

Scottish National Fly Fishing League 2018

Summary Information Package

General

This package is intended to provide members and applicants with background and current information on SNFFL 2018 at the earliest opportunity. It covers Provisional Programme, Entrance Fee and Payment, Premier League Complement, First Division Complement, League Management and Scoring, Duties of SNFFL Members, Discipline Procedures, Scottish World, European and Masters Teams, and Five Nations.

Provisional Programme

The 2018 programme will be comprised of five events as follows:

- 1. Bank Stillwater (Combined) – Sunday, 8th April, Kingennie Trout Fishery (Lunch included)**
- 2. Boat Stillwater (Combined) – Saturday, 5th May, Carron Valley Reservoir**
- 3. River (Premier Division) – Sunday, 17th June, Don
River (First Division) – Sunday, 24th June, Don**
- 4. River (Premier Division) – Sunday, 12th August, Tweed
River (First Division) – Sunday, 19th August, Tweed**
- 5. River (Premier Division) – Sunday, 2nd September, Tummel
River (First Division) – Sunday, 9th September, Tummel**

Rule Modifications for Event 1 are in preparation.

Entrance Fee and Payment

Entrance fee will be £125, inclusive of SANA individual membership. A **non-returnable** deposit of £50 must be paid by 31st December 2017 (or within seven days in the event that offers of places are made after 24th December 2017). Any balance is to be paid by 8th March 2018 to allow a month for the leagues to be finalised prior to the opening event. Should a member or applicant subsequently withdraw, a part, or all, of the balance may be refunded at the discretion of the Committee.

Payments may be made directly through online bank transfer to:

SANA World and European Squad

Sort Code: 83-23-47 Account No: 00265686

(Once paid, please advise the Treasurer, Donald Forbes – donaldforbes1@sky.com, accordingly.)

Or, by cheque or Postal Order payable to ‘SANA World and European Squad’ and sent to the Treasurer at:

Donald Forbes

57 Croftcroighn Road, Glasgow G33 3SE

Cash payment in person to the Treasurer will also be acceptable.

Rebates will be given on the day of the event to members who can produce an appropriate season ticket for relevant venues. There will be no rebate for a no-show.

Important: Please advise the Secretary David Deane – biggarfish@gmail.com once your deposit has been made to confirm your place in SNFFL 2018.

Premier League Complement (18 members)

The 18 available places in the SNFFL Premier will be offered in accordance with the following sequence:

Firstly,

1. To the top four finishers in the previous year’s First Division.
2. In the unlikely event that any of these places are declined, the place will be offered to the next highest First Division finisher until all four of these ‘promotion’ places are taken.

Then,

3. To the top fourteen finishers in the previous year’s Premier.
4. In the event that an offer of one or more of these places is declined, the first arising will be offered to the fifteenth place finisher in the previous year’s Premier, who will no longer be subject to relegation.
5. In the unlikely event that this place is declined, it will be offered to the next highest Premier finisher.

Then,

6. If a further vacancy arises, it will be offered to the next highest finisher in the previous year’s First Division.
7. In the unlikely event that this place is declined, it will be offered to the next highest First Division finisher.

8. If further vacancies arise, then starting with the next highest relegated Premier, offers will alternate between Premier and First Division finishers until all Premier places have been filled.

In the event that this procedure does not produce a fully-populated Premier, the Competitions Committee reserves the right to take whatever action it sees fit to achieve this end.

First Division Complement (18 members maximum)

2018 First Division places will be offered in accordance with the following sequence:

1. To the four relegated members from the previous year's Premier League.
2. To members who competed in SNFFL 2017
3. To new applicants. Where the number of applicants exceeds the number of vacancies at 31st December, the Competitions Committee will allocate places based on an assessment of the applicants' previous competition records. Should no relevant information be available, an earlier applicant will be treated preferentially.
4. Until such time as a Second Division is in existence, any applicants who do not achieve a First Division place will be added to a formal Waiting List. These applicants will be eligible for 'prospective' membership (*See 'League Management and Scoring'* below), and, according to performance, may have priority over the bottom four finishers in SNFFL 2018 when 2019 applications are being considered.

League Management and Scoring

Premier League

The Premier League will be finalised at the point of commencement of the first event, and its membership closed. Thereafter, members who are either absent or blank a session will score a number of place points equal to the formal League complement (normally 18).

First Division

The First Division will also be finalised at the point of commencement of the first event. Thereafter, members who are absent or blank a session will score a number of place points equal to the actual Division complement (maximum 18).

As stated above, formal membership will be closed at the point of commencement of the first event. If the Division is not fully subscribed, however, then subject to payment of a *pro rata* fee to cover the costs of the remaining events, and the ability to provide an appropriate controller, late or new applicants (deemed *prospective members*) may be allowed to take part, fish pegs and gain experience of the SNFFL

format. Prospective members' scores, however, will not be included in the First Division classified results.

Guest Rod (Premier and First)

At 18-peg events where the number of pegs exceeds the number of members (including prospective members) available to fish, the number of pegs will be reduced appropriately prior to the draw. When an odd number of competitors is present, the Committee will make every effort to provide a 'guest rod' to ensure that all afternoon beats have also been intensively fished in the morning session.

Revised Scoring Methodology (Premier and First)

SNFFL members compete over two 3-hour sessions at five venues. In previous years, each individual's total place points over all ten sessions have been used to determine the final result. Members have previously expressed concern that, should they be unable to attend a particular venue, the resulting penalty is so severe as to negate any possibility of a favourable final placing, almost irrespective of strong performances at the remaining venues. With only five discrete venues being fished, the Committee has been reluctant to allow events to be dropped in their entirety from any overall reckoning.

For 2018, however, a compromise solution will be trialled. The format of the competition will remain unaltered, but final rankings will be calculated using each member's ***best nine session results (i.e. their highest (place point) scoring session will be discounted)***. Members missing an event will still be penalised, but to a significantly lesser degree than previously. Under this regime, the Committee also feels that the current practice of adding an additional point for any session not attended can be dispensed with. Members missing an event will therefore score points equal to twice their league complement, but one of these scores will subsequently be dropped from their 5-event final total.

Prospective Members

Prospective members (as described above) who have previously participated in one or more First Division events will be given priority should the following year's First Division be over-subscribed.

Cash Prizes

No cash prizes will be on offer in SNFFL 2018.

Duties of SNFFL Members

SNFFL members are expected:

- To confirm acceptance of any placement offered and to make any consequent payment within the specified period.
- To attend at all five rounds by the appointed start time.

- To facilitate the smooth running of the competition by giving the earliest possible notice if unable to attend, unable to provide a controller, or if intending to withdraw prematurely from an ongoing SNFFL.
- To abide by both the letter and the spirit of the fishing rules.
- Not to engage in any activity likely to bring them, SANA or the sport of angling into disrepute. Members should be aware that such activity may include the posting of abusive, defamatory or inappropriate content on social media forums or websites.
- To carry out all reasonable instructions given in the context of the competition by SANA Competitions Committee members or supervising officials.

Whilst the Competitions Committee will take account of the particular circumstances of each case, members must accept that failure to comply with any of the above may prejudice continued participation and/or future placement. Any members who feel they have been treated unfairly shall have access to the grievance procedure detailed below.

Discipline Procedures

The Competitions Committee has the authority to penalise individual applicants or members as follows:

- There may be no offer of a placement to an individual.
- A member may have place points added.
- A member may be effectively demoted by being offered a lower placement than that anticipated under normal placement procedures.
- A member's participation in an on-going SNFFL may be terminated, with any rebate of fees paid being at the Committee's discretion.
- In extreme circumstances, the Committee may recommend that a SNFFL member's SANA membership should be terminated either for a specified period or indefinitely.

In each case,

- The Committee will write to the individual concerned stating that it is minded to take one of the above actions. The letter will clearly specify the Committee's grounds for doing so.
- The individual concerned will be invited to respond or make representation on his or her behalf to the Committee, either in writing or in person, within seven days of receipt of the letter as above.
- If no such representation is made, the Committee will confirm its action.
- If representation is made, the Committee will take account of this before confirming, moderating or abandoning the intended action. The individual concerned will be notified in writing of the outcome.

A right of appeal to a tribunal of the SANA Board will be available to individuals who feel aggrieved by a decision of the Competitions Committee. The membership

of the tribunal hearing the appeal will specifically exclude anyone who has participated in the Competitions Committee's original determination.

Scottish World, European and Masters Teams

Selection of 2019 teams for these events will be derived from the results of SNFFL 2018, as follows:

Subject to SANA's intention to field a representative Scottish team for each of the specified events, the first-placed angler in the Premier League will be offered his/her choice of:

- A World Championship Team placement (5 available).
- A European Championship Team placement (5 available).
- A placement as World Championship Team reserve (1 available).
- A placement as European Championship Team reserve (1 available).
- A World Masters Team placement (if applicable, over 50's only)
- Declining all of the above.

in that order.

The second-placed individual in the Premier League will be offered his/her choice of the remaining options, and so on, down to fourteenth place or until all team places have been allocated.

If unfilled places still remain, the four First Division members whose promotion to the Premier Division is pending will be offered places in order of their finishing positions.

If unfilled places still remain, the four Premier members whose relegation is pending will be offered places in order of their finishing positions.

If unfilled places still remain, the remaining First Division members will be offered places in order of their finishing positions.

Additional duties apply to Scottish international team members. Details will accompany any formal offer of placement.

In the unlikely event that the above process fails to produce full teams, the Competitions Committee reserves the right to take whatever action may be necessary or expedient to preserve Scotland's ongoing commitment to these international competitions. If it considers that a properly representative team cannot be fielded, an option not to participate in a particular event or in a particular year is available to the Committee.

Five Nations Teams

The Five Nations (5N) competition was initiated by SANA at an inaugural event in Scotland in 2014, and has the potential to become a regular event hosted in turn by

competing nations in venues of their choice. The competition is fished to FIPS-Mouche rules by teams of four anglers. To date, each nation has been able to enter up to three teams.

Whilst each nation may select team members using any criteria it deems appropriate, one of the intended objectives in staging this event was to provide an experience of international competition to aspiring World and European Championship entrants. The Competitions Committee is also minded to afford similar opportunities to anglers from SANA competition sections other than the SNFFL.

SANA therefore intends to offer places in its teams for future 5N events as follows:

Team A

Places will be offered to the top four finishers in the previous year's SNFFL First Division, provided that they have not been offered and accepted places in the same year's World, European Championship events. Any places which are excluded or declined will be offered in turn to other First Division competitors in order of finishing positions.

Teams B & C (if applicable)

The remaining SANA Sections (Stillwater, Ladies, Youth and Disabled) will be invited by the Competitions Committee to propose individuals as team members. Criteria used should prioritise proven competition ability.

(In the case of the Youth Angling section appropriate individuals would be those leaving, or about to leave, the section on age grounds, as the 5N is an adult competition.)

The Committee will determine the number of teams to be entered and their composition. Where necessary, partial teams may be supplemented using invited SNFFL members, offered places in order of their finishing positions.

In the event that these formulae do not produce the requisite number or composition of teams, or that the 5N is cancelled or has its format altered, the Competitions Committee may take whatever action it deems necessary to maintain Scotland's standing as a competing nation on the international angling stage.