



Phoenix Angling Club – Pike Match Rules – Version: 2023-24

1. The starting and finishing times for the match must be prominently displayed on all promotional material relating to the match and made clear again at the draw.
2. The duration for a contest shall be five hours unless otherwise specified by the Match Secretary.
3. The match must be a pegged down competition. All pegs should be sensibly spaced apart and when used under normal conditions must be of a state to give competitors a practicable and reasonable chance to fish his or her swim.
4. All officials participating in the organisation of the match will be highlighted to competitors at the draw of each match as clear evidence of their authority.
5. Dependant upon the number of competitors if may be possible for the lead match official to allow competitors to draw more than one peg to give the greatest chance of success. This will be totally at the discretion of the lead match official and will be made clear at the draw.
6. Each competitor on drawing their number shall proceed to a corresponding number on the bank and this will be considered their fishing ground where they will fish. The peg must remain in position until the weigh-in is completed.
6. Every competitor must fish from within one metre either side of their designated peg(s). As we fish on flowing water, and for the avoidance of doubt, the competitor may fish in the direction of the flow as far as the next peg.
7. The competitor will restrict their activities completely to these boundaries, neither their person, their tackle, their hookbaits or groundbaits may intrude into their neighbour's swim.
8. In an extreme situation, for example, snagged tackle or a snagged fish, a competitor must seek permission from their neighbour/s before moving from their designated peg to try and remedy the situation.
9. A competitor must not cause annoyance to, or seek to interfere with, another competitor and must act in a sporting manner at all times.
10. Mobile phones may be used during the course of the competition but may not be used to give or seek advice related to the match.
11. No competitor may move their peg or exchange their peg or draw card with another without the organiser's official consent.
12. Competitors must weigh all fish as soon as they are caught and then release them back into the nearest available empty swim as soon as possible. A fellow competitor will be asked to assist and act as a witness. All competitors will make themselves available to assist when asked. All weighing must be witnessed by another competitor. Competitors must take every practicable step to keep their fish alive and, after weighing them, must ensure their careful return to the water.

13. A competitor shall have in use no more than two rods at one time, but may have other rods or tackle assembled for use in position behind them, if possible, providing that no such other tackles are baited.
14. Any bait, subject to local rules, can be used except live fish.
15. No competitor shall have live fish in their possession before a match. All competitors must submit to a search if requested by a match official.
16. Before the starting signal no competitor must on any account groundbait or loose feed the swim but will be allowed to wet a line, plumb the depth and test the float, mix and wet groundbait, clear their ground of weed or obstructions and position his/her equipment. On no account must a feeder be used before the starting signal. A ledger weight may be cast to find depth and distance etc, but a no time must the line be left in the water whilst continuing to set up other tackle.
17. Competitors may receive assistance to or from their peg, or both, for themselves or their tackle, or both.
18. All groundbait may be thrown in by hand, or by use of one or two handed catapults, throwing sticks, swim feeders, bait droppers and bait cups, but no other mechanical means of projecting groundbait is allowed.
19. No bait shall be introduced with a pole cup or bait dropper attached to an extra rod/pole whilst continuing to fish.
20. A competitor must strike, play and land his own fish. They may seek the assistance of a fellow competitor to assist with unhooking.
21. Hand lining fish is not permitted.
22. No bait, equipment or information can be given to any competitor during the course of the match.
23. Any competitor who abandons their peg having decided to cease taking part in the match but who decides to continue fishing must do so outside the confines of the length being used for the match.
24. A competitor may wade provided that the water does not extend above the knees unless they can touch the bank with fingertips, in which case the water can extend above the knees. When platforms are used, the water must not come over the knees when standing on a river bed.
25. No competitor shall leave their peg at any time during the course of the match other than to answer the call of nature or check upon a fellow competitor and then they must not leave their baited hook in the water. At the end of the match any competitor detailed for scalesman duties must have a witness to the weighing of their own catch.
26. A competitor must cease fishing at the finishing signal. Should they still be playing a fish hooked before the signal is given, they will be permitted no more than fifteen minutes after time has been called to land the fish.
27. Only pike caught are eligible for weighing. It will be the responsibility of the competitor to return all live fish to the water after weighing and dispose appropriately of any dead fish.
28. All catches will be weighed to the nearest quarter of an ounce or ten grammes rounded up.

29. Each competitor will be responsible for passing the weight of their catch to the lead match official at the end of the match along with details of the witness.
30. All fish must be weighed at the competitor's peg. Unless the bankside terrain renders it impossible.
31. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their pegs are clear of litter and no competitor may have their catch weighed in who has litter lying on the banks of their swim.
32. Any objection to a competitor's conduct, for whatever reason, must be raised with a match official or weigher within one hour of the end of the match. In all cases the objector shall inform the offender of their intentions at the time in order that they may speak in their own defence. Should an offender after receiving such a warning leave the match scene, the objection shall be deemed to have been sustained and the match organisers must inform them of their findings and punishment (if any) within seven days.
33. All the foregoing rules are subject to the byelaws of the Environment Agency, and any local rules applicable to a fishery.
34. All holders of trophies must, on presentation of them must agree to keep them safely and shall undertake to return same (when applicable) in a clean and presentable condition when asked by the organisers. In the case of a team trophy, all members of that team are obliged under this rule.
35. Any competitor proved to have been in contravention of these rules will be disqualified.
36. The use of lead, including any alloy or compound lead, in the form of split shot or any other suitable thing for weighting fishing lines is prohibited. The prohibition does not apply to weights of lead, alloy or compound 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.
37. Gaffs and stringers are banned.
38. All competitors entering a pike match should be in possession of the proper unhooking tools. This should include as a bare minimum, forceps and an unhooking mat.
39. Hooks should be semi barbed or barbless.
40. All runs should be dealt with promptly, gorge tactics should result in the immediate disqualification of the offender.
41. Dead or damaged pike will not be weighed in/counted in the match.

Match outcomes and prizes

1. The competitor with the heaviest weight recorded on the day will be the winner.
2. Individual matches will have the amount of prize money decided by the lead match official and places paid out will be determined on the basis of the number of competitors with a reasonable amount taken towards club funds.