

Holt Sea Angling Club Match Competition Rules

(April 2016)

General match rules ...

1. The organisers will signal the start and finish of the competition. Anglers are permitted to wet their line, without bait, up to 20 minutes prior to start of the match.
2. An angler is permitted to have three rods set up with reels, lines and baited traces attached, but can only have one line in the water at one time.
3. Spare baited traces are allowed and no more than three hooks may be attached to any trace. Anglers must attend their own spare traces, assistance in any form such as un-hooking fish or baiting up is not allowed in Open Matches. In contrast to the Open Matches in Pure Club Matches assistance from any club member to another club member in unhooking or baiting up of traces will be allowed. This should be seen as a form of tuition for juniors and novice anglers and help for those anglers who are unable to carry out these tasks due to a disability.
4. All natural baits are allowed. Feathers and/or lures may not be used except in specific matches.
5. Assistance may be given to land a fish but no-one other than the competitor may handle the rod.
6. The deliberate foul-hooking of fish is not permitted, however foul hooked fish are allowed at the discretion of the organisers. In the event of a fish being hooked by two or more competitors or caught on lost traces, they shall not be eligible for recording.
7. All fish over 18 cm may be recorded but actual size limits applying to each match will be determined by club committee on day of match. When minimum sizes above 18 cm apply for a species then these will be as defined.
8. Any complaints must be submitted to the organisers, in writing, within one hour of the end of the competition. A protest fee of ten pounds must accompany the complaint, which is returnable if the objection is upheld. The decision of the organisers will be final in the event of any dispute not covered by these rules.
9. The organisers reserve the right to refuse entry and disqualify any angler if the angler is known to have made disparaging remarks about Holt SAC or found breaking the rules. Furthermore the organisers reserve the right to check, at their discretion, inside anglers vehicles at any time both before and after the competition.
10. The organisers shall not be held responsible for any loss, accident or damage occasioned to any competitor, official or member of the public.
11. Any angler reported leaving litter or throwing litter into the sea during or after the competition will be disqualified.
12. In pegged matches fishing will be from a peg allocated by means of a draw. Anglers must fish from no other peg number or position. The redrawing of pegs is not allowed.
13. As well as the aforementioned rules, the rules of fair play will apply. Anglers must conduct themselves in the manner within the spirit of the sport.

Rules for Catch and Release ...

14. All fish to be measured down to the nearest CM with the head and tail simultaneously touching the respective end and line on the measure. No attempt must be made to hide the position of the head from the steward. It is advised that an Approved SAMF measure should be used.
15. The club's "length to weight" conversion card will determine the fish size limits to be used in a match. Undersized fish must be returned to the sea/river immediately after casting out next line.
16. All Eels to be measured as with other species.
17. Mackerel may be recorded in pure Club matches as "unclassified" but in Open matches they may not be recorded.
18. All fish must be placed in a bucket of sea water and taken to the adjacent angler to be measured, witnessed and recorded on match card.
19. Only match competitors are allowed to transport fish for measuring and returning to sea/river, no 3rd party can be used.
20. All recorded fish must be returned to the sea/river in front of the witness in a manner to ensure they are actually in the water. Any washed up fish must be returned immediately when found..
21. Fish length, weight points and running total must be recorded and signed by adjacent angler before next cast is retrieved.
22. At the end of a match, match cards must be signed off, total weight recorded (use table if required) and witnessed by adjacent angler, including the fish taken to the scales.
23. All anglers are stewards. It is in yours and everyone's interest to see that correct procedures are adhered to, to ensure fair play.
24. Damaged and unreadable cards may be disqualified.
25. Weavers, mackerel, sea trout and all shads are banned except when being fished for in the case of mackerel.
26. Failure to comply with any of the above or any match rules may lead to disqualification.

Holt SAC specific rules ...

27. Members will only be awarded club league points in a match if they have paid their annual subscription before the match starts.
28. A match may be deemed un-fishable by a majority vote of members on the day of the match.

Casting rules ...

29. Only the angler will be allowed to cast his/her trace in Open Matches. In pure Club Matches adult members must cast their own traces but Juniors 10 years and under may have this done for them on a limited basis.
30. Anglers wishing to use 'power casting' styles should use a minimum of **60lb** breaking strain shock leader. Furthermore, it is recommended that the breaking strain of shock leader should be a minimum 10lb breaking strain per oz of weight being used. In interests of safety, competitors are advised that any form of dangerous casting is prohibited.