

**Final report
of the International Organizer of the 30th FIPS-Mouche World Fly Fishing
Championship (Krosno-Lesko-Polańczyk, 14-21 June 2010)**

The aim of this report is to present problems and challenges, which appeared in the course of preparations and conduct of the Championship, as well as some suggestions, which may be used in the future by FIPS-Mouche authorities, organizers of next championships, as well as competitors, team captains and managers. When elaborating the suggestions, the International Organizer (IO) was guided by the following principles: respect for the fish and the environment, fair rivalry, transparency, need for solutions friendly towards the participants of the championships and avoidance of unnecessary formal and administrative procedures, as well as common sense.

The views presented in this report reflect the views of the IO and needn't correspond with the official position of the Polish Angling Association (PAA), nor FIPS-Mouche.

The website of the Championship

The main means of communication between the organizers and foreign teams was the website. The organizers tried to put on it all information deemed useful for foreign participants. It was also a good opportunity to disseminate information on the fishery, conduct of the Championship and FIPS-Mouche rules, both at home and abroad.

The website was maintained in two languages – Polish and English. In general, the information was identical in both language versions, but some elements, depending on the target group, were only in one language.

The official website was hosted by the PAA. In this Championship this was the optimal solution. There were also some unofficial websites.

The results of the competition were presented as PDF files, but in the RAR system. There was a suggestion from one of the countries to put them as simple PDF files.

In spring the IO received an application by email, with a suspicious content, from one country (Nigeria), which isn't a member of FIPS-Mouche. The IO considered it inappropriate to respond. However, this case proves that the website of the championship is viewed by several people in the world.

Registration fee (see also the section on accompanying persons)

From the beginning the fee was established in Polish currency – 4100 PLN for each participant. Due to the fact that the Polish currency might be unknown to some foreign participants, in the beginning the approximate value in euro was presented in parenthesis (“ca. 990 EUR”), according to the exchange rate in November 2009. Around 20 April, before the teams started to transfer the fee, on the website of the Championship only one fee was presented – in Polish currency, to avoid any problems.

However, some teams have transferred to the bank account of the organizers the fee, not in PLN, but in EUR. This – after conversion by the bank – meant that the fee was lower than the required one. The result was rich correspondence with the foreign participants, in order to explain the problem, as well as inconvenience for the organizers and foreign participants.

One team reported a problem that its local bank needed a pro-forma invoice issued by the organizers, to make the payment. The PAA could have issued such an invoice, but – according to the law – it would have to add VAT tax. Finally, this team succeeded in finding a solution, in which the invoice wasn't necessary.

Suggestions for the future:

- Only one fee should be presented by the organizers.
- The organizer should present also the following information: beneficiary name and address, contact person (in some countries the banks require a contact person; in our case the name of this person was different from the name of the IO), bank name and address, SWIFT and IBAN codes.
- The foreign participants should carefully read information and instructions concerning the registration fee. In case of doubt, they should contact the IO.

Reserve water

The organizers prepared three waters for the Championship: Myczkowce Reservoir (one sector), River Solinka (one sector) and River San (three sectors). Due to the flood in May it was necessary to cancel the sector on Solinka. It was replaced by a second sector on Myczkowce Reservoir, which was additionally stocked on 10-12 June with 7000 brown trout, average total length 24 cm.

Suggestions for the future:

- The organizers of championships, due to reasons beyond their control, should be prepared for the need to make changes in the competition waters.

Random draw for the boats

Some participants of the championship have suggested that in case of at least two lake sessions, the random computer draw should ensure that in different sessions a competitor would be in charge of the boat as the first and the second competitor.

Controllers

Polish competition rules are in some respects more restrictive than FIPS-Mouche rules. In spite of special training of the controllers, some of them, in good faith, drew attention of the competitors to the need to respect Polish rules. The IO apologizes the foreign competitors for any inconvenience related to this.

Suggestions for the future:

- When elaborating the Rules Modifications it is necessary to pay more attention to the difference between domestic rules and customs and those of FIPS-Mouche, and to include them accordingly in the Rules Modifications.
- When training the controllers it is necessary to lay greater stress on the differences between domestic and FIPS-Mouche rules.

Treatment of fish

According to Polish rules, guided by the need to take good care of fish, a competitor must keep the fish in the water when he is carrying it to the controller. Some controllers have even drawn attention of the competitors to this fact. However, FIPS-Mouche rules do not foresee the need to keep the fish in the water, though they clearly indicate the need to take good care of the fish. Thus, a fish should be kept in the water, what is in the spirit of these rules.

In view of the current FIPS-Mouche rules this is more an ethical, rather than legal issue. The IO is of the opinion that participants of the championships, who are so experienced and represent such a high cultural and ethical level, should pay special attention to the issue of taking care of the fish, including keeping it in the water. The participants of the championships even often serve as an example for a broad range of fly anglers.

International inspectors

For the first time in the history of the championships there was an open (through Internet) recruitment of international inspectors. The large number of applications proved that the adopted procedure was a good one.

In this Championship the inspectors performed two tasks. The first one was filling up one blank beat, resulting from the fact that one of teams had only four members. The presence of an additional angler ensured equal fishing of the beat during all sessions. This concerns the river, as well as the lake. The second task was to monitor the controllers supervising the home (Polish) competitors on the river sectors.

Suggestions for the future:

- The host country of the next world or regional championship should consider the possibility of sending the future IO (should he be already known) as an international inspector. Performing such a task helps to become acquainted with several organizational details.

Problems with rafting

River San is a popular water for rafting. The organizers asked the persons planning to raft, to do it at the time when there is no competition session. In one case even the police intervened, but this was due to the fact that the rafters broke the rules concerning safety.

Use of private cars

The organizers provided adequate transport for all participants of the Championship (including one reserve bus) and at the first captains' meeting they informed that the competitors must use only the transport provided by the organizers. In spite of this, captains and managers of some teams used their own transport. They were fully aware that the organizers couldn't bear any responsibility for any problem, which could have appeared.

Suggestions for the future:

- Use of own transport should be avoided.
- In case of using own transport it is necessary to respect the rules and customs of the country hosting the championship.

Media

Home and foreign media, both angling and non-angling ones, have shown interest in the Championship. The IO considers this as an expression of growing interest in angling, especially in fly fishing competitions.

Suggestions for the future:

- Guidelines for media should be elaborated, especially with respect to making photos.
- The organizers of future championships should consider the possibility of establishing official press accreditation.

Antidoping tests

Antidoping tests were conducted (on 17 June evening) in accordance with FIPS-Mouche rules. Upon the decision of FIPS-Mouche representatives, the top four competitors after the second session were tested.

In the course of preparations for the Championship the organizers faced several problems related to the tests. They were a result of the lack of basic guidelines – it wasn't

known: who will pay the costs of the tests, who should sign the agreement on the tests (with the institute conducting the tests) and when the tests should be made. Also the competitors had no idea how to prepare themselves for the tests (in the case of this Championship urine was tested, but the competitors learned this just before the test).

Suggestions for the future:

- It is necessary to elaborate guidelines for conducting the tests.
- CIPS authorities should reconsider the need for antidoping tests in angling competitions. The IO is of the opinion that in fly fishing competitions there is absolutely no justification for the use of drugs forbidden in sports. The final result of a competitor is a function of other factors than physical strength, especially experience and knowledge. Besides, fly fishing – with all its elegance - should be considered in terms of recreation and contemplation, rather than forceful rivalry.

Accompanying persons

The organizers have assumed that it is necessary to support the participation of members of the family (spouses, partners and children) in the Championship, since angling, as a form of recreation, should unite the family. In view of this, a special participation fee was established (1600 PLN) for each such person (“accompanying person”). The main factors affecting its level were accommodation and food (including participation in both banquets).

The organizers, as far as it was possible, arranged two tourist trips for these persons.

Closing of the Championship

The closing ceremony and the final banquet were held on Sunday 20 June. However, some teams couldn't participate in these important events, what the IO considers regrettable, since they had to leave early for the return trip (for some competitors Monday was a working day).

Suggestions for the future:

The organizers of future championships should consider the possibility of rescheduling the championship by starting it one day earlier. In such a way Sunday will be the day of departure and everybody will have the possibility to reach home at a convenient time. Such a solution shouldn't have a negative impact on the start and conduct of the championship, since anyhow all the teams reach the venue of the championship many days earlier.

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