



Subject: Enforcement of Rule Amendments  
Attention: KZNFFA Anglers and Associated Members

17 April 2024

Good Morning KZNFFA,

A Nationals took place last week and particular diligence was paid to enforcing the new rules of netting, popping, and releasing fish. Sector Judges and Marshalls were well informed of the new regulations and in many circumstances handed out warnings to anglers that did not comply. The rules, which can be seen below, are compiled, and regulated by FIPS MOUCHE at an international level, and SAFFA has initiated the enforcement of them and will continue to tighten up on the compliance of these rules.

**22.1.** If a competitor wishes a fish to score, he must land it in a net (both fish and net in the water at point of netting), immediately transport a netted fish submerged (where possible) and pass the fish in the net to the controller for assessment of eligibility, measurement and recording (Articles 20.3 & 20.4 refer). Once a fish is netted the competitor may not handle it in any way, nor alter the equipment used for capture of this fish. If the competitor does not follow this Article 22.1 his fish will be registered as an invalid catch.

It is imperative that KZNFFA aligns itself with these rules as we cannot afford to have disqualifications at competition level, National or International. Due to the importance of netting and handling fish, it is imperative that KZNFFA actively practices compliance with law.

Interpretation of 22.1

- The rim of your net needs to be in the water when netting a fish
- The fish needs to be in the water when netting a fish
- Anglers may not place their hands in the net after netting
- From a conservation perspective it is imperative that fish are handled carefully and are out of the water as little as possible and we are diligent about ensuring the fish is unharmed and fresh when released. If needed on stressed fish, anglers are encouraged to spend time "reviving" the fish by keeping them in the water facing upstream until they are ready to swim off. No mishandling of fish or throwing of fish back in the water will be tolerated. The conservation of our fisheries is more important than our competition results.

"Popping" fish has been the norm and admittedly difficult to stop doing as it can sometimes be a natural reaction, especially on the smaller fish, but it is compulsory to follow the new rules to avoid penalisation. The rules will be enforced at Provincial trials level going forward. Failure to abide to the rules will result in:

1<sup>st</sup> Fish not netted correctly – Warning

2<sup>nd</sup> Fish not netted correctly – disqualification of that fish

I look forward to the anglers cooperation in this respect.

Regards

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