

Definition section

FFTUSA - Fly Fishing Team USA

FFTUSA Leadership Committee - Decision and rule making body of the FFTUSA

FFTUSA Organizing Committee - subcommittee of the FFTUSA Leadership Committee consisting of 3 members who have the responsibility to review and approve Regional events and bring recommendations for Inter-regional and USFFC recommendation for approval by the FFTUSA Leadership Committee

FFTUSA National Team - 15 member team selected at the end of each competition cycle.

FFTUSA Team Member - An angler that is registered as a member of the FFTUSA organization.

USFFC - United States Fly Fishing Championship

WFFC- World Fly Fishing Championship

WFFC Team - World Fly Fishing Championship Team, 6 person team selected from the team of 15

FFTUSA National Team Members.

Competition cycle - Angling event cycle that culminates with the USFFC and selection of the FFTUSA National Team and WFFC Team.

Angler - Person who is angling during a competitive event

Controller - Person who observes angler to ensure compliance to rules and regulations, measures fish as required

Team Mission Statement

The mission of Fly Fishing Team USA ("FFTUSA") is to educate and train men and women in the sport of competitive fly fishing on both national and international levels and to promote, and educate its members in the conservation of our fisheries, lakes, rivers and streams. The FFTUSA will select a team of qualified anglers to represent the United States of America at national and international fly fishing competitions, including the world fly fishing competition held each year by the International Sport Flyfishing Federation ("FIPS-Mouche") which is an arm of the International Angling Confederation ("CIPS"). The team selected by the FFTUSA will represent the USA with honor and dignity and will display sportsmanship to Olympic standards with respect for their fellow members and competitors from around the world.

In 2021, the mission of FFTUSA remains the same; however, some changes to the qualification process will go into effect during this competition cycle that will affect the following cycle (see Item 2). Due to the need to have an abbreviated cycle for 2021 and 2022 we will be hosting 6-8 regional events. These will be similar to the cycle in previous years with an open registration format. In addition to the previous style regional events, a new level of qualification will be added to our competition cycle. New local/regional competitions (see Item 5) will be started during this cycle and used in the next cycle to qualify anglers to participate in Inter-Regional events (see Item 6). A combination of these new local/regional and inter-regional events will qualify anglers to participate in future USFFC and selection for the FFTUSA National Team and WFFC Team.

By implementing a local level of qualifying competitions, FFTUSA hopes to promote competitions that are not cost prohibitive and encourage participation, education, and conservation.

New Competition Cycle Highlights

- Due to our inability to host nationals in 2020 and 2021, the United States Fly Fishing Championship will be delayed until 2023.

- The United States Fly Fishing Championships (“USFFC”) will still follow a two year cycle. Basalt, Colorado is slated for April of 2023. The following USFFCs will be in 2025 location TBD.
- The 2021-2022 cycle will be used to bridge a new competition format. During this cycle 6-8 existing style regionals will be hosted and the cycle will culminate in the 2023 USFFC. Point accumulation will be the same as the previous cycle.
- Starting in 2021 we will begin to incorporate the new local events that will be used to rank anglers in each region going into the 2023-2024 cycle. Non FFTUSA events that have been hosted in 2021 thus far will be reviewed for their suitability to be included in this new local event format.
- The first round of six Inter-regional competitions will begin in 2023. Three in the East and three in the West.
- Regional events will be ongoing, but prior to the beginning of Inter-regionals for a given cycle, rankings of each region’s competitors will be established. For example, at the end of 2023, enough regional events will have occurred to rank the top local anglers and establish qualification (see Item 5.ee-ff) for the 2024 Inter-regionals. At this point, a new round of regional events will begin. They will end in 2025 prior to the 2026 Inter-regionals, and so on.
- Other notable changes include:
 - Some events will follow no measure protocols
 - Measuring trays must be purchased by competitors
 - All events competitor/angler controlled

1. Eligibility

- a. Membership is required and is renewed on an annual basis starting August 1 and ending July 31st of the following year.
 - i. Any person may become a member of FFTUSA by completing the registration form and waiver, and paying the required membership fee.
 - ii. FFTUSA membership shall be \$75
 1. This membership provides the angler no cost access to all regional events
 - a. Any event specific costs will be announced by the organizers of events and any event fees will be paid directly to the organizers
 - b. Guidelines for event organizers will be provided separately
 2. Membership must be active to participate in all FFTUSA events
- b. Only anglers who will be the age of eighteen (18) or older before the end of the year that Nationals will be held and are citizens of the USA are eligible to make the FFTUSA National Team
- c. Any anglers who are not eligible to make the FFTUSA National Team as defined above will be subject to a twenty-four (24) hour registration delay for all events
- d. Memberships may be offered in conjunction with other competitive fly fishing organizations
- e. Membership is subject to adherence to the FFTUSA code of conduct and may be suspended or revoked without refund of membership fees if an angler is found to be in violation as determined by the FFTUSA Leadership Committee

2. FFTUSA Competition Cycle

- a. Each cycle consists of an interval of regional events, inter-regional events and ends with United States Fly Fishing Championships (“USFFC”)
- b. USFFCs will be held approximately two years apart
- c. 2021-2027 calendar to represent the competition cycle format

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Current cycle							
New Regionals							
Inter-Regionals (6)							
Nationals			BAS ALT				

3. FFTUSA Event Structure

- a. The FFTUSA Leadership Committee will appoint a FFTUSA organizing committee that will have responsibility for all event approvals
- b. In order for events to count towards making the FFTUSA National Team they must be sanctioned by FFTUSA
- c. All events will utilize the www.flycomps.com website for registration and information distribution of events
- d. FFTUSA will no longer supply measuring trays for events
 - i. Each angler wishing to participate in FFTUSA events that require the measurement of fish shall be required to purchase a FFTUSA sanctioned measuring tray from FFTUSA or affiliated partner and bring this measuring tray to events
- e. All events will be angler controlled
 - i. Angler controlled rules for loch style venues
 1. The controlled draw will assign a pair of anglers for each boat
 2. Anglers will control each other
 3. No fishing until both are ready to fish when resetting drifts or controlling the boat
 4. No modification of the line, leader, or flies while the other angler is controlling the boat or making adjustments to the boat such as setting the drogue
 5. The controller must be able to verify that each fish is caught fairly
 - a. The controller will give verbal agreement that the fish has been fairly caught
 6. Once verified that the fish is fairly caught the angler may remove the fly
 7. The angler shall place the fish in the measuring trough and show the controller the length of the fish stating the length and asking the controller to confirm
 8. The angler will record the fish and the controller will initial in between the next retrieve and cast
 - ii. Angler controlled rules for lake bank style venues
 1. No measure protocol to provide for efficient use of angler and controller time
 - a. In this case, fish will not be measured and as a result there will be no minimum size requirement
 - b. Once a fish has been verified by the controller/adjacent angler to be fair caught the fish is recorded
 2. Adjacent anglers will control each other (Angler 1 & 2, 3 & 4 etc...)
 3. After landing a fish the angler must approach the side of the beat of the controller to provide visibility to the controller
 4. The controller must be able to verify that each fish is caught fairly
 - a. The controller will give verbal agreement that the fish has been fairly caught
 5. Once verified that the fish is fairly caught the angler may remove the fly

6. The controller will record the fish and the angler will initial at the first available opportunity
 - iii. Angler controlled rules for river venues
 1. The controlled draw will ensure that once a beat has been fished or controlled by any team, no other person on that team will be able to fish that same beat
 2. An angler shall not fish the same beat that the angler controlled
 3. The angler should control the same beat that the angler fished previously
 4. Controllers are not allowed to leave the immediate proximity of the bank (i.e. they are not allowed to follow the angler across the river or come to the angler to measure a fish in the river)
 5. The angler must bring the fish to the controller on the bank
 6. Controllers must follow appropriate etiquette and anglers instructions in not disturbing fishing opportunities
 7. Once a fish has been hooked the controller must be able to verify that the fish was caught fairly and placed in the net while fairly hooked
 - a. The controller will give verbal agreement that the fish has been fairly caught
 8. Once verified that the fish is fairly caught the angler may remove the fly
 9. For Full, Inter-regional, and National events the angler shall present the fish to the controller and the controller will measure the length of the fish in a FFTUSA approved measuring tray, state the length, and ask the angler to confirm
 10. The controller will record the details of the catch on the scoresheet and the angler will initial the sheet to verify the recorded information is correct
 - iv. Other rules
 1. There shall be no photography or video recordings taken by controllers except as follows
 - a. Requested by the angler to document any challenges to a controller ruling
 - b. Capture a photo of the angler or a fish to share later
 2. There shall be no communication by the angler or the controller (Text, email, phone, snapchat, etc...) during sessions with team mates, other anglers or their agents
 - f. With approval from the leadership committee, session lengths, rest time between sessions and requirements related to controlling prior to fishing the same venue can be amended to account for special conditions seasonal needs or travel requirements
 - g. All events will follow FIPS Mouche rules regarding event tactics and equipment except where approved by the event organizer and the Leadership Committee
4. Regionally focused organization
 - a. FFTUSA will provide a framework for hosting a higher number of event opportunities while limiting the cost of events
 - b. The USA will be divided up into four regions (the angler must reside in the region where they compete at the regional level)
 - i. Northeast Region
 1. Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin, Washington DC
 - ii. Southeast Region
 1. Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia
 - iii. West Region

1. Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington
 - iv. Midwest Region
 1. Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wyoming
 - v. Anglers that relocate their place of residence within a cycle may carry their regional scores from their prior region to the new region
 - c. In order to provide parity between regions, each region will be evaluated independently
 - i. This will be accomplished by implementing a ranking system within each region
 - d. Each region will have a designated regional coordinator(s)
 - i. This coordinator will be approved by the FFTUSA Leadership Committee
 - ii. The coordinator will be responsible for event organization in the region including the following activities
 1. Facilitate the submission and approval of events
 2. Ensure that enough events are hosted in the region
 3. Manage the point accumulation and ranking of anglers in the respective region
5. Regional events
- a. The goal of regional events is to identify the top anglers in each region
 - b. Regional season
 - i. The season for point accrual from regional events shall start at the beginning on August 1st of the event cycle and shall end on July 31st, two years later
 - c. Sanctioning of events
 - i. The organizer must work with the regional coordinator to submit the event application no less than thirty (30) days in advance of the event
 - ii. The regional coordinator is responsible to present the event to the FFTUSA event organizing committee
 - iii. The FFTUSA organizing committee responsible for approving or rejecting events within seven (7) days of receiving the application
 - iv. Events must be announced to FFTUSA members no less than fourteen (14) days in advance of the event
 - d. Eligibility for regional events
 - i. Any anglers not residing in the region will be subject to a twenty-four (24) hour registration delay and will not accrue points in the event. The angler's finish will be included in determine the placing for all other anglers
 - e. Regional event types
 - i. Event costs
 1. Event costs, such as scoresheets, drogues and other supplies will be paid for by FFTUSA
 2. Event specific costs that require additional funding such as boat rentals or private water fishing fees, permitting fees, etc... should be incurred directly by the event participants
 - ii. There will be two (2) types of regional events
 1. Minis
 - a. One (1) day events
 - b. Two (2) or three (3) angling sessions per angler
 - c. A minimum of eight (8) anglers
 - d. Sessions shall be a minimum of one and a half (1.5) hours in length

- e. There shall be a minimum of one half (0.5) hours of rest between sessions
- f. There is no team component of the event
- g. Event finishes count towards an angler's ranking
- h. Points accrual
 - i. Points shall be awarded based on an anglers finish
 - ii. The first place finisher in minis will be awarded eight (8) points with each subsequent finisher receiving one point less
 - iii. Anglers with a placing of eight (8) or more will receive one (1) point
- i. No measure protocol for all Minis
 - i. In this case, fish will not be measured and as a result there will be no minimum size requirement and no measuring devices required
 - ii. Once a fish has been verified by the controller to be fair caught, the fish is recorded
- j. Number of events in a region
 - i. There is no limit on the number of events that can be hosted within a region or the number that an angler can participate in
 - ii. A maximum of three (3) Minis will be counted towards an angler's total points within the region

2. Fulls

- a. Two (2) day events
 - i. Four (4) angling sessions per angler
- b. Fulls may be a series of two (2) one day Minis where the same anglers are participating.
 - i. In the situation that angler(s) are not able to attend both one day Minis, the other anglers will still be able to consider the event a Full
 - ii. The angler(s) not able to participate in both Mini sessions shall receive a single point and qualify as participation in a Mini instead of a Full
 - iii. Can be on the same water for all events, or a variety of waters for each Mini event.
 - iv. For a series of Minis, the events must be held within a 16 day period and must meet the other requirements of a Full.
- c. A minimum of sixteen (16) anglers
- d. Sessions shall be a minimum of two (2.0) hours in length
- e. There shall be a minimum of one half (0.5) hours of rest between sessions
- f. Event finishes count towards an angler's ranking
- g. Points accrual
 - i. Points shall be awarded based on an anglers finish
 - ii. The first place finisher in Fulls will be awarded sixteen (16) points with each subsequent finisher receiving one point less
 - iii. Anglers with a placing of sixteen (16) or more will receive one (1) point
- h. Number of Full events in a region

- i. There is no limit on the number of events that can be hosted within a region or the number that an angler can participate in
 - ii. A maximum of three (3) Fulls will be counted towards an angler's total points within the region
 - f. Regional ranking
 - i. At the end of the regional season anglers in each region will be ranked according to the number of points earned during the cycle
 - 1. In order to be ranked an angler must have participated in at least two (2) Mini events
 - 2. The angler with the most points will receive a ranking of one (1)
 - 3. The next highest point earning angler a ranking of two (2) and so on
 - ii. In the case of ties the angler with the fewest events shall hold the tie breaking advantage
 - iii. Additional tie breakers will be decided by a coin toss
 - g. Regional ranking points
 - i. Regional rankings will be converted to points for the purposes of the final rankings by giving 10 points to the highest ranked angler and one less for each subsequent angler
 - ii. Anglers with a rank of 10 or more in each region will receive 1 regional ranking point
 - h. All anglers that competed in the World Fly Fishing Championship during the current regional cycle will be awarded ten (10) ranking points
 - i. This does not provide them with a ranking of one (1), only the ranking points
- 6. Inter-regional events
 - a. The goal of Inter-regional events is to identify the top anglers in the country that will qualify for the USFFC
 - b. Inter-regional season
 - i. The season for point accrual from regional events shall start on August 1st in the second year of the cycle and shall end between October 1st and December 31st of the following year, depending on timing of the USFFC
 - c. Sanctioning of events
 - i. FFTUSA will direct the organization of Inter-regional events
 - ii. There shall be a total of six (6) events
 - 1. There shall be one (1) within each region, four (4) total
 - 2. There shall be two (2) bonus events selected by the FFTUSA event committee
 - d. Scheduling of Inter-regional events
 - i. It is the goal of the organizing committee to announce dates and locations for all Inter-regional events at the opening of the Inter-regional portion of the competition cycle
 - 1. In the case that this is not possible the following process will be followed.
 - a. The organizer must submit the conference event application no less than seventy five (75) days in advance of the event
 - b. FFTUSA event organizing committee is responsible for approving or rejecting events within fourteen (14) days of receiving the application
 - c. Events must be announced to FFTUSA members no less than sixty (60) days in advance of the event
 - e. Eligibility for Inter-regional events
 - i. Inter-regional events are invitation only events
 - ii. No angler can participate in more than four (4) Inter-regional events
 - iii. Invitation order until each event is full
 - 1. Guaranteed regional anglers

- a. The top four (4) ranked anglers in each region will be invited to the event.
Total of sixteen (16) anglers
 - 2. Current FFTUSA Team of fifteen (15) members
 - a. Priority of registration to be determined by FFTUSA Team Captain
 - 3. Next highest ranked anglers in each region
 - a. 5th ranked anglers 6th ranked anglers etc...
 - b. Order by region for selection of remaining open positions
 - i. Host region
 - ii. Region with the highest number of anglers
 - iii. Other regions
 - 4. This process ensures that anglers with the highest ranking within each region are provided first choice of the events that they want to participate in. It also ensures that anglers with lower ranks are still able to participate in inter-regional competitions and as a result accrue points and qualify for the USFFC
 - iv. Organization of Inter-regional events
 - 1. All Inter-regional events will be two (2) day four (4) session events
 - 2. A minimum of twenty four (24) anglers are required
 - 3. Maximum of thirty two (32) anglers are allowed
 - 4. Sessions shall be a minimum of two (2.0) hours in length
 - 5. There shall be a minimum of one half (0.5 hours of rest between sessions
 - 6. There is a team component for these events and anglers should align themselves into teams
 - a. It is desirable that these teams be region based
 - b. In the case that teams need to be assigned the organizer and FFTUSA Captain will be responsible for this
 - v. Inter-regional cost structure
 - 1. Inter-regionals shall have a cost to participants of \$125 for registration
 - a. Variances to this cost structure must be approved by the FFTUSA organizing committee
 - f. Inter-regional points accrual
 - i. Points shall be awarded based on an anglers finish
 - ii. The first place finisher will be awarded twenty four (24) points with each subsequent finisher receiving one point less
 - iii. Any anglers placing in positions twenty four (24) and higher will receive one (1) point
 - g. Inter-regional score
 - i. A maximum of two (2) Inter-regional events will be counted towards an angler's total points.
 - ii. At the end of the Inter-regional season anglers will be scored according to the number of points earned during the Inter-regional cycle and their regional ranking points
 - iii. In the case of ties, the angler with the highest regional ranking points will hold the tie breaking advantage
 - iv. Additional tie breakers will be decided by a coin toss
7. United States Fly Fishing Championship (USFFC) i.e. Nationals
 - a. The goal of the USFFC is to identify the top anglers in the nation
 - b. USFFC will be held in the between November 1st and May 31st at the end of the cycle calendar
 - c. Sanctioning of events
 - i. FFTUSA will be responsible for the organization of these events

- ii. Events must be announced to FFTUSA members no less than ninety (90) days in advance of the event
 - d. Eligibility for USFFC
 - i. USFFC is an invitation only event
 - ii. Invitation to the event will be based on anglers final Inter-regional score
 - e. Organization of USFFC
 - i. Approximately forty eight (48) anglers are invited
 - 1. Adjusted based on event location and available venues
 - ii. USFFC will be at least a five session event over at least three (3) days
 - iii. Sessions shall be a minimum of 2.0 hours in length
 - iv. There shall be a minimum of 0.5 hours of rest between sessions
 - v. There is a team component for these events and anglers should align themselves into teams
 - 1. In the case that teams need to be assigned the organizer and FFTUSA Captain will be responsible for this
 - f. USFFC points accrual
 - i. Points shall be awarded based on an anglers finish
 - ii. The first place finisher will be awarded thirty two (32) points with each subsequent finisher receiving one point less
- 8. Final end of cycle ranking
 - a. At the end of the USFFC anglers will be ranked according to the number of points earned at the USFFC, qualifying Inter-regionals, and regional ranking points
 - i. In the case of ties, the angler with higher USFFC points will be ranked higher
 - b. The top fifteen (15) eligible anglers by rank will be selected to be on the USA National Fly Fishing Team
 - i. If an angler is unable to or unwilling to be selected to the FFTUSA National Team the angler with the next highest points will be selected