care kits for treating mouth and body injuries in their possession.
28. Hand-lining of fish is not permitted. Any fish that is incidentally landed by handlining e.g. while retrieving snagged tackle, shall not count.
29. Competitors must, if practicable, keep all fish alive, handling them with care and returning them to the water as quickly as possible, holding them to recover before release if required. Fish must never be handled with a towel or gloves.
30. Should any competitor wish to leave their peg for any reason whatsoever they must reel their rods in and their baited hooks must be removed from the water.
31. Hooked fish must be landed without interfering with other competitors' lines. Any fish that fouls another competitor's lines shall be disqualified. Competitors are prohibited from deliberately moving their lines in order to foul another competitor's tackle and thereby get his/her fish disqualified.
32. Any competitor who is aggrieved by another competitor fouling his/her lines or disturbing his/her presentation or attempting to provoke a foul deliberately must make a formal complaint to the Marshals as soon as is reasonably practical, ideally within 30 minutes of the incident.
33. Wading and swimming for any reason is prohibited.

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34. Boats (i.e. to carry anglers, not bait boats), GPS, drones or other unmanned aerial vehicles, echo sounders and fish finders of any kind or similar items are prohibited.
35. If a fish is deemed snagged, a boat, if available, may be launched into the water from the competitor's peg and the line retrieved without harm to the fish. Only Marshals are allowed to enter the boat. Any fish snagged and released in this way shall be disqualified even if landed by the competitor.
36. At the end of the competition competitors must withdraw their lines from the water immediately. Any fish hooked before the final signal must be landed within 15 minutes of the end of the competition, which will be signalled by a whistle blast.

## Weighing

37. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their pegs are clear of litter. No competitor who has litter in their peg shall have their catch weighed in.
38. Retaining slings, keepnets and landing nets shall be dry upon arrival at the venue and shall only be put in the water when required.
39. All fish:
  - a. over 15lb must be reported as soon as possible to the Marshals, who will weigh the fish and return it immediately. Each fish must be witnessed by at least one Marshal. Any fish over 15lb kept in a keepnet shall be disqualified.
  - b. under 15lb may be retained in a keep net, subject to a net limit of 50lb. Nets that weigh 50-55lb shall be counted as 50lb and nets weighing over 55lb shall be disqualified.
40. If a Marshal cannot immediately weigh and witness a captured fish, it may be placed in a retention sling until such a time as a Marshal is available.
41. Competitors are required to have at least 1 suitable retainer sling and may be required to loan a sling to an adjacent competitor in the unlikely event that he/she must retain 2 fish awaiting a Marshall to become available.

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42. Keepnets shall be weighed in and fish counted (see Rule 46a) nominally every 4 hours. [The rules regarding keepnets and weighing big fish immediately will be considered and potentially changed if, in future, longer matches are held.] Competitors who have not caught a fish over 15lb shall be entitled to nominate 1 fish to be weighed separately at each weigh in to compete for the heaviest fish prize.
43. Both the competitor and the Marshal shall be responsible for the safe transfer of fish into the weigh net. The competitor is responsible for returning fish safely to the water within the confines of his/her swim.
44. Fish must be decanted from the keepnet to weigh sling by either swimming them down to the top ring(s) or pulling the bottom ring(s) through. Competitors who slide their fish down the mesh will not be weighed in.
45. When analogue scales are used, weight shall be rounded down to the next scale division.
46. The official weight will be that which is recorded by the Marshal following the weighing procedure using the official equipment. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that the correct weight is recorded.
47. Any fish about which a Marshal has doubts must be drawn to the attention of the organiser and the competitor's weight shall not be confirmed until a ruling has been obtained. Even if a Marshal recommends disqualification of a fish, it must be weighed in case the disqualification is not upheld.
48. After being weighed, any dead fish are to be suitably disposed of by the competitor.

## Results

49. The competition shall be decided on total weight with the competitor having the greatest weight receiving 40% of the entry fees; the competitor with the 2nd greatest weight receiving 30%; and the competitor having the 3rd greatest weight receiving 20%. In addition, the competitor catching the biggest fish will be awarded 10% of the entry fees.
50. In the event of:

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- a. a tie on total weight, the competitor with the most fish will be declared the winner. If the result is still tied, the competitor catching the biggest fish will be declared the winner. If there is still a tie, the relevant prizes shall be shared e.g. if 2 competitors tie for 2nd place, they shall share the 2nd and 3rd prizes i.e. 25% each.
- b. a tie for biggest fish, the competitors shall share the prize i.e. 5% each.
- c. a one of the highest total weight prize winners also having the heaviest fish, the heaviest fish prize shall default to the captor of the next heaviest fish who has not won a top 3 prize.

51. In the unlikely event that an insufficient number of fish are caught to enable all of the prizes to be awarded, the surplus entry fees shall be awarded by a random draw of the peg numbers of non-catchers who continued fishing until the end of the match. The number of draw prizes shall be such that each winner gets 10% of the entry fees.

52. If a match is cut short e.g. due to inclement weather, the following shall apply:

- a. if the match is less than halfway through, it shall be rearranged for another day.
- b. if the match is over half way through, competitors shall be weighed in and the result shall stand.

53. Any competitor wishing to challenge the results of an event or a decision made by a Marshal at an event must make a formal written challenge/appeal to the organiser within 1 hour of the end of the competition. The organiser's decision shall be final.

## Conduct

54. All competitors must behave in a courteous manner at all times, showing respect to fellow competitors, Marshals, fishery officials, and members of the public.

55. The use of foul or threatening language, excessively loud media players, mobile phones, bite alarms etc., consumption of alcohol and/or use of recreational drugs is prohibited.

56. Any competitor wishing to complain about the conduct or practice of another competitor must do so to their Marshal within 30 minutes of the alleged infringement taking place.