

POLICY DIRECTIVE FROM THE BOARD OF FLY FISH AUSTRALIA

EFFECTIVE DATE: 2 March 2018 - IMPLEMENTATION AT ALL FFA ENDORSED COMPETITIONS

DISTRIBUTION: FFA Members, State Chapter Committees, Competition Organisers and Competitors

POLICY – BOATING SAFETY AT ALL FFA ENDORSED COMPETITIONS

Aim:

1. To implement safe boating practice in all competitions and to reduce the risk of injury
2. To ensure consistency of boating operation and practice at all FFA endorsed competitions.

Application:

1. All organisers, competitors and participants in FFA endorsed competitions have a responsibility for the safe conduct of those competitions and to report any breaches of safety including near miss incidents to the Competition Organiser or their nominee at the earliest practicable opportunity.
2. Formal protests concerning any breach of this or any other competition rule must be noted on the angler's scorecard and reported to the Competition Organiser.
3. All boats used in competition must comply with local and state boating safety regulations.
4. Boat owners/operators when nominating their boat for use in a competition certify their boat is in compliance with those boating safety regulations.
5. Boats are NOT to be operated 'on the plane' during the first five minutes of steaming time and boat operators must ensure every step is taken to minimise wash during this critical period of operation.
6. The only departure from this is if the boat operator deems for safety reasons the boat must be operated at a higher speed to avoid a higher risk situation. Boat operators be careful and considerate towards smaller boats in their near vicinity
7. At all other times boats may be operated in accord with local waterway regulations and subject to safety and boating etiquette considerations in every case.
8. The Boat Operator will be responsible for:
 - a. Compliance with local boating regulations at all times including performing a safety check of the vessel under their control prior to each competition session.
 - b. Ensuring Personal Floatation Device (PFD) is worn by all persons on the vessel under their control whilst on the water during FFA endorsed competitions.
 - c. Compliance with any safety directive from the Competition Organiser or their delegate.
 - d. Ensuring at ALL times whilst the boat motor is running the operator of the boat MUST be connected by lanyard to the 'kill switch' on the motor and this system must be operational and effective.
 - e. Ensuring whilst motoring anglers are seated safely and as low as feasible to the centre of gravity of the boat to assist with maintaining balance of the boat.
9. All Anglers are responsible for:

- a. Ensuring the PFD they are wearing is 'in-test' and compliant with local boating regulations.
- b. Raising any safety concerns with the operation of the vessel directly with the operator or where appropriate the Competition Organiser at the earliest practicable opportunity
- c. Handing in their properly completed, legible and signed scorecard (including 'blank' sessions) to the Competition Organiser or their nominee at the conclusion of EACH session and within the timeframe nominated by the Competition Organiser. Where no time is nominated then within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the session. The return of scorecards is evidence the angler has returned safely to the muster point at the conclusion of the competition session.

10. Competition Organisers or their nominees are responsible for:

- a. Ensuring all participants in FFA endorsed competitions are provided with a safety briefing regarding local conditions and these safety rules prior to the commencement of the first session of competition and where required thereafter
- b. Counting boats at the beginning of competition sessions and reconciling returned score cards at the conclusion of competition sessions to ensure all boats and anglers have returned safely
- c. Organising and coordinating rescue of missing boats and/or anglers
- d. Conduct of the competition generally and in accord with the rules of FFA.
- e. Ensuring the results of the competition are forwarded to the Secretary of FFA within seven days of the conclusion of the competition or as arranged with the Secretary.

11. Protests

- a. Competition protests are required to be noted on the scorecard by either the angler or controller and brought to the attention of the Competition Organiser.
- b. Where required matters may be elevated to a higher level of determination in accord with FFA appeals policy
- c. Both anglers in the boat at the time of any breaches of this rule may be subject to disciplinary action which may include the loss of all session points ie penalty includes but is not limited to a blank session or disqualification from the competition. In the first instance penalty will be determined by the competition organiser.

POLICY IMPROVEMENT

Suggestions for improvement of this policy may be submitted to the National Secretary by email at the following address:

secretary@flyfishaustralia.com.au or by Post to the FFA post box:

GPO Box 2255, Canberra ACT 2601

On behalf of the Board thank you for your assistance in applying this directive for the safety of all concerned.

Board - Fly Fish Australia Inc.