

Subject : Official Request to Amend the Age of Participation in the World Championships

Submitted by FFPS (French Federation of Sport Fishing) on 10 Oct 2024

Mr. President, Mr. Vice Presidents, Mr. Secretary General

Following the discussions we were able to have with the Spanish and Czech delegations, as well as with certain representatives of FIPS during the recent Junior World Championships, I am officially submitting a request to raise the age limit for participation in the World Championships, from 18 years within the year to 20 years within the year.

This proposal is based on several strong arguments that, in our view, would further elevate the level of competition and ensure the long-term viability of national teams:

1. A larger pool of young competitors: By extending the age limit to 20, we could rely on a broader base of young talents to form our national teams, which would strengthen internal competition and promote the selection of the best candidates.
2. Increased maturity and technical skill: At this age, competitors have acquired greater mental and technical maturity, allowing them to face the demands of international competitions with more calmness and efficiency.
3. Preventing the loss of young competitors: Currently, we observe that many young athletes stop competing as they approach 18, due to the lack of immediate opportunities to progress to the highest level. Extending the age range would help maintain their motivation and fully integrate them into our development processes.
4. Ensuring the transition between junior and senior teams: By increasing the age limit, we would provide an optimal framework to facilitate the transition of young talents to the senior teams, thus contributing to the renewal and continuity of national teams, both at the junior and senior levels.

This request also builds on a recent precedent: during the COVID-19 period, a similar measure was implemented, which helped enhance the quality of the championships in terms of both performance and team balance.

Moreover, we are facing a concerning situation that affects most European countries: a large number of young competitors stop participating in competitive sport fishing when they leave the junior circuit, before joining the senior circuit. This weakens the long-term sustainability of our sport and reduces opportunities for these young talents to continue progressing.

To address this issue and encourage the transition between junior and senior categories, we would like to bring the following proposal to your attention: allow each nation to register two teams for the European Championships, one of which would be composed of competitors under 25 years old (U25). This initiative would create a true bridge between junior and senior competition, providing a structured environment for the development of young athletes.

These two proposals could go in the direction of the FIPS "Eau Douce" regulations, having the categories U15, U20, U25

We are convinced that such a measure would help maintain the engagement of young competitors in the discipline, while offering them a chance to gradually reach the highest level. By participating in international competitions at this age, they would gain the necessary

experience to effectively prepare for the senior circuit, reducing the risk of them abandoning competition at the end of their junior careers.

Thanking you in advance for the attention you will give to this request, we remain at your disposal for any further information and to discuss the practicalities of such a development.

Best regards,

Grégoire JUGLARET

National Technical Director of the French Federation of Sport Fishing Fly Fishing Division (FFPS)