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## FFTUSA Organization, Rules and Guidelines

### June 2024 Revision

#### **Definitions:**

FFTUSA - Fly Fishing Team USA

Angler - Person who is angling during a competitive event

Controller - Person who observes angler to ensure to rules and regulations, measures fish as required

Leadership Committee - Decision and rule making body of the FFTUSA

Organizing Committee - subcommittee of the Leadership Committee consisting of three (3) members who have the responsibility to select regional organizers, review and approve events, and bring recommendations for Inter-regional and USFFC recommendation for approval by the Leadership Committee

USFFC - United States Fly Fishing Championship

WFFC- World Fly Fishing Championship

Team Captain - Non competing angler who is designated to lead the National Team and WFFC Team

National Team - Team selected at the end of each competition cycle to represent FFTUSA at the national level

Team Member(s) - Any angler that pays dues or participates in FFTUSA sponsored activities. This includes National Team members, WFFC Team members, Team Captain, and any persons on the Leadership Committee

WFFC Team - Team selected from the National Team members to represent the USA at the WFFC

Competition cycle - Angling event cycle that culminates with the USFFC and selection of the National Team and WFFC Team

#### **Team Mission Statement**

The mission of Fly Fishing Team USA (“FFTUSA”) is to educate and train men and women in the sport of competitive fly fishing on both national and international levels and to promote, and educate its members in the conservation of our fisheries, lakes, rivers and streams. The teams selected by the FFTUSA will represent the USA with honor and dignity and will display sportsmanship to Olympic standards with respect for their fellow members and competitors from around the world. The team selected by the FFTUSA will represent the USA with honor and dignity and will display sportsmanship to Olympic standards with respect for their fellow members and competitors from around the world.

#### **1. Code of Conduct**

1.1. Membership with FFTUSA is a privilege

1.1.1. All Team Members must agree to uphold the team mission statement and the code of conduct

- 1.2. While participating in any FFTUSA sanctioned activity or in those events where one is representing or could be perceived as representing FFTUSA, Team Members shall observe the following provisions:
  - 1.2.1. Team Members will respect other competitors, competition officials, volunteers, and the fishing public
  - 1.2.2. Team Members will use courtesy and good manners and refrain from the use of profane or abusive language
  - 1.2.3. Team Members will always conduct themselves as worthy representatives of the United States of America and shall maintain high standards of moral and ethical conduct
  - 1.2.4. Team Members will respect and care for the fish, rivers, lakes, and all facilities associated with a competition venue or event
  - 1.2.5. Team Members will abstain from illegal or immoderate use of alcohol and use of illegal or banned drugs
  - 1.2.6. Team Members agree to abide by anti-doping rules and procedures outlined by FIPS-Mouche in Article 40 of the official FIPS-Mouche Competition Rules
  - 1.2.7. No Team Members shall commit a criminal act
  - 1.2.8. Team Members are responsible for knowledge of and adherence to competition rules and procedures as outlined by FFTUSA, an agent of FFTUSA, and FIPS-Mouche
- 1.3. Failure to comply with the provisions in Item 1.2 may lead to disciplinary action by the Leadership Committee
  - 1.3.1. Disciplinary actions might include:
    - 1.3.1.1. Suspension from competition(s) without refund of entry fee
    - 1.3.1.2. Forfeiture of membership fee without refund
    - 1.3.1.3. Suspension or banning from becoming a Team Members
    - 1.3.1.4. Removal from the National Team or WFFC Team
- 1.4. Infractions that are related to competitions
  - 1.4.1. Prior to event infractions
    - 1.4.1.1. These infractions are typically, but not limited to the following
      - 1.4.1.1.1. Practicing in closed water
      - 1.4.1.1.2. Practicing in beat water
      - 1.4.1.1.3. Having an agent fishing in closed or beat water
  - 1.4.2. During event infractions
    - 1.4.2.1. These infractions are typically, but not limited to the following
      - 1.4.2.1.1. Fishing infractions such as: Fly construction, Fly line or leader construction, Net or netting infractions, Fishing the wrong beat/boat, Fishing outside anglers designated beat
      - 1.4.2.1.2. Engaging with an agent to obtain information
      - 1.4.2.1.3. Disrespectful behavior towards another angler, controller, or any other person
  - 1.4.3. Penalties for infraction
    - 1.4.3.1. Penalty shall be determined based on the following criteria
      - 1.4.3.1.1. Is the infraction determined to be deliberate or inadvertent
      - 1.4.3.1.2. What is the level or severity of benefit to the angler

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- 1.4.3.1.3. What is the level or severity of impact on others
  - 1.4.4. Penalties
    - 1.4.4.1. Disqualification
      - 1.4.4.1.1. Should be reserved for the most egregious offenses that are deliberate, with significant benefit to the angler, and direct impact to others
      - 1.4.4.1.2. Can be applied to specific sessions or the entire competition
      - 1.4.4.1.3. Can only be applied by the rules committee/jury for an event
    - 1.4.4.2. Placing point penalty
      - 1.4.4.2.1. Should be reserved for infractions that may have some measurable and direct benefit to the angler and/or some measurable and direct negative impact on others
      - 1.4.4.2.2. Can only be applied by the rules committee/jury for an event or session
    - 1.4.4.3. Time loss penalty
      - 1.4.4.3.1. Should be reserved for infractions that may be either deliberate or inadvertent and have marginal indirect benefit the angler and/or have marginal negative indirect impact on others
      - 1.4.4.3.2. Can be applied prior to a session start for infractions that occur prior to an event start or a subsequent session for infractions that occur during the event
      - 1.4.4.3.3. Length of time loss should be relative to the understood level of impact of the infraction
      - 1.4.4.3.4. Timing of time loss should be determined by the rules committee/jury
        - 1.4.4.3.4.1. Start of session, end of session, mid session
      - 1.4.4.3.5. Can only be applied by the rules committee/jury for an event or session
    - 1.4.4.4. Fish loss penalty
      - 1.4.4.4.1. Applied during a session when a fish is caught while not in compliance with applicable rules
        - 1.4.4.4.1.1. As appropriate and when inadvertent, a warning should be given by the controller before a penalty is applied
        - 1.4.4.4.1.2. The controller shall make the determination on a fish not counting at the point/time of infraction
        - 1.4.4.4.1.3. If the angler wishes to protest the non counting fish the angler must do so immediately, in which case the controller should record it with appropriate notes that will be reviewed as needed by the rules committee/jury for final decision after the session
        - 1.4.4.4.1.4. If for any reason the controller recommends additional fish penalty beyond the fish being caught during the infraction, the controller must make this recommendation to the rules committee/jury after the session
  - 1.5. Infractions that occur outside of a competition will be reviewed by the Team Captain and Leadership Committee
    - 1.5.1. Persons that witness or have evidence of these infractions should report and provide documentation to the Leadership Committee

1.6. FFTUSA is committed to principles of fairness and all Team Members are entitled to due process

**2. FFTUSA Membership and Eligibility for National Team Selection**

2.1. Membership is subject to adherence to the FFTUSA code of conduct and may be suspended or revoked without refund of membership fees if an angler is found to be in violation as determined by the Leadership Committee

2.2. Membership is open to any person by completing the registration form and waiver, and by paying the required membership fee

2.2.1. Membership is required for all FFTUSA sponsored activities

2.2.2. Membership is valid for 365 days from the time of purchase. The active date will be managed through your [www.flycomps.com](http://www.flycomps.com) registration

2.2.3. Membership shall be \$75

2.2.4. This membership provides the angler no cost access to all regional events

2.2.4.1.1. Any event specific costs will be announced by the organizers of events and any event fees will be paid directly to the organizers

2.2.5. Memberships may be offered in conjunction with other competitive fly fishing organizations

2.3. Eligibility to make the National Team

2.3.1. Anglers must be the age of eighteen (18) or older before the end of the year that the USFFC will be held for the applicable cycle

2.3.2. Anglers must be citizens of the USA or have a stated plan to be a citizen the year that the USFFC will be held for the applicable cycle

**3. FFTUSA Competition Cycle**

3.1. Each cycle consists of a sequence of regional events, interregional events and ends with USFFC

3.1.1. USFFCs will be held approximately two years apart

3.1.2. 2022-2030 calendar to represent the competition cycle format (note that the colors designate the progressive cycle evolution)

3.1.3. In order for events to count towards making the National Team they must be sanctioned by FFTUSA

3.1.4. All events will utilize the [www.flycomps.com](http://www.flycomps.com) website for registration and information distribution of events

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
	S O N D	J F M A M J J A S O N D	J F M A M J J A S O N D	J F M A M J J A S O N D	J F M A M J J A S O N D	J F M A M J J A S O N D	J F M A M J J A S O N D	J F M A M J J A S O N D	J F M A
Regionals	Red	Yellow	Green	Blue	Red	Yellow	Green	Blue	Red
Inter-Regionals		Red	Yellow	Green	Blue	Red	Yellow	Green	Blue
Nationals			Red	Yellow	Green	Blue	Red	Yellow	Green

3.1.5. Point Accumulation

3.1.5.1. Over the course of the competitive cycle, anglers will accumulate points by participating in sanctioned competitions

3.1.5.2. The accumulation of points is used to select anglers to be on the National Team and WFFC Team

**4. Competition event structure and rules**

- 4.1. In order to provide consistency and ease in organization of events, FFTUSA is adopting modification to standard FIPS Mouche rules as noted below
- 4.2. FFTUSA will no longer supply measuring trays for events
  - 4.2.1. Each angler wishing to participate in FFTUSA events that require the measurement of fish shall be required to purchase a FFTUSA sanctioned measuring tray from FFTUSA or affiliated partner and bring this measuring tray to events that require the measurement of fish
- 4.3. No measure protocol
  - 4.3.1. As defined below or as approved by the Leadership Committee , some events may be set up to only count the number of fish, not the length of each fish
  - 4.3.2. Once a fish has been verified by the controller to be fair caught, the fish is recorded
  - 4.3.3. The organizer may set a minimum fish size by providing each angler with a net measuring device, such as a brightly colored zip tie that can be seen from a distance, so that the controller and angler can verify that the fish meets a minimum size prior to counting
- 4.4. All events will be angler controlled
  - 4.4.1. Controllers should be able to verify that each fish is caught fairly
    - 4.4.1.1. The controller will give verbal agreement that the fish has been fairly caught
  - 4.4.2. Once verified that the fish is fairly caught the angler may remove the fly
  - 4.4.3. If needed, the fish shall be placed in the measuring trough and the angler and controller will verify the length of the fish
  - 4.4.4. Once agreed the controller will record the fish and the angler will initial
- 4.5. Angler controlled rules for loch style venues
  - 4.5.1.1. The controlled draw will assign a pair of anglers for each boat
  - 4.5.1.2. Anglers will control each other
  - 4.5.1.3. Angler will fill out the score sheet and initial, then the controller will initial to complete the fish score
  - 4.5.1.4. No fishing until both are ready to fish when resetting drifts or controlling the boat
  - 4.5.1.5. No modification of the line, leader, or flies while the other angler is moving the boat or making adjustments to the boat such as setting the drogue
- 4.6. Angler controlled rules for lake bank style venues
  - 4.6.1.1. It is strongly suggested that there be a designated rotation implemented for bank sessions (For example, every hour there is a 10 minute pause to fishing to allow all anglers to shift 2 beats up)
  - 4.6.1.2. If there are no available anglers to control, adjacent anglers should control each other (Angler 1 & 2, 3 & 4 etc...)
    - 4.6.1.2.1. After landing a fish, the angler must approach the side of the beat of the controller to provide visibility to the controller
- 4.7. Angler controlled rules for river venues
  - 4.7.1.1. The controlled draw will ensure that once a beat has been fished or controlled by any team, no other person on that team will be able to fish that same beat
  - 4.7.1.2. An angler shall not fish the same beat that said angler controlled previously
  - 4.7.1.3. The angler should control the same beat that the angler fished previously

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- 4.7.1.4. In competitions where fish will be measured, controllers are not allowed to leave the immediate proximity of the bank (i.e. they are not allowed to follow the angler across the river or come to the angler to measure a fish in the river)
  - 4.7.1.5. Controllers must follow appropriate etiquette and anglers instructions in order to not disturb fishing opportunities
- 4.8. Other rules
- 4.8.1. There shall be no photography or video recordings taken by controllers except as follows
    - 4.8.1.1. Requested by the angler to document any challenges to a controller ruling
    - 4.8.1.2. Capture a photo of the angler or a fish to share later
  - 4.8.2. There shall be no communication by the angler or the controller (Text, email, phone, snapchat, etc...) during sessions with team mates, other anglers or their agents
  - 4.8.3. Session lengths, rest time between sessions, and requirements related to controlling can be amended to account for special conditions, seasonal needs or travel requirements
    - 4.8.3.1. Deviations to these rules may be implemented if approved by the regional coordinator for regional events and the Leadership Committee for interregional events
  - 4.8.4. All events will follow FIPS Mouche rules regarding event tactics and equipment except where approved by the event organizer and the Leadership Committee
- 5. Regionally focused organization**
- 5.1. For purposes of encouraging event organization and reducing the overall cost the anglers, the USA will be divided up into four regions
    - 5.1.1. Each region will have a designated regional coordinator(s)
      - 5.1.1.1. This coordinator will be approved by the Organizing Committee
      - 5.1.1.2. The coordinator will be responsible for event organization in the region including the following activities:
        - 5.1.1.2.1. Facilitate the submission and approval of events
        - 5.1.1.2.2. Ensure that enough events are hosted in the region
        - 5.1.1.2.3. Manage the point accumulation and ranking of anglers in the respective region
    - 5.1.2. Anglers should reside in the region where they compete at the regional level
    - 5.1.3. Northeast Region
      - 5.1.3.1. Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin, Washington DC
    - 5.1.4. Southeast Region
      - 5.1.4.1. Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia
    - 5.1.5. West Region
      - 5.1.5.1. Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming
    - 5.1.6. Midwest Region
      - 5.1.6.1. Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas

- 5.1.7. Anglers that relocate their place of residence within a cycle may carry their regional scores from their prior region to the new region
- 5.1.8. Anglers may petition to participate in another region based on their specific location being more proximate to another region (For example anglers in Virginia may prefer to fish in the NE depending on their exact location)
  - 5.1.8.1. Anglers must make this choice for the duration of the cycle
  - 5.1.8.2. Request must be approved by the affected regional coordinators
    - 5.1.8.2.1. Disputes will be settled by the Organizing Committee

## **6. Regional events**

- 6.1. The goal of regional events is to identify the top anglers in each region
- 6.2. Regional season
  - 6.2.1. The season for point accrual from regional events should begin on January 1st of the event cycle and end on December 31st, two years later
    - 6.2.1.1. Variances must be approved by the Leadership Committee
- 6.3. Sanctioning of events (process and timeline)
  - 6.3.1. The organizer should work with the regional coordinator to submit the event application no less than thirty (30) days in advance of the event
  - 6.3.2. The regional coordinator is responsible for approving regional events
    - 6.3.2.1. Once an application has been submitted, the regional coordinator will work with the organizer to approve or reject events within seven (7) days
  - 6.3.3. Events must be announced to Team Members no less than fourteen (14) days in advance of the event
- 6.4. Eligibility for regional events
  - 6.4.1. Any anglers not residing in the region will be subject to a twenty-four (24) hour registration delay
    - 6.4.1.1. The angler's finish will be included in determining the placing for all other anglers
    - 6.4.1.2. Except as described in section 6.7 anglers who participate in a regional from outside the region of the event will not accumulate points
    - 6.4.1.3. Any anglers who are not eligible to make the National Team will be subject to a twenty-four (24) hour registration delay for all events
- 6.5. Event costs
  - 6.5.1. Organizers are responsible for preparing for the event and any associated costs
    - 6.5.1.1. Event specific costs that require additional funding such as supplies, boat rentals or private water fishing fees, permitting fees, etc... should be incurred directly by the event participants or paid to the event organizer
    - 6.5.1.2. FFTUSA can supply drogues for each region to be use in loch style events
- 6.6. Regional event structure
  - 6.6.1. One (1) day events
  - 6.6.2. Two (2) angling sessions per angler
  - 6.6.3. A minimum of eight (8) anglers
  - 6.6.4. Anglers should self organize or be assigned by the organizer into teams of two anglers for the event
  - 6.6.5. No measure protocol should be used

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- 6.6.6. Sessions shall be a minimum of one and a half (1.5) hours in length
  - 6.6.7. There shall be a minimum of one half (0.5) hours of rest between sessions
  - 6.6.8. Event finishes count towards an angler's ranking
  - 6.7. Regional points accrual
    - 6.7.1. Anglers living in or associated with a region will accumulate points towards their ranking in that region
      - 6.7.1.1. Anglers that wish to fish in regional events outside their home region can only count one (1) of these events toward their personal regional score
    - 6.7.2. Points shall be awarded based on an anglers finish at regional events
      - 6.7.2.1. At the beginning of the cycle the regional coordinator for each region shall set the maximum number of points available for events during the cycle in their region
        - 6.7.2.1.1. This number shall not be changed during the cycle unless approved by the Leadership Committee
        - 6.7.2.1.2. This should be based on reasonable and expected level of participation at all events in each region (For example, a region that can regularly support events that have sixteen (16) anglers can set the maximum points awarded per event to sixteen (16))
      - 6.7.2.2. The number of points awarded at any event shall be equal to the number of anglers registered for the event up to the maximum set by the regional coordinator
        - 6.7.2.2.1. If anglers drop out within Seven (7) days of the event the number of points awarded for the event shall not be changed
      - 6.7.2.3. The first place finisher in regional events will be awarded the maximum number of points with each subsequent finisher receiving one point less
      - 6.7.2.4. The minimum number of points awarded will be one (1) point
      - 6.7.2.5. In a situation where an angler(s) blanks all sessions that angler(s) shall receive the minimum number of points for the event
      - 6.7.2.6. Flycomps.com will account for tie scores at an event
  - 6.8. Number of events in a region
    - 6.8.1. There is no limit on the number of events that can be hosted within a region
      - 6.8.1.1. The regional coordinator should use discretion when approving events so as not to allow for isolated groups of anglers to accumulate points in absence of the majority of anglers in a region
    - 6.8.2. A maximum of five (5) regional events will be counted towards an angler's total points within the region
  - 6.9. WFFC Team accommodation
    - 6.9.1. Members of the WFFC Teams including the designated alternate shall receive the equivalent of finishing first in two (2) regional competitions in their region
      - 6.9.1.1. Requires the angler to participate in the regional event, it is not a substitute for not fishing in the event, but can be applied to any event that they choose
    - 6.9.2. This accommodation is in place to recognize anglers for the time and resources spent in preparation for and participation in the world fly fishing championships



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- 6.9.3. Additional accommodations for qualifying events can be considered for other anglers of other high commitment events
  - 6.10. Regional ranking
    - 6.10.1. At the end of the regional season anglers in each region will be ranked according to the number of points earned during the cycle
      - 6.10.1.1. The angler with the most points will receive a ranking of one (1)
      - 6.10.1.2. The next highest point earning angler a ranking of two (2) and so on
      - 6.10.1.3. In the case of ties the angler with the fewest events shall hold the tie breaking advantage
      - 6.10.1.4. Additional ties shall share placings
  - 6.11. Regional ranking points
    - 6.11.1. Regional rankings will be converted to regional points for the purpose of the final rankings by giving twenty (20) points to the highest ranked angler and one less for each subsequent angler
    - 6.11.2. Anglers with a rank of twenty (20) or more in each region will receive 1 regional ranking point
  - 7. Interregional events**
    - 7.1. The goal of interregional events is to identify the top anglers in the country that will qualify for the USFFC
    - 7.2. Only anglers that are eligible to make the National Team are invited to participate in interregional events
      - 7.2.1. Exceptions can be made for anglers needed to fill the field in the case that the event is not full
    - 7.3. Interregional season
      - 7.3.1. The season for point accrual from regional events should start on January 1st in the second year of the cycle and end between September 1st that year and January 31st of the following year, depending on timing of the USFFC
        - 7.3.1.1. Variances must be approved by the Leadership Committee
    - 7.4. Sanctioning of events
      - 7.4.1. The Organizing Committee will direct the organization of interregional events
      - 7.4.2. There should be a total of four (4) events
        - 7.4.2.1. There should be one (1) within each region, four (4) total
    - 7.5. Structure of interregional events
      - 7.5.1. All interregional events will be two (2) or three (3) day, four (4) session events
      - 7.5.2. All events should consist of a mix of river and lake based venues
        - 7.5.2.1. Variations shall be approved by the Leadership Committee
      - 7.5.3. Minimum number of anglers invited should be twenty-four (24)
        - 7.5.3.1. If sufficient capability exists to invite additional anglers additional anglers can be accommodated for
      - 7.5.4. Sessions shall be a minimum of two (2.0) hours in length
      - 7.5.5. There shall be a minimum of one half (0.5) hours of rest between sessions
      - 7.5.6. There is a team component for these events and anglers should align themselves into teams

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- 7.5.6.1. It is desirable that these teams be region based
  - 7.5.6.2. In the case that teams need to be assigned, the organizer and Team Captain will be responsible for this
  - 7.6. Scheduling of interregional events
    - 7.6.1. The Organizing Committee should announce dates and locations for all interregional events at the opening of the interregional portion of the competition cycle
    - 7.6.2. Events should be planned such that there are reasonable periods of time between events so as to allow the majority of anglers to participate (For example, not closer than three week apart and avoiding other events, such as the world championship events)
  - 7.7. Eligibility for interregional events
    - 7.7.1. Interregional events are invitation only events based on angler's rankings within their respective regions
      - 7.7.1.1. Organizing Committee will communicate details of the invitation process including details such as length of time each angler has to select their events
    - 7.7.2. Invitation order until all events are full
      - 7.7.2.1. In all cases the region with the highest number of anglers shall select first and the fewest last
      - 7.7.2.2. The top four (4) ranked anglers in each region will be invited to select the interregional events that they want to participate in (sixteen (16) anglers)
      - 7.7.2.3. WFFC Team members that have competed or been the designated alternate during the cycle
      - 7.7.2.4. Next highest ranked anglers in each region until interregional events are full
      - 7.7.2.5. National Team exception
        - 7.7.2.5.1. Current National Team members that are not ranked high enough to select competitions in the normal process will be last to fill any open registration spots at competitions in two (2) interregionals
    - 7.7.3. Eligible anglers shall declare the events that they choose to participate in
    - 7.7.4. The Organizing Committee shall notify each angler with a confirmation of the events that were selected by the angler
    - 7.7.5. As event details are confirmed the organizer shall set up the event in [www.flycomps.com](http://www.flycomps.com) and each eligible angler shall register for the specific events that they are confirmed for
    - 7.7.6. If anglers drop out and create open spots in any interregional event the following protocol for filling the spots shall be observed
      - 7.7.6.1. Next highest angler in each region
      - 7.7.6.2. Open spots at events within 30 days of the event can be filled by Team Member anglers in the host region after offering it first to other higher ranked anglers
  - 7.8. Interregional cost structure
    - 7.8.1. Interregionals shall have a cost to participants of \$125 for registration
      - 7.8.1.1. Variances to this cost structure must be approved by the Organizing Committee
      - 7.8.1.2. Additional fees for boat rentals etc. can be added to the base registration cost
  - 7.9. No angler can participate in more than three (3) interregional events
  - 7.10. A maximum of two (2) interregional events will be counted towards an angler's total points.
  - 7.11. Inter-regional points accrual

- 7.11.1. Points shall be awarded based on an anglers finish
- 7.11.2. The first place finisher will be awarded twenty four (24) points with each subsequent finisher receiving one point less
- 7.11.3. Any anglers placing in positions twenty four (24) and higher will receive one (1) point
- 7.12. Post interregional score
  - 7.12.1. At the end of the interregional cycle, anglers total points will be summarized based on the number of points earned during the interregional cycle and their regional ranking points
  - 7.12.2. In the case of ties, the angler with the highest regional ranking points will hold the tie breaking advantage
  - 7.12.3. Additional ties shall share placings
- 7.13. WFFC Team accommodation
  - 7.13.1. Members of the WFFC Team including the designated alternate may elect to use their team score at the WFFC as a substitute for one interregional score
    - 7.13.1.1. A maximum of twenty four (24) points can be used for a first place finish at the WFFC with one point less being awarded for each subsequent place finish

## **8. USFFC**

- 8.1. The goal of the USFFC is to identify the top anglers in the nation
- 8.2. Only anglers that are eligible to make the National Team are eligible to participate in the USFFC
- 8.3. USFFC will be held in between October 1st and May 31st at the end of the cycle calendar
- 8.4. Sanctioning of events
  - 8.4.1. The Leadership Committee will be responsible for the organization of these events
  - 8.4.2. Events must be announced to Team Members no less than ninety (90) days in advance of the event
- 8.5. Eligibility for USFFC
  - 8.5.1. USFFC is an invitation only event
  - 8.5.2. Invitation to the event will be based on anglers post interregional score
    - 8.5.2.1. Anglers with the highest score will be invited first
  - 8.5.3. All current National Team members will be invited to participate
- 8.6. Organization of USFFC
  - 8.6.1. Approximately forty (40) anglers will be invited
    - 8.6.1.1. Adjusted based on event location and available venues
  - 8.6.2. USFFC will be at least a five session event over at least three (3) days
  - 8.6.3. Sessions shall be a minimum of 2.0 hours in length
  - 8.6.4. There shall be a minimum of 0.5 hours of rest between sessions
  - 8.6.5. There is a team component for these events and anglers should align themselves into teams
    - 8.6.5.1. In the case that teams need to be assigned the organizer and Team Captain will be responsible for this
  - 8.6.6. USFFC points accrual
    - 8.6.6.1. Points shall be awarded based on an angler's finish
    - 8.6.6.2. The first place finisher will be awarded forty (40) points with each subsequent finisher receiving one point less

8.6.6.3. Any anglers placing in positions forty (40) and higher will receive one (1) point

**9. Final end of cycle ranking**

9.1. At the end of the USFFC, anglers will be ranked according to the sum of points earned at the USFFC, qualifying interregionals, and regional ranking points

9.1.1. In the case of ties, the angler with higher USFFC points will be ranked higher

**10. FFTUSA National Team Members**

10.1. At the close of each USFFC, a team of fifteen (15) anglers will be selected to represent FFTUSA during the next cycle

10.1.1. This selection will happen before the closing ceremony at the USFFC and will be announced at the closing ceremony

10.2. The top fifteen (15) eligible anglers by rank will be selected to be on the National Team

10.2.1. Anglers must have fished in the USFFC to be eligible

10.2.2. If an angler is unable to or unwilling to be selected to the National Team, the angler with the next highest points will be selected

10.3. To maintain eligibility as a National Team member each angler must adhere to the following requirements:

10.3.1. Follow the FFTUSA code of conduct

10.3.2. Fish in at least three (3) competitions per year (regional, interregional, WFFC)

10.3.3. Materially participate in the organization of one (1) regional during each cycle and the interregional that will be hosted in the angler's respective region

10.4. If during the course of the cycle, a National Team member does not meet the minimum requirements stated in section 10.3 or is no longer willing or able to commit to participate on the team, that angler's position on the team will be evaluated by the Leadership Committee, and that angler may be dismissed from the team following a vote by the non-competing members of the Leadership Committee

10.4.1. The following criteria will be used to select a replacement if a Team Member is dismissed from the team:

10.4.1.1. The angler with the highest point total, as calculated by adding the points from the previous cycle and the points accumulated during the current cycle, will be selected to be a National Team member

10.5. If a National Team member is unable to participate in the USFFC, at the discretion of the Team Captain, an angler with prior FFTUSA National Team experience, or another angler that is among the highest ranked angler(s) outside of the current National Team will be invited to be on one of more of the FFTUSA teams

**11. World Fly Fishing Championship Team Selection**

11.1. At the close of each USFFC, a group of six (6) anglers will be selected from the group of fifteen (15) National Team members that will be recommended to represent the USA at the WFFCs for the coming cycle

11.1.1. This applies to both the Senior and Masters World Championships

11.1.2. This selection will happen before the closing ceremony at the USFFC and will be announced at the closing ceremony

11.1.3. The top three (3) Team Members in total points at the end of the competition cycle will automatically be selected for the WFFC Team

11.1.4. The fourth (4th) through sixth (6th) anglers will be selected by the Team Captain

11.1.5. The Team Captain will designate the alternate for the WFFC before the WFFC Team leaves for the WFFC

- 11.2. In cycles where there are multiple WFFCs, the Team Captain may select a different set of anglers for positions four through six (4-6) from the National Team to represent FFTUSA at the WFFC
- 11.3. If any of the WFFC Team members are not able to participate, the Team Captain may select additional anglers as needed from the National Team
- 11.4. If a WFFC Team member does not meet the code of conduct he or she will be subject to removal by the majority vote of the non-competing members of the Leadership Committee (see Code of Conduct section 1)

## **12. Team Captain Selection**

- 12.1. A vote for a Team Captain will only occur if the current Team Captain resigns or if the Leadership Committee determines a vote for a new Team Captain needs to occur
- 12.2. The Team Captain can be nominated by any Team Member or the Leadership Committee
  - 12.2.1. The Team Captain should have competition experience, but will not be currently competing to make the National Team
- 12.3. The Team Captain will then be selected from the list of nominees by a confidential vote by the members of the Leadership Committee
  - 12.3.1. The Leadership Committee will determine the method of voting
- 12.4. Nominated individuals will not be allowed to vote
- 12.5. The Team Captain will never see who voted for whom
- 12.6. The vote for the Team Captain will be done before the USFFC, unless extenuating circumstances prevent this from happening
- 12.7. If the Team Captain cannot fulfill responsibilities at a WFFC the Leadership Committee will appoint a temporary captain to fulfill that role as it relates to the WFFC