

2016 Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championship

Controller's Manual

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1. Introduction

1.1 Thanks for enrolling!

The ***Club des Moucheurs EnDiablés*** and ***Fly Fishing Canada*** thank you for enrolling as a volunteer Controller at this most exciting international fly fishing event, held here in the Laurentians.

We hope you will find this experience most interesting and that you will acquire new insights in the art and science of fly fishing : the world of single and team competition.

You will meet and most likely make friends with other fly fishing nuts and learn new aspects of our sport; you will also make new acquaintances who are coming from all over the world and hear numerous charming accents of Izaak Walton's language.

1.2 About the 2016 CFFC

The ***Commonwealth Fly Fishing Association*** is the originator of the tournament held every second year. This year, the Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championship is held on the Rivière La Diable, in Mont-Tremblant and on 3 lakes of the *Pourvoirie Baroux* in nearby Amherst, Québec.

Seventy six anglers, men and women, from 10 Commonwealth countries have registered : Australia, Great Britain, Isle of Man, Malta, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Scotland, South Africa, Wales and Canada. These competitors are serious contenders and pay from their own pocket (or purse!) all expenses related to this event.

2. Important information

2.1 Digital link : Moucheurs Endiablés, 2016 CFFC

Before, during and after the tournament, relevant info will be communicated through :

www.moucheursendiabables.com/cw2016

2.2 Schedule

Here is the schedule of events:

Monday Aug. 29 : Arrival of all Controllers **before 13 :00** at *Domaine Saint-Bernard, Mont-Tremblant*

13 :00 Controllers' training session in the presentation hall of the Velan Pavillion, Domaine St-Bernard.

Tuesday Aug. 30 : Day 1 of competition; 9 :00 – noon and 14 :30 – 17 :30.

Wednesday Aug. 31: Day 2 of competition; 9 :00 – noon and 14 :30 – 17 :30.

Thursday Sept. 1 : Day 3 (and last) of competition; 9 :00 – noon. End of tournament and volunteer participation.
Closing dinner for competitors only and distribution of awards.

2.3 Volunteer lodging

Championship Controllers and other volunteers not living close by will be able to stay for free at the *Domaine Saint-Bernard*.

During the competition days, breakfast and lunch will be provided.

2.4 Meals

Breakfast : provided at the Domaine during competition days since the nearest restaurant is quite far and also because you will leave daily at 7 :00 so that you will be on your fishing site by 7 : 45.

Water bottles will be available on site during all day.

Lunch : food will be supplied on site.

Dinner : not provided. Should you wish to dine outside the Domaine, Mont-Tremblant offers numerous restaurants, many suitable to the average fisherman's budget, all approx. 15 minutes away by car.

If you prefer to cook and dine at the Domaine, please bring all necessary food and drinks. You will have access to the Domaine's fridges and cooking equipment. Just like summer camp of years back!

2.5 Transportation

We recommend group transportation (4 or 5 people/vehicle) to get to the fishing sites. Parking lots (5) are located by the river and also available near the lakes of the Pourvoirie Baroux.

2.6 Medical Emergencies

We are asking competitors and volunteers alike to inform us of any medical condition which could become a problem. We recommend to ask your angler to mention any possible threat before the competition and what symptoms to look for. If you notice anything, please notify your Sector Judge and do your best to protect the angler. This also applies to insect bites or other allergy.

If **you** suffer from an allergy or dangerous intolerance to certain food or insect bites (e.g. wasps), please keep handy your *Epipen* or other medical protection recommended by your doctor. Should your condition dictate it, please warn your fellow Controllers and Sector Judge and tell what symptoms to watch for.

3. How it works

3.1 Fishing sites

On La Diable river, twenty eight (28) 100-meter fishing sites (« beats ») are clearly identified; each beat is separated from the next by a free zone of +/- 3 meters.

At the Pourvoirie Baroux, 3 lakes are assigned exclusively for the Championship : Barrière, Renversi and Des Îles. Boats, electric motors, batteries and personal flotation vests are provided. You can bring your own flotation vest for comfort. On each lake, one Sector Judge and one Aide will supervise the tournament from a boat.

3.2 Fishing sessions

Five (5) three-hour competition sessions will be held as follows :

Tuesday, Aug. 30 : from 9 :00 to 12 :00 and from 14 :30 to 17 :30

Wednesday, Aug. 31: from 9 :00 to 12 :00 and from 14 :30 to 17 :30

Thursday, Sept. 1 : from 9 :00 to 12 :00.

During each competition session, 28 anglers will be located on the river beats and the remaining 48 will fish on the 3 designated Pourvoirie Baroux lakes.

On the river : the competition will be overseen by 2 Sector Judges, 4 Aides, and 28 Controllers, one for each participant.

Each Controller will be assigned a different competitor at each session, in order to avoid any apparent or possible favoritism.

At no time the Controller will have to step into the water to measure fish caught. You should get close to the river to minimize stress to fish caught and not to force the angler to get out of the water.

On lakes : the competition will be overseen by 1 Sector Judge and 1 Aide per lake, plus one general assistant; fish measuring and registration will be performed by the lucky angler and checked by the other angler in the boat.

3.3 Safety during fishing sessions

Depending on current speed and water level and flow, the Sector Judge may require river anglers to wear flotation vests. If so, wearing a safety vest will be mandatory for all river anglers; no excuse.

In boats on lakes, wearing a personal flotation vest is mandatory for everyone, at all times.

Wearing glasses is also mandatory during the fishing sessions, on river and lake alike.

Any angler not obeying these safety rules will have his fishing session forfeited and the fish caught during that session will not be recorded for scoring.

3.4 Controller's Responsibilities and Duties

As a Controller, here are your main responsibilities :

- Make sure your competitor's fishing session goes well.
- Make sure the Championship rules and regulations are obeyed and that the beat territorial limits are not exceeded.
- Start and stop the fishing session with accuracy.
- Exercise extra care to accurately measure (in mm) and record all eligible fish caught, so the competitor's score sheet will be most precise. Any dispute has to be settled by the Sector Judge.

Here are the Controller's functions :

- You should be present on the designated site 1 hour before the start of the competition session; anglers are allowed 1 hour to get their gear ready and survey the water.
- You should welcome the competitors before the session start, introduce yourself and wish her/him the best of luck.
- Check your competitor's score sheet for name, date and fishing beat number/lake, etc.
- Inspect the angler's gear; please refer to sections 4.2 and 4.3 of this Manual.
- Before the start, an angler is allowed to survey his designated beat; please make sure she/he carries no rod nor steps into the river before the official start of the session.
- You may signal to your competitor a 5-minute warning before the official start of the session; the angler decides where to step into the water to start fishing.
- You should use the provided whistle to signal the start of the session; you will need a watch or smart phone in order to keep track of the time and duration of the session (3 hours flat!).
- Keep a visual contact with your competitor at all times.
- The competitor has to wade back to shore for you to measure and record the catch.
- Before the competitor, measure the length of the fish with the provided official measurement device provided, and record accurately each fish on the score sheet, in millimeters.
- Check that the fish is released as soon as measured, without harming the catch; unethical behavior in your angler's handling of the fish should be reported without delay to your Sector Judge. The competitor may lose marks.
- Make sure your competitor does not step nor cast his fly outside the assigned beat limit, well marked with colored tape on the shoreline.
- At the end of the 3-hour session, have your competitor review his score sheet; draw a line on the unused portion of the sheet to eliminate the possibility of additions; both competitor and Controller have to sign the sheet.
- Any disagreement should be written on the score sheet and signed by both of you.
- In case of misunderstanding or disagreement, please call for your Sector Judge.
- Keep the score sheet; the competitor is allowed to photograph the score sheet for her/his records.

- You must hand promptly the score sheet over to the Sector Judge or any other official charged to collect the data. This sheet is used to compile individual and team results.

3.5 Recommendations and suggestions

- As tournament hosts and ambassadors, we encourage you to get acquainted with the anglers; however, leave each participant free to prospect her/his fishing beat, concentrate and elaborate tactics for the fishing session. After all, it is an international competition!
- Before and after the fishing session, we encourage you to offer your help to the anglers to carry their gear.
- Please pay attention to the competitors' comments and suggestions for improvement and share them with your Sector Judge; he will then inform the organizing committee.
- Under no circumstances you should give competitors hints on best spots or other anglers' tactics and results, even if they use tricks or pressure to pick your brains.
- Should a non-competing angler show up, please inform her/him of the importance of the ongoing competition and suggest strongly she/he should not fish. If the situation does not get resolved, please call for your Sector Judge. The latter will redirect the visitor angler to non-competition river sectors.
- Onlookers, photographers and other people are likely to show up. Make sure no « outsider » gives any tip to nor bothers a competing angler.

3.6 Sector Judge

During the tournament, **Sector Judges are assigned to assist and supervise the Controllers.** Contact with your Sector Judge is important for the success of the event. If you encounter a problem situation or you are not certain about regulations involved, do not hesitate to call for your Sector Judge; he is well aware of the Commonwealth fly fishing championship official rules and regulations.

4. Tournament main rules and regulations

4.1 Eligible fish and recording of fish caught

- Only brown, rainbow and speckled trout are eligible; minimum length : 200 mm from nose tip to tail. Fish should be hooked in the mouth, in front of the rear edge of the gill cover. No pressure to increase or reduce the length of the fish in the measuring device provided should be applied.
- If a trout is hooked just before fishing time is up, the competitor has 10 minutes after the end of the session to net the fish; if the 10-minute delay is exceeded, the catch does not count.

- The Controller is responsible for accurate recording of the fish caught : number of fish and individual length, in millimetres. Accuracy is the key to the smooth running and success of the tournament.

4.2 Gear and accessories : allowed and forbidden

Rod : the river competitor can rig and carry more than one rod but use only one at a time.

The lake angler can rig and use only one rod at a time; other rods in the boat must be undone or in their tube case.

Line : any commercial floating, sinking tip or full-sinking line; free of loop or knot for at least 22 metres.

Prohibited : « depth charge » or lead core, torpedo, shooting head line or to which artificial sinking or floating agent is added.

Leader/tippet : only one; max. length : 2 X rod length.

Droppers may be used if the rig has more than one fly. Strike indicators are allowed.

Prohibited : any sinking or floating agent or device added to the leader/tippet.

Flies : artificial, rigged on single barbless hooks : streamers, nymphs, wet or dry.

Weighted flies on the hook length are allowed. Allowed : max. of 3 flies on lakes, 2 flies on the river; each at least 50 cm distant between hook eyes.

Flies must move freely at the end of tippet and droppers.

Prohibited : double or tandem hooks; chemical, scent or light emitters; pieces of rubber, silicone, synthetic materials or other appendages that alter the original concept of the fly.

Landing net : maximum length : 122 cm (48 inches); must be of rubber/silicon, non-abrasive synthetic or soft cotton, of knotless construction.

4.3 General prohibitions

Should you witness any of the following situations, you must notify your competitor without delay to comply immediately; if needed, call for your Sector Judge :

- Any deed by competitors, Controllers, Sector Judges, volunteers and other members of the organizing committee which could result in biased or fraudulent results.
- The use by competitors and team captains of walkie-talkies, smart phones, live conversations or other means of communications, including with non-competitors, to relay information about the championship. The use of sonar, depth-finder or other electronic device that can locate fish.
- Any tip given by a competitor, other than to his team captain.

- The use of a still or video camera which could provide an advantage to the individual angler or her/his team. Cameras and smart phones are allowed to take pictures of score sheets.
- No help or tip should be given by anybody to the competitor : no recommendation, indication on fishing hot spots or miracle flies, no clue as to other anglers' tactics or results, not even your personal experience.
- During the fishing session, you should provide no help or assistance in rigging or carrying the competitors' gear.

4.4 Fishing sessions

4.4.1 Running water

- If a trout is hooked at the beat limit and goes into the next beat, the angler should remain on her/his beat to net the fish. Only if the next competitor gives permission, your competitor can go fight and net the fish in the next beat. If the next competitor objects, the angler must stay inside her/his beat and has 5 minutes to net the fish; if more than 5 minutes are needed, the fish does not count.
- The competitor must stand on the shore or the river bed; swimming, deliberate hopping or drifting in the current is forbidden.
- Should a fishing session be interrupted (e.g. coming thunder storm), the Sector Judge will take care of scores to avoid any unfair treatment.

4.4.2 Still water

- Every craft should contain the same number of competing anglers.
- Competitors will determine by tossing a coin who will pilot the craft for the session first half. The winner decides where to fish and each one's position in the boat (pilot, passenger), the use (or not) of a regulatory drogue, every decision not being detrimental to any angler. The role of pilot, at the other angler's choice, can be exchanged at mid-session for the second half of the 3-hour period.
- The Sector Judge should intervene should a safety issue arise or a competitor be treated unfairly.
- Competitors are allowed at least 10 minutes before session start to reach the selected fishing spot; distance between competing crafts should exceed 50 metres at all times.
- The angler's line should not trespass the half-way mark of the craft; if so, the line must be picked up and cast again.
- Fish caught while the craft is moving does not count; the pilot must forewarn the other angler in the boat before starting the motor and moving the craft.
- A competitors should remain seated at all times in the craft, except while netting a fish; a 10-cm seat pad is allowed.

- Fish netting is the competitor's sole responsibility. The lucky angler can ask the Sector Judge to net his catch. Measurement and recording of fish caught is done by the lucky angler and registered on his score card; the other competing angler's initials are required for each fish caught.
- For the catch to qualify, both anglers must witness the released fish swim away.
- In case of a dispute, the fish must be killed and kept for the Sector Judge's inspection. The fly must be kept in place on the fish.
- No boat, other than the competitors' and officials' will be allowed on the lakes reserved for the tournament.
- Should a fishing session be interrupted (e.g. coming thunder storm), the Sector Judge will take care of scores to avoid any unfair treatment.

5. What you should bring!

For the success of the championship and your personal comfort, we recommend you bring the following items :

- Very important : a watch or smart phone (fully charged), for accurate session timekeeping
- Sunglasses (polarized shades are softer on the eyes)
- Sunscreen; lip balm
- Insect repellent and/or Afterbite
- Aloe Vera does wonders on skin hit by insects and sunburn
- If you are allergic to some food or intolerant to bites : EpiPen or other medicine recommended by your doctor
- Walking shoes or boots
- Rain gear (just in case...)
- Hat, cap
- Chewy or candy bars (when the fishing gets slow...)
- Side or back pack to carry your stuff, water bottle, etc.

6. Conclusion

The *Club des Moucheurs EnDiablés* and *Fly Fishing Canada* hope you will enjoy every minute of the **2016 Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championship**. We hope you will learn a lot more about this fascinating sport and that you will make new friends, here and abroad.