

VERULAM MATCH RULES

1. The starting and finishing times will be as published on the VAC fixture list but subject to democratically agreed change on the day if dictated by circumstance.
2. The recommended duration for a contest shall be five hours. Evening matches are three hours.
3. The match will be a pegged down competition unless on VAC river venues. Pegs, preferably twenty yards apart and not less than fifteen yards. All pegs used under normal conditions must be of a state to give competitors a practicable and reasonable chance to fish his or her swim.
4. Each competitor on drawing his/her number shall proceed to the corresponding number on the bank and this will be considered his/her fishing ground where he/she will fish. The peg must remain in position until the weigh-in is completed.
5. Every competitor must fish from within one metre either side of his/her designated peg. On flowing water, the competitor may fish in the direction of the flow as far as the next peg. On still water, he/she may fish as far as half the distance between his/her peg and the pegs on either side. Where competitors are drawn on opposite banks, the limit of the swim is the line midway between each bank.

The competitor will restrict their activities completely to these boundaries, neither his/her person, his/her tackle, his/her hookbaits or groundbaits may intrude into his/her neighbours swim. In an extreme situation eg snagged tackle of a snagged fish, an angler must seek permission from his/her neighbour/s before moving from his/her designated peg to try and remedy the situation.
6. A competitor must not cause annoyance to, or seek to interfere with another competitor and must act in a sporting manner at all times.
7. No competitor may move his/her peg or exchange his/her peg or draw card with another without the organiser's official consent.
8. Competitors must retain all fish in keepnets which comply with the relevant EA Byelaws. Competitors must take every practicable step to keep their fish alive and, after weighing them, must ensure their careful return to the water. If, for any reason fish are seen to be in distress, a competitor or match official has the right to demand that they be weighed immediately and returned to the water during the course of the match.
9. A competitor shall have in use one rod or pole, one line and one single hook at one time, but may have other rods or poles and tackle assembled for use in position behind him/her, if possible, providing that no such other tackles are baited.
10. Any bait, subject to local venue rules, can be used except live or dead fish, frogs spinning baits or artificial lures.
11. No competitor shall have live or dead fish in his/her possession before a match. All competitors must submit to a search if requested by a contest official.

12. 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 his/her 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 at no time must the line be left in the water whilst continuing to set up other tackle.
13. Competitors may receive assistance to or from their peg, or both, for themselves or their tackle, or both.
14. 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. No bait shall be introduced with a pole cup or bait dropper attached to an extra rod/pole whilst continuing to fish.
15. Anglers may only feed whilst at their peg. No walking around to the far bank for example.
16. All hooks must comply with venue rules
17. Floating baits, either hookbait or feed, are not permitted
18. A competitor must strike, play and land his/her own fish.
19. Keepnets should be dry when arriving to fish as dry nets do not spread disease. Fish must never be handled with gloves or towels.
20. Carp over 2lbs and silver fish must be kept in separate nets. Have spare nets ready so that you have no more than 60lbs in a net. Common Sense must prevail when net weights are verified.
21. Any competitor who abandons his/her 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.
22. A competitor may wade provided that the water does not extend above the knees unless he/she 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 / lake bed.
23. No competitor shall leave his/her peg at any time during the course of the match other than to answer the call of nature and then he/she must not leave his/her baited hook in the water. At the end of the match, a competitor must remain at his/her peg until his/her catch has been weighed unless he/she has been detailed for weighing duties. Any competitor so detailed must have a witness to the weighing of his/her own catch.
24. A competitor must cease fishing at the finishing signal. Should he/she still be playing a fish hooked before the signal is given, he/she will be permitted no more than fifteen minutes after time has been called to land the fish.
25. All fish caught are eligible for weighing with the exception of pike*, game fish and crustaceans (*pike matches are the exception). It will be the responsibility of the competitor to return all live fish to the water after weighing.
26. All catches will be weighed to the nearest ounce where possible.
27. Each competitor will be responsible for ensuring the correct weight of their catch is recorded. In any dispute the decision of the weighers and the organisers will be final.

28. All fish must be weighed at the competitor's peg. Unless the bankside terrain renders impossible, no catch shall be carried more than ten yards to the scales.
29. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their pegs are clear of litter and no competitor may have his/her catch weighed in who has litter lying on the banks of his/her swim.
30. Any objection to an angler's conduct, for whatever reason, must be lodged in writing 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 his/her intentions at the time in order that he/she may speak in his/her 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 him/her of their findings and punishment (if any) within seven days.
31. All the foregoing rules are subject to the byelaws of the Environment Agency, and any local rules applicable to a fishery.
32. All holders of trophies must, on presentation of them, give a verbal guarantee for their safety 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.