

Constitution and Angling Rules
of the
Pretoria Spinfishing Society



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CONSTITUTION

1. Name of the Society:

The name of the Society is the 'Pretoria Spinfishing Society', hereinafter referred to as 'the Society'.

2. Head Office of the Society:

The Head Office of the Society shall be at such place, as the Annual General Meeting shall determine from time to time

3. Objectives of the Society:

The objectives of the Society are the following:

- a) To regulate the sport of Angling for its members in all rivers and dams and to assist with the establishment of similar regulations in respect of all inland waters in the Republic of South Africa.
- b) To assist with the protection of fish as stated in the Provincial Ordinance and to encourage the distribution of fish in all rivers and dams, where considered advisable.
- c) To investigate and report the condition of fish species caught with a view to establishing a closed season for Angling.
- d) To prevent water pollution.
- e) To promote Artificial Lure Angling countrywide.
- f) To obtain and control private Angling waters.

4. Affiliation of the Society with other organisations:

- a) The society may, if considered advisable, associate with other related organisations or affiliate with Angling Unions.
- b) Members shall be subject to such regulations as may be imposed by the union concerned.

5. Management of the Society:

- a) The management of the Society, it's assets and all rights and powers relating thereto shall vest in the Committee which shall consist of the following members:
 - i) a Chairman
 - ii) a Vice Chairman
 - iii) an Honorary Secretary

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- iv) an Honorary Treasurer
- v) an Honorary Records Officer
- vi) an Honorary Safety Officer, and
- vii) as many members as may be decided upon at an Annual General Meeting
- viii) The Chairman shall have a deciding vote at all meetings

b) The Executive Committee shall consist of the following members:

- i) a Chairman
- ii) a Vice Chairman
- iii) an Honorary Secretary
- iv) an Honorary Treasurer,

And they shall be empowered to vote at all meetings and to retain office until their successors are elected

- c) The nominations and elections of the Committee shall take place at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting defined.
- d) The Chairman or Vice Chairman and the Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer shall be empowered to sign all legal documents on behalf of the Society and to institute or defend such proceedings in law as may concern the Society.

6. The Society's Year:

The Society's year shall begin on the 1st day of July and end on the last day on June.

7. Membership, Monies and Subscription:

- a) Membership fees are payable in advance and the amount thereof shall be as determined by the preceding Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.
- b) Prospective senior members must pay an entrance fee as determined by the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting
- c) Prospective members who join after the 31st of December shall pay half of the amount referred to in a) above.
- d) A member shall be regarded as a junior member until the day on which such a member attains the age of 18 years.
- e) All members, except junior members, shall be entitled to vote at the Society's Annual General Meeting, Special General or Club Meetings.
- f) A member must propose any person who desires to become a member of the Society. If the application for membership does not carry a recommendation

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by a Committee Member, the candidate may be requested to attend a Committee Meeting.

- g) A prospective member's application form must be tabled at a Club Meeting before such membership may be approved.
- h) If an applicant is not accepted as a member then any monies paid shall be refunded.
- i) No member shall be liable for the debts of the Society, except in an amount, which may be owed in respect to a membership fee.
- j) A member shall be entitled to compete in all competitions as soon as he/she has paid his/her membership fees.

8. Unpaid Subscriptions:

- a) A member whose annual membership fee is in arrears for a period of 60 days shall not be entitled to enter any competitions or be considered for record purposes, until such outstanding amount is paid in full.
- b) If a member's annual membership fee is in arrears for a period of 3 months a letter shall be addressed to him, drawing his attention thereto.
- c) If the annual membership fee is not paid within a period of 14 days of such a letter, the Committee shall terminate the membership of the member without prejudice to the Society's right to recover any outstanding monies.

9. Members - Life and Honorary:

- a) The Society may, from time to time, for appropriate reasons nominate the following:
 - i) Patrons
 - ii) Honorary President
 - iii) Honorary Vice President
 - iv) Life Members (not more than 5)
 - v) Honorary Members
- b) Such members shall be recommended by the Committee and elected at an Annual General Meeting.
- c) With the exception of Life Members, Honorary Members shall be elected annually; Honorary Members will enjoy all the privileges of ordinary members of the Society.

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10. Reciprocity from other clubs:

- a) The Society may extend facilities to similar Angling clubs outside the Pretoria District and to their bona fide members, provided that the same facilities are extended to the Pretoria Spinfishing Society and its bona fide members.

11. Notice of meetings:

Members shall be notified of all meetings by a circular posted to their most recent address, as follows:

- a) **Annual General and Special General Meetings:** Not later than 14 days before the meetings.
- b) **Club Meeting:** As determined by the Committee but normally during the week following the club competition. Notice of meeting may be given in writing, verbally or telephonically.

12. Meetings - Annual General, Special General and Club - Place, Date and Quorum:

- a) The Annual General Meeting shall be convened within 60 days after the end of the Society's year.
- b) The members present at the Club meeting shall decide where and when the next Club meeting shall be held.
- c) All members of the Society shall be entitled to attend Club meetings and shall be entitled to vote at such meetings.
- d) Special General meetings may be convened by:
 - i) the Committee
 - ii) any 10 members who hand in a written application, signed by themselves, to the Honorary Secretary not less than 30 days before the proposed date of such a meeting
- e) The aim of the proposed Special General Meeting shall be set out on both the application for and the notification of such a meeting.
- f) Quorums at meetings shall be the following:
 - i) At the Annual General Meeting 8 members
 - ii) At a Committee Meeting 6 members
- g) Should there be no quorum, the members present shall determine the time and date of the next meeting and the members present at such a meeting

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shall constitute a quorum. Notice of such a meeting shall be given in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 11.

13. Meetings - Attendance of Committee Members:

Should a Committee Member be absent from 3 successive meetings, without leave or good reason, he shall be regarded, as having forfeited his membership of the Committee and the Committee shall be entitled to elect another member in his place.

14. Chairman of meetings:

In the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman at a meeting, the members present shall elect a chairman.

15. Sub Committee:

- a) The Committee shall be entitled to appoint a sub committee for any special purpose and may authorise such sub committees to act on behalf of the Committee.
- b) Members of such a sub committee need not necessarily be members of the existing Committee.

16. Finances:

- a) All monies received shall be handed to the Honorary Treasurer who shall deposit or invest it in the Bank or Institution as decided by the Committee.
- b) Disbursements shall be made only by withdrawals signed by the Chairman or the Honorary Treasurer and one of the three other Committee Members as determined by the Chairman.
- c) The balance sheet, together with the income and expenditure account shall accompany the notice of the Annual General Meeting.
- d) The Honorary Auditors whose duty it shall be to inspect and confirm the correctness of the Society's books shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

17. Dissolution of the Society:

Should the Society dissolve, its assets together with any monies on hand shall be disposed of in a manner which shall be decided upon at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose.

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18. Amendment of the Constitution and Angling Rules:

- a) Any member who desires to propose a motion for the improved management of the Society or for any amendment to the Constitution and/or the Angling Rules shall give written notice of such a motion into the hands of the Honorary Secretary not less than 30 days before the date of the Annual General or Special General Meeting at which such matters will be open for discussion.
- b) The Honorary Secretary shall include the full motion in the notice convening such a meeting.
- c) A two thirds majority vote at such a meeting is required to amend the Constitution or Angling Rules

19. Unsporting Conduct:

- a) If, in the opinion of the Committee, any member of the Society:
 - i) contravenes the Constitution and/or the Angling Rules,
 - ii) is guilty of unsporting conduct and/or pollution,
 - iii) is guilty of conduct unbecoming of a member of the Society,

The Committee may request such a member to appear before them and after an inquiry, or in the event of such a member not appearing, the Committee may temporarily or permanently suspend such a member from the Society by way of a registered letter addressed to the member. The Committee's decision shall be final and binding.

- b) Such a member shall not be entitled to any privileges during the suspension period.

20. Interpretation of Constitution and Angling Rules:

- a) Should any dispute arise with respect to the meaning or interpretation of any part of the Constitution or Angling Rules, the decision of the Committee shall be accepted.
- b) Any member of the Society who is dissatisfied with such a decision may place the matter before the next Annual General Meeting, provided the written notice is given to the Honorary Secretary at least 30 days before the meeting
- c) The decision taken at such an Annual General Meeting shall be final and binding

21. Copies of Constitution and Angling Rules:

All members shall be entitled to one free copy of the Constitution and Angling Rules.

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ANGLING RULES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOGNITION OF RECORD CATCHES

The spirit of these angling rules is one of sportsmanship and fair play wherein the fish enjoys an equal or greater advantage than the angler.

22. Categories of Angling:

22.1 Lure Angling (Non Fly Fishing Tackle)

22.1.1 No member may angle with more than two rods simultaneously.

22.1.2 Only artificial lures may be used. No natural bait may be attached to artificial lures. Natural bait may under no circumstances be used in any competition, to locate or attract fish, so that they may be caught later, with an artificial lure. Colouring agents are permitted but the Angler may add no flavouring substance to the lure. Treated pork rind, as commercially available as an artificial lure may be used as and in place of plastic worms, but may not be used for any other purpose. Any member who fishes with anything other than artificial lures during a competition shall be disqualified and shall render himself liable for suspension.

22.1.3 In Gauteng Province, only one lure may be used per line but in Trout waters one or more non-rotating artificial flies may be used per line.

22.1.4 Any type of braided or monofilament line may be used. The use of a shock tippet not exceeding 30cm for fresh water and 520cm for salt water may be permitted.

22.1.5 A gaff or net not exceeding 2.5m for fresh and 5m for salt water may be used to land a fish. Only a fixed barbless hook is permitted on a gaff.

22.1.6 Line Classification:

There shall be three different line classes based upon the diameter of the line:

- a) Class Light - The line shall have a diameter not exceeding 0.22mm
- b) Class Medium - The line shall have a diameter of more than 0.22mm but not exceeding 0.30mm
- c) Class Open - The line shall have a diameter exceeding 0.30mm

22.2 Fly Tackle Fishing

22.2.1 Definitions:

- i) Fly Fishing - the art of fly casting with specialised tackle whereby the weight of the fly line is utilised to transport the fly to fresh or salt water fish

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- ii) Fly Casting - The art or presenting an artificial fly, and differs from all other types of casting and dipping in that the weight of the fly line is propelled through the air in order to deliver the fly.
- iii) Fly Rod - Can be of any material but it must conform to the accepted fly fishing custom and must be specifically designed to utilize the characteristic of the fly line as a linear weight to activate the rod in order to cast the line.

A fly rod shall not measure less than 1.8m nor more than 3.3m overall. Two-handed rods are prohibited and where an extension butt is used, this may not exceed 60cm.

- iv) Fly Line - A line that by material and construction and design is specifically utilised as the weight which is projected and by which the fly is cast.
- v) Fly Reel - Must be designed expressly for traditional fly fishing and cannot be used in casting the fly other than for storage of the fly line and playing of the fish. Electric/electronic mechanisms are prohibited.
- vi) Leader - Is the section of line joining the fly line to the fly. It must conform to the generally accepted custom but shall have a minimum length of 220cm including tippit.

A leader must include a class tippit and optionally a shock tippit.

The class tippit must be of level monofilament and non-metallic material and either attached directly to the fly or to the shock tippit.

This class tippit must be at least 38cm in length measured inside connecting knots.

In the event of a shock tippit, this may be of any material and of any breaking strength. It would form that part of the leader between the class tippit and the fly and may not exceed 30cm in length measured from the eye of the hook to the single strand of the class tippit.

- vii) Fly Tying Material

Will consist of any conventional fly tying material (as would appear in a current Orvis Fly Tying Catalogue) and can be natural or artificial provided that neither the fly itself nor any of its components is made up of any article, product or material that forms part of a lure (e.g. Curly Tail)

- viii) Fly or Popping Bug

Must be made of conventional fly tying materials and must, even if weighted, be sufficiently light to allow:

- i) Repeated casts without upsetting the rhythm or causing undue strain on the Angler or his tackle

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- ii) The linear weight of the fly line to carry out the fly

22.2.2 Line Classes:

There shall be four different line classes based upon the diameter of the class tippit:

- a) Class Extra Light - the diameter of the class tippit not to exceed 0.12mm
- b) Class Light - The diameter of the class tippit to exceed 0.12mm but not to exceed 0.22mm.
- c) Class Medium - The diameter of the class tippit to exceed 0.22mm but not to exceed 0.30mm
- d) Class Open - The diameter of the class tippit to exceed 0.30mm

22.2.3 Methods:

- a) Only one rod may be used at a time
- b) At no time may more than two flies or popping bugs be used per line
- c) A gaff or net not exceeding 2.5m for a fresh a 5m for salt water in total length may be used to land a fish. Only a fixed single barbless hook is permitted on a gaff
- d) The trolling of a fly or popping bug behind a boat is not permitted

22.3 Applications for Recognition of Record Catches:

No application for a record shall be considered unless it is accompanied by at least one metre of the line used at the time of the catch.

In the case of fly-fishing such applications shall be accompanied by the leader and tippit.

No application for a record catch made outside the Society's competitions shall be considered unless accompanied by two photographs of the catch.

The photographs must show the whole length of the fish in a horizontal position with a ruler or article of known size next to it (the mouths of black bass must be closed)

The application form must be completed in triplicate and should the catch be made outside the competition and in the absence of any witness, a Commissioner of Oaths must countersign the application.

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Witnesses to the catch are not an absolute prerequisite but it is preferable that two witnesses confirm the information.

The Angler is personally responsible for the completion of the application form and obtaining the necessary signatures and photographs. Applications must reach the Committee within 45 days of the date of the catch where after no application shall be considered.

Fish caught outside borders of RSA or in water to which not all members have access will qualify for recognition in one of the following two categories:

- i) Closed Water Records
- ii) International Records

22.4 General Rules for Records and Competitions:

- a) The Angler must cast the lure himself, hook the fish and play it to the bank, net or gaff without the help of any other person
- b) The fish must be hooked in the mouth, or in front of the eyes. Fish hooked in any other part of the body or head cannot be considered for record or competition purposes and should, if uninjured, be returned to the water immediately.
- c) The following possibilities can disqualify a catch:
 - i) Failure to comply with tackle specifications
 - ii) The assistance of another person, whether when casting, adjusting the reel brake during the play of the fish or the touching of any portion of the tackle with the exception of the handling of the line at the time of gaffing or netting the fish.
 - iii) Injuries to or disease symptoms of the fish which adversely affect it's ability to fight

The Committee's decision is final.

22.5 Identification and Conduct of Members:

- a) When members angle they shall carry their current angling licence and shall exhibit the same upon the request of any of the following:
 - i) Nature Conservation officer,
 - ii) Honorary Nature Conservation officer,
 - iii) Policeman,
 - iv) Landowner,

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- v) Caretaker, or
 - vi) Committee Member
- b) Members must close all gates, extinguish all fires and not leave any litter of any nature at angling places.
 - c) Members may not damage any fencing, break any trees or remove any rocks from any dam wall nor do anything whereby the image of the Angler or the Society is tarnished.
 - d) Members should not retain more fish than necessary for table, record or competition purposes. Catch more keep less.
 - e) Members must be aware of and comply with all angling laws as contained in the Nature Conservation Ordinance. The Constitution will be amended from time to time in keeping with possible amendments to the said ordinance.

22.6 Competitions:

- a) The members present at the Club Meeting shall determine venues and conditions for all competitions. Dates for Club Competitions will be set at the Annual General Meeting, these dates may however be amended at a Club Meeting
- b) Only one fish of each species per member shall be considered for competition purposes
- c) The Honorary Secretary, Weigh-In Officer or any other appointed office bearer shall, at every competition, be in possession of a complete list of all members of the Society and have the right to (at the earliest opportunity) peruse any member's angling licence and note the same on such a list.
- d) No fees shall be payable in respect of the usual monthly competitions
- e) All fish caught during a competition shall be weighed at a time and place determined by the Committee. Only assized scales may be used.
- f) Where members express their willingness to participate in any competition or outing and arrangements are made in respect thereof, such members shall be held liable for any disbursements incurred for their sake.
- g) A member's catch may not be weighed in for competition purposes unless that member has paid his membership fees
- h) No prizes shall be awarded by the Society. Donated prizes are optional.
- i) The members present at the Club Meeting will decide the starting time, a finishing time and a weigh-in time for each competition

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- j) All fish will be weighed to the nearest 5gm except for miniature species, which will not be weighed.
- k) In the event of a fish being unidentifiable the Committee Members present, together with any person who they feel is sufficiently qualified will make the final decision.
- l) Any Angler angling after lines up shall be disqualified, except where the fish was hooked before lines up.
- m) The weigh-in area shall be cordoned off and only the weigh-in officer, his assistant and the Angler whose fish are being weighed may be in the weigh-in area at one time.
- n) Fish placed in the weigh-in area after weigh-in time will not be weighed.
- o) All fish must either be on a stringer or in a suitable container, which must clearly be labelled with the Anglers name.
- p) Only clean fish will be weighed.
- q) Each angler is responsible for the removal of his fish after they have been weighed.

22.7 Safety Rules:

22.7.1 Boats used at Club Competitions and under the Club's control will have the following safety equipment on board:

- a) A 'kill switch'
- b) An approved safety jacket for every person on board
- c) A bucket or bailing apparatus
- d) A rope 25m in length
- e) A paddle
- f) An approved fire extinguisher

22.7.2 Safety Rules as laid down by the Safety Officer must be adhered to at all times.

22.7.3 Any boat will be available for inspection by the Safety officer

22.7.4 The non compliance to any of the above rules may lead to disqualification

22.8 Private Angling Waters:

Members of the public shall be entitled to fish at the Society's private waters provided that they are accompanied by a member, and shall be subject to the rules and regulations applicable to such waters.

22.9 Complaints and Objections:

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- a) Any member who wishes to lodge a complaint or an objection in respect of any fish caught or the conduct of a member during any competition must do so to the Weigh-In Official before weigh-in
- b) All complaints or objections must be submitted in writing to the Honorary Secretary or Chairman within 48 hours
- c) No complaint or objection shall be considered unless the laid down procedure is followed.