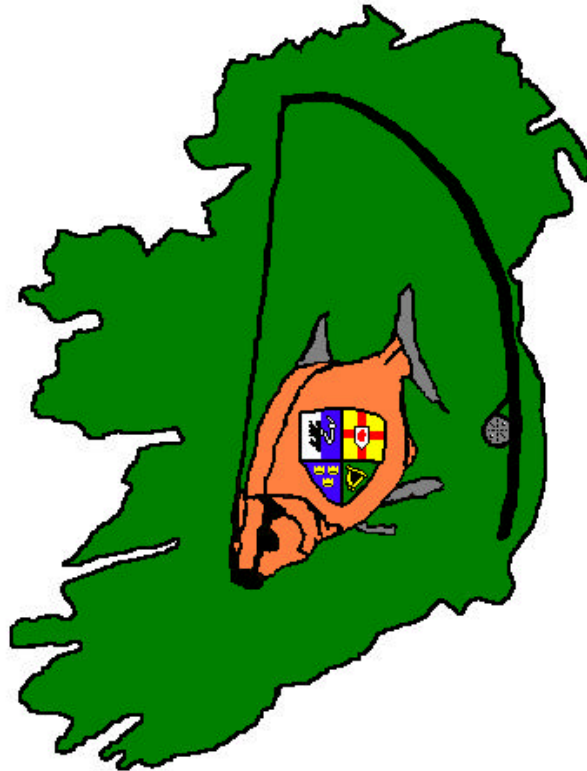


NATIONAL COARSE FISHING FEDERATION OF IRELAND



Constitution.
(March 2002)

I. The Federation

A. This Constitution repeals and replaces any former Constitution of the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland, hereinafter referred to as the Federation.

B.1. The aims of the Federation shall be to promote, develop and maintain freshwater angling in Ireland as a sport and as a leisure activity.

2. Freshwater angling shall be defined as angling by legal methods for all freshwater fish except salmon and trout.

3. The Federation shall, in pursuance of its aims, draw up a Code of Conduct (appendix 4), the application of which shall be mandatory for affiliated clubs and members. the Federation shall also make rules governing freshwater angling in Ireland.

C. The Federation shall be composed of angling clubs and associations, hereinafter referred to as affiliated clubs, and individuals, hereinafter referred to as associate members, which are affiliated to the Federation.

II. Annual General Meeting

A.1. An Annual General Meeting of the Federation shall be held in the month of March each year. The starting time for the meeting shall be 11.00 a.m.

2.a. The Executive Committee shall decide the precise date and venue for the Annual General Meeting and shall give not less than two calendar months notice thereof to each affiliated club.

b. Clubs shall be advised at the same time that motions for inclusion in the Agenda of the A.G.M. must be in the hands of the Secretary not less than one calendar month before the date of the A.G.M.

c. A copy of the Agenda, the Secretary's report and Treasurer's report and a list of motions for discussion shall be given to each affiliated club not less than 14 days before the date of the A.G.M.

B.1. The following persons shall be entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting :

- a. Any member of an affiliated club.
- b. Any associate member of the Federation
- c. Any other person approved by the Executive.
as observers only.

2. The following persons shall be entitled to participate in discussions:

- a. Members of the executive
- b. Delegates from affiliated clubs.
- c. Associate members.

3. The following persons shall be entitled to vote at A.G.M. :

- a. Two delegates from each affiliated club

4. The following persons shall be entitled to stand for election at A.G.M. :
a. Any member of an affiliated club whether present at the A.G.M. or not provided that, if that member is not present at the A.G.M., the proposer must have in his possession a letter of acceptance from the member being proposed.

C. The business of the A.G.M. shall be:

1. To consider and approve the Chairman's address which shall be given at the A.G.M.
2. To consider and approve the Secretary's report which shall have been circulated as set out in II A 2c.
3. To approve and adopt the detailed, audited Annual Statement of Accounts.
4. To elect members to the Executive Committee, and when appropriate, delegate(s) to Confederation Internationale de la Peche Sportive (C.I.P.S.), and other National or International organisations as may be required.
5. To consider and vote upon matters presented by affiliated clubs.
6. To debate and decide on matters of general policy.
7. As occasion may require, to appoint trustees and auditors.
8. To consider and vote on any other matters pertaining to the affairs of the Federation.
9. To appoint or ratify to the position of Honorary President of the Federation. Appointees to this position shall :
 - (1) Not be members of the Executive but may be authorised by the Executive to represent the Federation from time to time.
 - (2) Have the general entitlements of an associate member.
 - (3) Once appointed remain emcumbant in post subject to AGM ratification. Such an appointee may resign at will, and will also be bound by the broad terms of the disciplinary measures normally reserved for clubs in VI G 1. (b) & (c).

D. Standing Orders for the conducting of the Annual General Meeting may be adopted at each A.G.M. (Appendix 1)

E. 1. Each accredited club delegate at the A.G.M. shall have one vote.

2. No delegate at A.G.M. shall represent more than one club.

F. 1. All votes at A.G.M., with the exception of elections and constitutional changes, shall be decided on a show of hands of a simple majority of all delegates present and voting.

2. Elections shall be conducted as follows:
- a. Proceedings shall begin by a member or members being proposed and seconded and no person who is not so proposed and seconded shall be a candidate.
 - b. Where there is only one candidate, such candidate shall be declared elected.
 - c. Where there is more than one candidate a poll shall be taken
 - d. If at such a poll a majority of the delegates present vote for any particular candidate, such candidate shall be declared elected.

e. If at such poll, no candidate receives the votes of a majority of the delegates present, the candidate receiving the least number of votes shall be eliminated and subject to II F 2f, one or more further polls, as may be necessary, shall be taken.

f. Where there are only two candidates or, where as a result of one or more polls taken under 11F 2e, all the candidates have been eliminated except two, the question as to which of such candidates shall be elected shall be put to the delegates present and whichever of such candidates receives the greater number of votes on such question shall be elected.

g. If from an equality of votes given to two or more candidates, any question arises as to which of such candidates is to be eliminated or as to which of such candidates is to be elected, such question shall be decided by lot. (Lot is defined as the election or elimination of the first name drawn)

3. At the Annual General Meeting the Chairman shall have NO casting vote.

G. The quorum for an Annual General Meeting shall be one third of the total number of delegates of affiliated clubs entitled to be present. If a quorum is not present within one hour of the starting time the Chairman shall adjourn the meeting after having set a new date not to exceed one month following the adjourned Annual General Meeting.

1. Re-convened Annual General Meetings shall follow the procedures for A.G.M.'s as set out in the Constitution.

III. Special General Meetings

A. 1. Any seven affiliated clubs may request a S.G.M. of the Federation.

2. A majority vote of members at a properly convened Executive meeting may request a S.G.M. of the Federation.

B. Any requests for a S.G.M. shall stipulate the business to be discussed at the S.G.M.

C. When a S.G.M. is requested as set out in the Constitution, the Honorary Secretary of the Federation must call such a meeting within one month of the receipt of the request, and must notify all affiliated clubs, within fourteen days of the date of the S.G.M., of the date, time, venue and matters for discussion.

D. Each affiliated club shall appoint two delegates to the S.G.M. Each delegate must have in their possession and must present to the Secretary of the Federation, a letter authorising them as delegates from the Secretary of the Club that they are representing.

1. Each accredited club delegate at the S.G.M. shall have one vote.

2. No delegate at a S.G.M. shall represent more than one club.

E. If no officers of the Executive Committee shall be present at the S.G.M. the delegates may elect one of the delegates present to chair the meeting.

F. Standing Orders for the conducting of the S.G.M. may be adopted at the meeting (Appendix 1).

G. Voting procedures at a S.G.M. shall be as at an A.G.M.

H. The quorum for a S.G.M. shall be one third of the total number of delegates of affiliated clubs entitled to be present. If a quorum is not reached within one hour of the starting time, the Chairman shall adjourn the S.G.M. after setting a new date not to exceed one month following the adjourned S.G.M. follow the procedures for Special General Meetings as set out in the Constitution.

IV. The Executive Committee

A. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Federation whose business shall be the day to day management of the affairs of the Federation as directed by the Constitution and the decisions of the A.G.M.'s and S.G.M.'s.

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following members :

- a.(1) Chairperson
- (2) Vice-Chairperson
- (3) Honorary Secretary
- (4) Honorary Treasurer
- (5) Public Relations Officer/Editor of Newsletter
- (6) International Team Manager(s)
(appointed by the committee)

b. Six other members who shall be elected annually at the A.G.M.

c. One member from each Regional Council, who shall be appointed annually by the Regional Council.

d. Such other members, not exceeding two in number, as may be co-opted by the members set out at IVA 1 a,b & c sitting in committee.

2. Members, with the exception of the Team Manager(s), shall hold office from the AGM at which they are elected until the commencement of elections at the next AGM.

3. If a vacancy shall occur on the Executive Committee during its term of office, the Executive shall have the power to co-opt a member to fill that vacancy.

4. a. Candidates for co-option should indicate their acceptance of the nomination in writing prior to the election.

b. Co-opted members shall hold office from the meeting at which they are elected until the commencement of the elections of the next AGM.

5. a. A person shall cease to be a member of the Executive Committee if he/she resigns.

b. A person shall be removed from the Executive Committee :

- (1) If he/she is absent from three successive meetings without suitable explanation.
- (2) If he/she is requested by a 2/3 majority of the Executive Committee to resign due to misconduct or continual absence from meetings.
- (3) If he/she ceases to be a member of an affiliated club.

(4) If in the opinion of 2/3 of the Executive Committee, he/she brings the sport or the Federation into disrepute.

c. Such person shall cease to be a member of the Executive Committee from receipt of notification to that effect from the Honorary Secretary of the Federation. Such notification must be sent by registered post.

6. The Executive Committee shall hold not less than 6 ordinary meetings during its term of office; the quorum for such meetings shall be one-third of its members at the date of the meeting.

a. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to have available at each committee meeting an agenda for that meeting. The agenda shall include the following :

- (1) Reading and approving the minutes of the previous meeting.
- (2) Treasurer's report.
- (3) Sub-committee reports if any.

b. Observers may, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, be permitted to attend Executive Committee meetings but shall not participate in those meetings.

c. The Executive Committee may adopt standing orders for Committee meetings (Appendix 1)

7. All votes at properly convened Committee meetings of the Executive, with the exception of co-options, shall be decided by a simple majority of members present and voting. The Chairman shall have no vote except in the event of a tie in which case he shall have one casting vote.

8. In co-options to the Executive Committee, each Committee member shall be given the number of votes equal to the number of vacancies to be filled. Each member voting may give only one vote to any one candidate.

a. Candidates shall be decided by simple majority, and in the case of a tie, by lot.

b. The Chairman shall have a similar vote to the committee members in the matter of co-options.

9. The Executive Committee may from time to time appoint sub-committee to assist them in the performance of their duties. Such sub-committees may comprise members of the Executive Committee and other members of the Federation.

10. The outgoing Executive Committee shall be entitled to submit motions for discussion at the AGM. Motions for inclusion in the Agenda of the AGM must be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary not less than one calendar month before the date of the AGM and shall be given to each affiliated club not less than 14 days prior to the date of the AGM.

V. Minutes

A. Accurate and complete minutes shall be kept of the proceedings of all meetings of the Federation. Such meetings shall be prepared by the Honorary Secretary or by such person appointed to act on their behalf. Said minutes shall be kept in a minute book. Said book shall be available at all Federation meetings for inspection by any interested person.

B. It shall be the business of subsequent meetings to approve and adopt said minutes which shall then be signed by the Chairman of that meeting.

C. The minutes of the AGM or of SGM's shall be circulated to all affiliated clubs by the Honorary Secretary or by such person appointed to act on their behalf, within sixty days of the said meeting.

VI. Affiliated Clubs

A. Affiliation to the Federation is subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

B. Affiliated clubs and their members shall obey the rules of the Federation and shall be bound by this Constitution.

C. 1. Each affiliated club shall pay an annual affiliation fee, to be determined by the Executive Committee, to the Federation. That affiliation fee shall include a mandatory Third Party Public Liability insurance premium and shall be due for payment on January 2nd in each year.

2. Clubs seeking affiliation to the Federation shall make written application in writing stating the names and addresses of their officers. On acceptance of the application by the Executive, the affiliation fee shall be payable. Affiliated clubs may renew their affiliation each year by paying the annual fee as established by the Executive Committee.

D. 1. Clubs which have paid their affiliation fee before March 1st in any year shall be entitled to submit motions and to send voting delegates to the subsequent AGM of the Federation, and members of these clubs shall be eligible to compete in all Federation events in that year.

2. Newly formed clubs or associations who apply for membership before 31st December in any year and who are accepted for membership, shall be entitled to submit motions and to send voting delegates to the subsequent AGM.

E. Each affiliated club shall hold an AGM. The club shall send to the Federation within one month following their AGM the names and addresses of the officers of that club.

F. 1. Each affiliated club may appoint two delegates to the Federation's AGM and notify the Executive Committee of the names of such delegates at least one month before the date of the Federation's AGM.

2. Should the delegate or delegates appointed to attend the AGM of the Federation be unable to attend for any reason, the Chairman of that club may appoint substitutes in their stead. The Secretary of the club should notify the Secretary of the Federation of the substitutions before the AGM.

G. 1. Affiliated clubs may be expelled or suspended from membership of the Federation for any of the following reasons:

- (a) Non-payment of affiliation fee by 1st March in any year.
- (b) Failure to comply with the Constitution of the Federation.
- (c) If, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, the affiliated club is bringing the sport or the Federation into disrepute.

2. Any decision to expel or suspend an affiliated club for reasons as set out in G.1.(a), (b) & (c), shall only be taken at a properly convened meeting of the Executive Committee and shall require a two- thirds majority of the members present and voting.

VII. Associate Members

A. Associate Members are defined as those individuals who pay the Associate membership fee, said fee to be decided by the Executive Committee, by the 30th June each year.

B. Affiliation is subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

C. Associate Members shall be entitled to attend the AGM of the Federation although no official notice of the meeting shall be sent. At the AGM the Associate Member shall :

- 1. Be entitled to participate in discussions.
- 2. Not have a vote.
- 3. Not be entitled to stand for election to the Executive Committee.

D. The Associate Member shall not be entitled to serve on the Executive Committee.

E. The Associate Member shall be entitled to all other benefits of membership.

VIII. Regional Councils

A. Regional Councils shall be bound by the Federation's rules and by the Constitution.

B. Regional Councils shall be comprised of clubs in their region affiliated to the Federation, and Associate Members approved by the Regional Council.

C. Regional Councils shall not be subject to an affiliation to the Federation.

D. Each Regional Council shall hold an AGM at which a committee shall be elected to hold office until the next AGM. The committee so elected shall meet at least three times during its term of office. A copy of the minutes of all meetings shall be sent to the Federation within one month after the date of the meeting.

E. The Federation shall be entitled to send observers to any meeting of the Regional Council. The observer shall only participate in discussions if invited to do so.

F. Each Regional Council may require its member clubs and associate members to pay a reasonable membership fee.

G. Regional Councils shall be formed on a Provincial basis, shall not exceed four in number and may comprise two or more clubs.

H. 1. Each Regional Council shall be entitled to one representative on the Executive Committee of the Federation, said representative shall be elected annually by the Regional Council.

2. Regional Council representatives shall have a vote in the Executive Committee.

3. Regional Council representatives shall hold office from AGM to AGM of the Federation.

I. Regional Councils shall have no vote at the AGM.

IX. Finance

A. The annual subscriptions of Affiliated Clubs and Associate Members together with such other grants and monies as may accrue shall form the finances of the Federation and shall be under the control and management of the Executive Committee. The receipts and expenditures of the Federation shall be audited annually and a certified auditors report of such receipts and expenditures shall be presented to the AGM, and copies thereof forwarded along with the agenda of the AGM to each club secretary.

B. In addition a six monthly budgetary review by the Executive Committee shall be carried out.

X. Angling Competitions

A. The Executive Committee shall adopt a set of competition rules. (Appendix 2) These rules shall be of two types:

1. Type 1 must be adhered to at all times by all affiliated clubs in all competitions and by the Federation in all Federation competitions.

2. Type 2 shall be mandatory in all Federation matches but shall be optional in all affiliated club events.

B. The Executive Committee shall have the right to organise formulate and run matches as decided on by the Executive Committee or as voted on at AGM or SGM.

XI. International

The Federation shall each year affiliate to the International angling body, Confederation Internationale de la Peche Sportive (C.I.P.S.) and to other International bodies as deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee. The Federation shall make arrangements for the selection of Irish Team(s) to participate in World Freshwater Angling Championships organised by C.I.P.S., and in other appropriate International events.

B. Team Manager(s) shall be appointed by the Committee to serve for a defined period of time. The appointee(s) shall remain in office at the behest of the Committee.

C. All those selected as members of an Irish Team,(excluding Managers, Assistant Managers or Coaches), must be Irish Nationals and/or resident in the country for at least 5 years (Appendix 3).

D. The Executive Committee shall have the right to raise the funds necessary to send the Team members, reserves and Team Manager to compete in International Competitions; said fund raising may include a reasonable assessment to the Affiliated Clubs as established by the Executive Committee.

E. The Federation may be represented at each General Congress of C.I.P.S. and at any other International meeting as deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee, by a delegate or delegates elected at the AGM in the year when the particular meeting is being held. In the event of a delegate being required before an AGM can elect one, or should an elected delegate be unable to attend, the Executive Committee may appoint a delegate. Each delegate shall be expected to produce a written report to the Executive Committee of the meeting attended.

XII. Amendments

A. This Constitution may only be amended by a 2/3 majority of the delegates present and voting at an AGM. Proposals for amendment must be submitted to the Honorary Secretary of the Federation on or before the 31st December of the year prior to the AGM and affiliated clubs must be given at least two months notice of such proposals.

Appendix 1.

Standing Orders for the conduct of meetings.

1.1 Conduct of debates.

- (a) Debates shall at all times be conducted in an orderly manner without recourse to bad language, personnel insult or interruption.
- (b) Proposers of motions etc shall be allowed up to 10 minutes to present their case.
- (c) Other speakers either for or against the matter being debated shall have up to 5 minutes to put forward their opinion.
- (d) Speakers during the debate shall speak once only.
- (e) Before a vote is taken the proposer of the motion shall have a right of reply not to exceed five minutes.

1.2 Points of information

Delegates wishing clarification of the matter being discussed may raise a "point of information". The Chairperson may clarify the point himself or may ask a specific expert to clarify the point. Points of information are not to be used to contribute to a debate.

1.3 Points of Order

If a delegate is unhappy with the specific conduct of meetings or is of the opinion that any particular decisions are unconstitutional or against the rules of the organisation, he may challenge with a "Point of Order". The delegate should clearly, concisely state what he/she considers to be " out of order". The Chairperson will rule on the particular challenge and his/her decision will be final. If a delegate is unhappy with the Chairperson's ruling the ruling can be put to the delegates present but it will require at least a 2/3 majority to reverse the ruling.

Appendix 2

N.C.F.F.I. Competition Rules (Coarse)

1. Competitors shall fish with a single rod (or pole), line and hook only, at any one time. They may however have any number of assembled tackles ready for alternative use.
2. A competitor must normally fish from a point not greater than 1 metre from his peg. The fishing area (swim) shall normally be defined by points mid-way between the competitors peg and those of his left and right hand neighbours. In moving water the boundaries shall be from the competitor's peg to that of his downstream neighbour. An angler may wade to fish provided he remains within 1 metre of the bank.
3. A competitor may break the surface of the water prior to the start of the competition to perform the following tasks:
 - a. To clear his swim of weed and obstructions.
 - b. To position his keep-net and tackle.
 - c. To wet and mix his groundbait.
 - d. To plumb the depth of his swim. In plumbing the depth before the start the angler must not in any way introduce bait or groundbait to his swim. Any fish accidentally hooked while plumbing must be returned to the water and not placed in the keep-net.
4. Competitors may normally use all hook-baits with the exception of live and dead fish and artificial lures.
5. Fish caught must be retained in a suitable keep-net. All fish should be carefully unhooked and gently handled. All fish should, after weighing, be gently returned alive to the water. Dead fish should not be weighed in.
6. All species of coarse fish except pike may count for the weigh in.
7. A competitor may not leave his peg save to answer the call of nature or by arrangements with the organisers. Within these provisos the angler shall not disturb other competitors. If an anglers is away from his peg he must reel in and remove his hook etc. from the water.
8. At the end of the competition an angler shall have 15 minutes to land any fish hooked before the end of the event.
9. An angler must be present to weigh in his catch except by prior arrangement with the organisers.
10. Anglers should check their weights on the scales and may be required to sign the weigh sheet as an acceptance of the weight/score. It is the anglers responsibility to ensure that his weight is correct.
11. Objections must be lodged in writing with the organisers with 2 hours of the end of the competition.
12. Competitors found in contravention of these rules, may on written objection be disqualified or penalised by the organisers
13. The decision of the organisers or official referee shall be binding in all disputes.
14. The organisers shall not be responsible for any loss or damage to or by any of the competitors.
15. **LITTERED PEGS SHALL NOT BE WEIGHED IN, WHETHER OR NOT THE LITTER BELONGS TO THE ANGLER FISHING THE PEG.**

Rules numbers 1,2,3,5,9,10,11,12,13,14,and 15 are considered Type I

Rules numbers 4,6 7 and 8 are type 2

Appendix 3

Qualifications for Irish World Championship Teams in events organised by C.I.P.S.

C.I.P.S. minimum rules state that as well as being a member of the recognised Federation of the competing country an angler must be a "Citizen" of that country.

The N.C.F.F.I. constitution currently uses the word "National" in the relevant section of the Constitution.

Following discussions with the Dept. of Justice we are informed that there is no significant difference in the terms.

Additionally we are concerned that any geo-political factors should not interfere with team eligibility.

Consequently the criteria applied by the N.C.F.F.I. are:

- 3.1 Born in the Country (32 counties), and resident in the Country for at least one year OR
- 3.2 Born elsewhere of an Irish born parent(s), and resident in the country for at least one year OR
- 3.3 Born elsewhere but having had permanent residence in the country for at least 5 years.

Appendix 4

Code of conduct for members

Introduction

A. This policy document is prepared for National Coarse Fishing Federation member clubs and anglers involved in the sport of Coarse Angling.

B. The document sets out under the headings the minimum standards expected from coarse anglers throughout Ireland. By implementing the following information anglers can demonstrate to Local Authorities, Landowners, Conservation groups, Fisheries Authorities and the General Public, that anglers understand and play their part in Environmental Protection and the overall conservation of our countryside.

C. Any member club or angler is expected to follow this code which forms part of the N.C.F.F.I. constitution. Failure to comply by either club or individual may lead to disciplinary measures.

1. Conservation

Anglers can play a major role in the conservation of our countryside and its wild-life.

A. Pollution in particular requires special attention and is a major hazard in both the short and long term. An angler must consider the protection of water quality as benefiting all aquatic life. Anglers are often the first line of defence against pollution and as such have a special responsibility.

DO NOT - Pollute our waterways
- Knowingly permit others to do so.

DO - Report any pollution to the appropriate authorities .
- Help keep all waters unpolluted.

B Environment - its protection requires the sensibly directed management of Fauna and Flora and the environment in which they live. The amount of damage to bankside vegetation must be kept to a minimum.

DO NOT - Cut down trees
- Light fires

DO - Clear only the minimum amount of vegetation during peg clearing.
- Rotate stretches used so as to minimise wear and tear to the bankside.

C. Litter - Anglers should be the friends of the countryside and must not be open to claims of abuse of the environment e.g. litter pollution. The public see litter on the bankside, hence their judgement of anglers as conservationists is low. Amongst the worst of anglers litter which

distinguishes them from other country users is nylon line. Anglers should be concerned about the amount of nylon line left on or near our waterways.

- DO NOT**
- Leave any litter, including groundbait bags, caster bags etc, on the bankside
 - Leave nylon line or terminal tackle
 - Leave bottles or tins.

- DO**
- Remove all waste for safe disposal
 - Retrieve discarded or snagged line if safe to do so
 - REMOVE ALL LITTER FROM YOUR PEG (WHETHER YOURS OR NOT)

D. Handling Fish - Remember that minimum handling means maximum conservation. Anglers should be aware of the proper use of keep-nets. Treat all fish carefully, it is in everyone's interest to ensure a healthy fish population.

- DO NOT**
- overfill keepnets or use too small a net.
 - tumble fish down nets prior to weighing.
 - throw fish into keepnets.

- DO**
- fully submerge the keepnet
 - return fish gently to the water.
 - use a disgorger for hook removal and consider using barbless

hooks.

- peg out keepnet to prevent collapse.
- consider not using keepnets except in competitions.

E. Fish Conservation - It is of vital importance that existing fish stocks are not depleted. Unless groups or individuals have the necessary permits from the appropriate authorities, the taking and/or killing of fish for commercial gain is totally irresponsible and an unacceptable practice. Return all fish alive .

2. Anglers and the law

Angling in Ireland is covered by various laws and regulations. The responsible angler should be aware of and abide by them all. Anglers should always be in possession of the necessary licences and permits for the water they are fishing.

3. Country Code

Anglers as users of the countryside must set the example and at all times obey the country code in full.

Appendix 5

Drugs in Sport

Any angler tested and/or found dealing in, or guilty of, the illegal use of prohibited, controlled or performance enhancing Drugs, in any form, while participating in any event whatsoever associated with or organised by the NCFFI or its members, agents, affiliated and/or associated parties, shall be subject to disciplinary action and any member, or club member, affiliated in any way to the NCFFI, convicted of being in possession of controlled substances (drugs) will be subject to discipline by the Executive Committee.

(AGM March 27th 1999)