



Match Rules

Melbourne Coarse Angling match rules are a “work in progress” and all information provided herein is subject to constant updates.

At each match, the match secretary shall provide verbal updates regarding any rule variations or changes.

The rules outlined in this document are similar to those used by the Sydney Coarse Angling club in an effort to maintain a consistent approach.

MCA Match Rules

1. The match will start and end on the whistle or a verbal command
2. All species of fish are accountable, except Gambusia & Nepean Herring.
3. The angler's swim will be as follows.
 - a. **Still water**, midway between themselves and the angler on their right-to midway between themselves and the angler on their left.
 - b. **Running water**, from a point one meter upstream of their peg to a point one meter upstream from the next downstream angler.
4. The scales man will weigh the angler's fish at the peg and when recorded, will hand the fish back to the angler for return.
5. The water will not be broken before the whistle. (Except for wetting of ground bait, clearing of the swim, arranging keepnet, and plumbing of depth).
6. One rod with one hook only to be used at any one time (more rods may be set up but not baited). It is **NOT PERMISSABLE** to feed using a bait dropper /feeder /pole pot or to plumb depth/or check rigs while another line is in the water.
7. No fly fishing or spinning will be permitted.
8. The following baits are **not allowed**.
 - a. Live fish baits
 - b. Dead fish baits
 - c. Crustaceans
 - d. Artificial baits
 - e. Artificial worms and casters are not to be used in matches.
 - f. Artificial bread, corn, and maggots can be used.
9. The angler will not allow his / her feed to enter swims either side of him/her.
10. The angler must fish and play fish within one meter inside the boundary of his / her swim.



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11. Any angler that wishes to leave his / her peg for any reason whatsoever must first remove their angling line, hook and hookbait from the water.
12. Anglers may continue to play a fish for fifteen minutes after the final whistle. If the fish is landed after the fifteen minutes has elapsed, then the fish is not eligible for weighing. The angler in this position must declare, "Fish on" when the final whistle is blown.
13. Anglers fishing the same venue as the intended match venue within a 24-hour period prior to the match will be disqualified from competing in the match.
14. Any angler leaving litter will be disqualified.
15. Any fish must be hooked, played, and landed by the same angler.
16. Match pegs shall be a minimum of 15 paces apart where possible; the decision of the match secretary is final.
17. Any angler who is not happy with their peg should make this known to the match secretary prior to the "all in". There must be a legitimate reason for-the-complaint. The decision of the-match secretary-is final.
18. All anglers must stay at a reasonable distance from the water prior to and during the peg draw.
19. At the discretion of the match secretary a platform or box and wading to the platform or box is allowable at any venue provided that the angler can touch the bank with a 13-foot match rod from the final platform or box position. Secondary to this rule is that the positioning of the keepnet should enable the top of the keepnet rings to be covered by water (for the protection of the fish).
20. On an occasion where a match is affected by a thunder (electrical) storm the following will apply :
 - a. More than half the match complete : Result stands as at the time of the storms beginning, or restarted following the storms passing, as long as the match is completed within the usual hour time period i.e., 10am to 3pm.
 - b. Less than half of the match complete : Match abandoned or restarted after the passing of the storm as per 6-hour rule.

This rule will be invoked at the discretion of the match secretary following attention being drawn to the storm by another angler.



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21. To avoid a blank an angler presenting an un-weighable fish will be awarded 1 point and register a weight of 0.01g, if more than one angler presents an un-weighable fish each angler will be allocated the same points.

22. Anglers who wish to participate in MCA matches must register their interest on the MCA website.

23. As a guide, the draw time will be 8.15 am, to allow 90 minutes bank access and equipment setup.

(The draw and setup times are at the discretion of the match Secretary, with the proviso that all anglers notified of the draw time if there are any changes).

24. Matches will be of 5 hours duration unless interrupted by a storm.

25. Only club tripod and scales can be used for match weigh-ins.

26. Members booking a peg for a match will be responsible for the Match fees if they do not show up and fail to notify the match secretary of their intended absence.

27. The use of electronic fish finders (including depth) during any part of an SCAC match is not allowed.

28. Matches will be organised and ran in accordance with the MCA safety policy and match planning guides.

Variations to Standard Match Rules

Pairs Matches

Where a match is organised as a “pairs” event, two anglers will compete together.

Each angler will be assessed for overall performance

Both anglers from a “Pair” will have their points summated to assess which pair performed the best.

Anglers who form pairs are not allowed to fish in the same section.

Multi Day Matches

Where an event takes place over two or more days, anglers shall not be allowed to fish an “End peg” more than once. This shall be managed by the match secretary during the draw. Anglers who have already fished an end peg shall be required to draw before other anglers. End peg numbers shall NOT be in the draw bag. After these anglers have completed their draw, the end peg numbers shall be returned to the bag and the draw shall continue until completion.