

TROUT LEGEND COMPETITIVE FLY FISHING LEAGUE

A Brief Introduction

(For further information please go to
TroutLegend.com)

Content

- ▣ Competitive Fly Fishing in the US
(History/When/Where)
- ▣ How Does it Work
- ▣ Topics of Concern
- ▣ Conservation/Benefits

Competitive Fly Fishing League?

- ▣ Trout Legend is a fully functional sports league founded in 2005 based on the regulations of the Fédération Internationale de Pêche Sportive **Mouche**, the European governing body that regulates and sanctions competitive fly fishing events worldwide. (Known as FIPS Mouche)
- ▣ League currently consists of 150+- competitors with 10+- national level teams to include a youth team--under 20yo

A Rapidly Spreading Niche Sport

- ▣ League members have worked with state authorities and TU chapters in PA, GA, NC, CO, NY, WV, and VA to hold events.
- ▣ Anyone can join and compete
- ▣ Competitors earn points for the goal of placing onto the team sponsored to compete in Europe at the annual “World’s” tournament, Team USA and Team USA Youth

(Team USA Youth currently holds the World Champion title won at the World Tournament that took place in Ireland last year.)

How It Works

- ❑ Beats are plotted on a river that holds trout, are typically 150-300 meters long, and are marked with un-obstructing short strips of trail tape. Strips of trail tape have numbers written on them (Beat 1 Bottom Beat 2 Top), and are tied to branches and removed following sessions.
- ❑ 1.5-3 hour sessions
- ❑ One competitor acts as a judge/controller for one session while another competitor fishes, then they switch for following session.
- ❑ Only one competitor fishes a beat at a time
- ❑ 4 sessions per day (2 morning, 2 afternoon)
- ❑ Each angler fishes 2 sessions and acts as controller for the other 2 sessions (measuring fish/ensuring regulation and rule compliance)

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- ▣ Trout/salmon species over 20cm are score able
- ▣ Each fish is worth 200 points plus 20X cm over 20cm (a 22 cm trout is worth 240 fish points)
- ▣ Placing points are tallied by using anglers fishing on one venue in the same session (for instance the angler fishing session 1 with the most fish caught earns a '1' placing point and so forth. The angler with the least amount of overall placing points wins. If there is a tie it goes to fish points.
- ▣ Fish points are used for league stat scoring

Terminal Tackle and Measuring

- ▣ State regs trump FIPS rules (3 tandem flies are allowed in some states, but not in MD.)
- ▣ Only Barbless/Spear point hooks are legal
- ▣ Wet trough used for measuring
- ▣ Minimal human/fish contact
- ▣ Fish stays in or as close as possible to water in net and is manipulated into wet measuring trough with wet hands
- ▣ Absolutely no lead split shot

(Please Google Fips Mouche rules for full description of angling and handling rules)

Competition Grade Hooks Minimize Trauma Associated With Barbed Hooks Typically Used by Rec. Fishers



A Wild Brown Trout is Carefully Measured in a Wet Trough During a Tournament on the L. Juniata River



Competitors Work Perspective Beats While Judges Watch During a Tournament on Kish Creek, PA



Conflict with recreational Fisherman

- ▣ League ediquite is in place
- ▣ Beats are made to be large/long for the purpose of leaving enough room for any and all rec. fishers that may be present.
- ▣ Permission must be obtained by competitor and granted by rec. fisher in order to approach vicinity
- ▣ League holds flawless safety record with no public incidents or any escalation of conflict
- ▣ Most people do not know competitive fly fishing is even a “thing”, and in most cases it is accepted by rec. anglers with extreme interest

Benefits

- ▣ Promotion of Wildlife Conservation through a vessel in addition to local Trout Unlimited Chapters
- ▣ Out-of-state revenue
- ▣ Proceeds for donation
- ▣ Yet another sport for the US to dominate Europeans at
- ▣ Score spreadsheets can be used for surveying

Potential For Charitable Moneys (this tournament held in NC was able to raise \$40,000 for The Hope Chest)



Summary

- ▣ Competitive fly fishing tournaments are low impact events that promote conservation awareness and camaraderie between the many facets of trout fishing in the US