



## **ANSA News Update 7 Feb 2017**

All ANSA members need to be aware that IGFA has introduced a number of changes to its rules, world record requirements and eligible game fish species - these changes will take effect from 1 April 2017.

### **Assisting the Angler**

Current IGFA International Angling Rules state that *"the act of a person other than the angler touching the rod, reel, or line either bodily or with a device once the fish strikes or takes the bait"* constitutes a disqualification.

However, nowhere in the IGFA's rules do we discuss the legality of another person touching or making contact with the angler. The IGFA is frequently questioned on the legality of touching the angler while they are fighting a fish.

In order to clarify this important subject, the IGFA will be adding the following language to the section 3 of **Disqualifying Acts**: *"Holding or touching an angler in a manner that assists them in fighting the fish or takes pressure off the angler. Touching or briefly holding the angler to prevent them from falling does not constitute a disqualification"*.

### **Backing & Top-Shot**

Current IGFA International Angling Rules state: "If the fishing line is attached to backing, the catch shall be classified under the heavier of the lines."

This rule has long been contested in cases where the main line or top shot is lighter than the underlying backing, as logic dictates that the lighter line will break before the heavier backing. This is also contrary to IGFA angling rules for fly fishing where the catch is categorized based on the breaking strength of the class tippet, which must be a minimum of 15 inches.

To address this issue, IGFA will be making the following alterations to **Equipment Regulation A**:

- Title change from "LINE" to "LINE& BACKING"
- Adding a new subsection that reads: *"3. The use of backing is permissible."*
- Adding a new subsection that reads: *"4. The catch shall be classified under the breaking strength of the first 16.5 feet (5 metres) of line directly preceding the double line, leader or hook. This section must be comprised of a single, homogenous piece of line."*

### **Minimum Ratio Requirements**

Currently, to submit a line class or tippet class (fly rod) world record, the only weight requirement is that the fish must weigh at least .45 kg (1 lb). As a result, the IGFA has accumulated a significant amount of records where the weight of the fish is much lighter than the size of the tackle used to land the fish.

In an effort to have IGFA world records better recognize outstanding angling achievement, the IGFA has established the following minimum ratio requirements for all new line class and tippet class world records:

For line class categories up to and including 10 kg (20 lb) and all tippet class (fly rod) categories:

- The weight of the catch must weigh at least ½ as much as the line class it is eligible for. For example, a fish entered for the 6 kg (12 lb) line class or tippet class category must weigh a minimum of 3 kg.

For line class categories greater than 10 kg (20 lb):

- The weight of the catch must be equal to, or greater than the line class it is eligible for. For example, a fish entered in the 24 kg (50 lb) line class category must weigh a minimum of 24 kg.

**Minimum ratios will not be retroactive and records that currently do not meet the new minimum weight requirements will not be retired. Records listed in the 2017 World Record Book and IGFA website will have a new column that instructs anglers what the minimum weight necessary is to establish a record for each line class.**

## **CHANGES TO RECOGNIZED GAME FISH SPECIES**

### **Eligible Game Fish Species**

The IGFA maintains All-Tackle world records for thousands of different species, however only certain game fish species are eligible for the additional line class, tippet class (fly rod), and Junior Angler world record categories. In an effort to better recognize premier game fish species around the world that merit having line classes, the IGFA will no longer be accepting line class, tippet class (fly rod), and Junior Angler world records on the 45 species of freshwater and saltwater fish listed below:

**Freshwater:** rock bass, shoal bass, white bass, yellow bass, bluegill, black bullhead, brown bullhead, yellow bullhead, burbot, white catfish, black crappie, white crappie, freshwater drum, Florida gar, shortnose gar, spotted gar, oscar, European perch, white perch, yellow perch, chain pickerel, red piranha, shorthead redhorse, silver redhorse, sauger, American shad, hickory shad, splake, green sunfish, redbreast sunfish, redear sunfish, tench, warmouth, lake whitefish, mountain whitefish, round whitefish

**Saltwater:** Pacific barracuda, black seabass, Japanese parrotperch

These IGFA rule changes have no direct impact upon ANSA membership fishing activities or records and no changes to the ANSA Rule Book or eligible species list will be required. However those ANSA members who do fish for IGFA World Records etc need to be made aware of these changes so as to not risk possible disqualification by IGFA.

The backing line rule change is a very welcome change and will be incorporated into the next print version of the ANSA Rule book. From a practical perspective ANSA has already addressed the issue of backing line in the current rule book which states that the IGFA backing line rule is non applicable to ANSA when using break away line combinations and in which case the breaking strain of the breakaway line will be the prevailing line class.

Can you please circulate to your club and member networks

Regards

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