



Safety Policy

The International Federation of Fly Fishers is a non-profit organization whose mission is to conserve, restore and educate through fly fishing. In all things we do, we must place safety and the well-being of our instructors and students as the top priority.

To that end we expect our instructors and participants to follow common safety practices that are outlined in this document.

IFFF Health and Safety Policy

1. Reasons for Managing Health & Safety

There are three main drivers for maintaining, as far as is reasonably possible, a safe environment for all participants who are responsible for and whom receive casting tuition/coaching.

Moral – it is unacceptable to put the health and safety of others at risk for profit or otherwise. The confidence in any activity will be seriously impaired and the aims and objectives of the organization severely compromised.

Legal – not complying with statutory requirements or ignorance of local regulations and by-laws can lead to prosecution or other enforcement action. Civil law may allow for participants to seek compensation where there is a breach of statutory duty or because a reasonable standard of care was not provided.

Financial – there is always a financial cost to health and safety. Direct costs in the form of insurance premiums, litigation costs, financial implications to the injured party, and the indirect costs such as loss of goodwill and respect; damage to the image of the sport and its' organizations.

The organizer(s) of any event must ensure there is no consent or connivance to any offence, behavior or practice that may attribute to any neglect. However, it is incumbent upon participants to be aware of the environment they are in and that they should take appropriate steps to ensure their own health and safety. Under the local Health & Safety requirements they too have a duty of care to avoid injury

or desist from causing a nuisance that may impact on the health and safety of others. The IFFF will ensure there is a Risk Assessment prior to each event (ref: Risk Management Strategy).

2. Definitions

Accident – unplanned, uncontrollable event resulting in injury or property damage.

Incident – unplanned event which may not have resulted in injury but caused some damage to property.

Near Miss – unplanned event not causing either injury or damage to property but which has the potential to do so in other circumstances.

Hold Harmless Agreement – an agreement that the participant signs holding the IFFF harmless from any accident/incident that may occur. The participant is acknowledging they are aware of the risk while participating in the event.

3. Requirements of the Event Organizer Prior to Commencement

a. Assess risk that may be present during an event that could cause serious harm or injury. Remove the risk or move the event to another location that would minimize the risk.

b. Obtaining a hold harmless agreement from each participant during a casting event is always encourage, but required if the organizer is taking the participants on a body of water, i.e. stream, river or pond. Hold harmless agreements must be signed by parent or legal guardian if the person is under 18 years of age.

c. Cover the safety information that is outlined below with all participants

4. Recording Accidents and Incidents

The IFFF will record all accidents and incidents. The event organizer is responsible for reporting all events that are consider an accident or incident to the international organization listed at the end of this document.

If a “near miss” is observed and the event organizer has suggestions to avoid in the future, he/she should report that information to the office as well.

5. Investigations of Accidents and Incidents

The investigation should establish the Who, What, Where, When, and How.

The investigator should stick to the facts and gather sufficient evidence.

It may be necessary to record all interviews, measurements, site plans and equipment maintenance if appropriate. Also include all risk assessments.

The IFFF will be able to learn from and identify weaknesses in procedures, arrangements and equipment. The investigation should highlight unwanted practices and behavior and facilitate compliance with any legal obligations. Also to promote a wider understanding of the risks that may present.

6. Review of this Policy

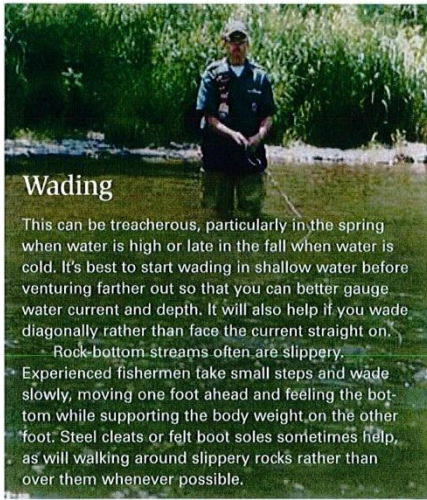
This policy will be reviewed by the IFFF Board of Directors on an as needed basis.

Safety Information

Please cover this information with all participants in the event.

1. Always be prepared for emergencies and know how to handle them.
2. Be prepared to treat minor injuries by bringing along a small first-aid kit complete with bandages, antiseptic, wipes and insect repellent. Additional items that can help you respond to emergencies include small pliers, clippers, hook sharpener, duct tape, bandana, flashlight and rain jacket.
3. Always be aware of the path of your fishing rod and line when you cast so that the hook and line don't catch on anything, especially another angler!
4. Always wear sunscreen, with no less than 15 SPF. Apply as often as needed to maintain protection throughout the day.
5. During outdoor activities, take precautions to avoid dehydration and reactions by drinking plenty of water and wearing a broad-brimmed hat. Limit physical activity in the heat of the day.
6. Always wear eye protection. A good pair of polarized glasses will protect your eyes and also help you spot fish. Additional safe practices include:
 - a. Wear eye protection walking to and from the river, especially through brush and after dark.
 - b. When landing a fish, helping land one or taking action photos, do not stand in line of where the lure would go if it prematurely pulls out of the fish under tension.
 - c. When pulling a snagged lure out of trees always turn your face away and out of line with the line and fly.

7. Wading safety is crucial when entering a stream or body of water. Safe practices include:



- a. Be careful not to get in too far or too deep, and avoid strong currents.
- b. Wear a wading belt, fastened snugly on waders.
- c. Never wade backwards.
- d. Move through current with your upstream foot first. Do not transfer weight to the forward foot until it has secure, stable footing.
- e. Keep your profile narrow (sideways) to the current. Do not stand broadside to the current.
- f. Using a wading staff is paramount for stability while wading or hiking.

If you should lose your balance and fall, simply tread water or float as you are carried downstream. Wait until you have reached relatively quiet water, then swim to shore.

8. You should always be aware of weather and any approaching storms. Take shelter indoors whenever possible.

If you have questions regarding safe practices please contact:

International Federation of Fly Fishers
5237 US Highway 89 South, Suite 11
Livingston, MT 59047
406-222-9369
fedflyfishers.org

ADULT HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

In consideration of the right granted me to participate in the (name of organization) (describe event), I, the undersigned, in acknowledgment that I am doing so entirely upon my own initiate, risk and responsibility do hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, agree to remise, fully release, hold harmless, and forever discharge (organization), the (name of Council) Council, Inc. and the International Federation of Fly Fishers, Inc., all their officers and volunteers, acting officially or otherwise, from any and all claims, demands, actions or causes of actions, on account of my death or on account of any injury to me or my property which may occur from any cause whatsoever while participating in the above named program. I fully understand the risks and dangers involved in fly fishing particularly when wading or boating in rivers and lakes,

In the event of injury by accident while participating in the above named program, I hereby authorize the (name of organization), its employees, officers, members and agents to seek the appropriate medical attention as deemed necessary.

I have read this Agreement and fully understand the release I am giving. I further attest that I am an adult capable of consenting to this Agreement.

Name of Participant (please print)

Signature of Participant

Date

YOUTH HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

In consideration of the right granted me to participate in the (name of organization) (describe event), I, the undersigned, in acknowledgment that I am doing so entirely upon my own initiate, risk and responsibility do hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, agree to remise, fully release, hold harmless, and forever discharge (organization), the (name of Council) Council, Inc. and the International Federation of Fly Fishers, Inc., all their officers and volunteers, acting officially or otherwise, from any and all claims, demands, actions or causes of actions, on account of my death or on account of any injury to me or my property which may occur from any cause whatsoever while participating in the above named program. I fully understand the risks and dangers involved in fly fishing particularly when wading or boating in rivers and lakes,

In the event of injury by accident while participating in the above named program, I hereby authorize the (name of organization), its employees, officers, members and agents to seek the appropriate medical attention as deemed necessary.

Name of Participant (please print)

Signature of Participant

I have read this Agreement and fully understand the release I am giving. I further attest that I am the parent or guardian of the above participant and am an adult capable of consenting to this Agreement.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date _____