



# Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum

## 1st International Rodmakers and Casting Challenge Rules 2007

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The following rules will pertain to the 1<sup>st</sup> International Bamboo Rodmakers and Bamboo Fly Rod Casting Challenges. When there is a question of interpretation the Challenge Rules or when a decision is required, the Challenge Technical Officer will make that decision and it will be not subject to appeal.

- Rule 1 – The primary material of all Fly Rods entered into and used in the challenges will be Genuine Tonkin Bamboo.
- Other materials can be used as components in the making of the rod, but the primary material for the rod or sections of the rod determines the type of rod will be Tonkin Bamboo.
  - Hybrid rods with two different materials will not be allowed.
  - Construction technique, number of strips and rod taper will be to the discretion of the Bamboo Rod Maker.
  - The rod will require a Grip length of 6” and a Reel Seat length of 3.5”
  - All rods will have a means of securely attaching the Challenge Reel to it. Use of Tape or Adhesives for this purpose is not permitted.
- Rule 2 – The fly lines used for the 1<sup>st</sup> challenge will be provided by Cortland Line Company and the line will be the SYLK WF-5.
- The leader attached via a nail knot will be a Cortland 7 and ½ foot 4X Tapered Leader.
  - A high visibility “Fly” will be attached to each leader.
    - It is where this “Fly” lands that will determine the distance cast.
    - This “Fly” will be a size 12 Dry Fly hook wrapped in Orange Floss or similar material with the hook cut off at the bend. Flies will be specially tied for this challenge and be in the possession of the Technical Committee.
  - The Fly Reel with the backing, line and leaders attached will be provided for the Challenges.
  - Use of individual Reels and Lines is not permitted.
- Rule 3 – The Bamboo Rodmakers Challenge Rods fully assembled and ready for Reel and Line will weigh less than 3.5oz on the official Challenge Scale.
- The Weigh-in will be conducted under the supervision of the Challenge Technical Officer and once successfully weighed in, these rods will immediately be under the direct control of the Challenge Technical Committee until the end of the Challenge and then returned to the maker.
  - Makers will not be permitted to add material to the rod once it is weighed in. If they want to modify their rods prior to competition they may ask for the rod back, modify it, but it then must be weighed in again and placed under the control of the Technical Committee.
  - Makers will not be permitted to handle their rods until the end of the Challenges.
  - If a rod is overweight it will be rejected and the maker can make any “adjustments” they deem fit to get the assembled weight within the Challenge Limit.
  - Repair to a rod in the challenge will be permitted. The maker will have 1 hour to make the repair. The rod will be re-weighed in and placed back into the Challenge Technical Committee control.
  - If a rod breaks during the Challenge and cannot be repaired within an hour, then it is eliminated from the challenge.
    - If a rod is eliminated from the challenge the casts made with this rod will be nullified
    - For the finals, if a rod is eliminated, then the 6<sup>th</sup> best rod from the Qualifications will replace it in
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Rule 4 – The distance of the cast will be measured from the front edge of the casting box where there will be a common marking point for the tape measure to be attached, to the place where the “Fly” lands.

- There will be a 2’ x 3’ Casting box from which all casts will be made.
- The Caster will remain within the casting box or it will be considered a fault and count as a zero distance cast. The Technical Committee will immediately call the fault when the cast is made.
- All casts will be made with the bamboo fly rods provided by the Challenge Technical Committee. No modification of these rods or fly lines by the caster will be permitted and will result in immediate disqualification.
- Casters will be permitted two practice casts with a rod prior to going for the challenge 5 record casts.
  - The longest 3 record casts will count for their total.
  - Practice casts distance will not count for record.
- The number of false casts made during a cast is limited to 3.
- If the line hits the ground in front of the casting box, it will immediately count as a cast.
- Once the cast is made, a flag will be used to mark the location of the “fly” and distance measure to it.
- If the caster picks up the fly off the ground before it can be marked and measured, that cast will be counted as a zero distance cast.
- In case of a tie for cumulative distance total, then the tie breakers will be:
  - The Caster or Rod who had the longest single cast.
  - If the longest casts are identical then the longest non-counted record casts will be used one by one until one Caster or Rod has a greater distance.

Rule-5 The Casting Sequence for the Challenge will be as follows:

- The caster will assume their position in the casting box when directed by the technical committee.
  - The caster will be handed a rod and the fly line will be pulled out and the fly placed at a preset marker that is approximately 30’ from the casting box by the technical committee.
  - The caster will not be permitted to make any extra or extraneous casts with a challenge rod.
  - The caster is permitted to pull line from the reel and may lay it on the ground or in a casting basket.
  - The technical committee will say begin practice or record cast as appropriate.
  - The caster has a 1-minute time limit to begin the cast from the time he is directed to begin cast until that cast is made.
    - Failure to make a cast within a 1 minute window will result in a zero distance cast and count for record.
    - The Technical committee will give a 10 second warning that the caster’s time is expiring.
    - The Technical committee will say, “halt cast” when the time limit is reached and the cast is voided regardless if the caster attempts to start a cast.
    - The caster may ask the technical committee for a delay before casting if weather conditions are adverse.
    - The decision to grant delays and for how long is solely up to the technical committee.
  - The caster can make up to 3 false casts. The 4<sup>th</sup> false case results in a zero distance cast.
  - When the cast is made the caster will leave the line and fly on the ground until the committee measures the cast, it is recorded and they direct him to retrieve the line.
  - The sequence begins again with the fly being placed on the starting spot and the caster waits until he is directed to cast.
  - If the fly is “lost” during the cast or the rod breaks the technical committee will rule the cast, voided and it will neither count for or against the caster. A repair / replacement will be accomplished and the cast repeated in the designated sequence.
  - When the series of casts is completed, the caster will lay the rod down and exit the casting box. The technical committee will assume control of the rod.
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Rule-6 The Casting course will be set up as follows:

- The technical committee and the CFFC&M will lay out a casting challenge course that insures the caster have the necessary room to make casts without interfering objects.
- The casting challenge course will be marked to keep spectators behind a line and the technical committee will direct that individuals keep off the course.
- The CFFC&M, the Eastern Rodmakers and Cortland Line Company will appoint the Technical Committee and Challenge Technical Officer. No member of the technical committee can participate in either Challenge.
- The CFFC&M, the Eastern Rodmakers and Cortland Line Company will jointly select the Casting Professionals for the Rodmakers Challenge. The selected Casting Professionals cannot enter the Casting Challenge.
- Failure to heed the warning of the technical committee can result in disqualification.
- The casting box will be clearly marked so casters are aware of it dimensions.
- The marking peg at the front edge of the box will be clearly marked.
- The start area for the fly to be placed at the beginning of the cast will be clearly marked and easily seen by both challengers and spectators.
- The casting area will also have lines marking distance in 10' intervals beginning at 50' from the casting box.
- The technical committee will mark the longest distance cast in the challenge with a yellow flag to give the challengers a mark to shoot for.
- The casts made by challengers will be marked with red flags during the caster record tries and those flags will be removed for the next caster.
- The technical committee will establish a designed impoundment area that will have rod racks that will secure and protect the Challenge Rods.
  - This area will be roped off so it cannot be visited by challengers and spectators
- There will be a designated spectator / viewing area for both spectators and challengers to easily view the casting.
- The Impoundment area will be the designated area for the technical committee to control the rods and control the Challenge from.
  - Have electric power for a computer to record results
  - Be protected from weather (rain)
  - Have a board for posting results that is viewable by spectators and challengers alike.
- The designated parking area for participants and spectators will not interfere with the challenge casting.

Rule-7 Registration for the Rodmakers and Casting Challenge will be under the joint sponsorship of the CFFC&M, the Eastern Bamboo Rodmakers and Cortland Line Company.

- The CFFC&M will maintain the list of registered participants in the challenges.
  - All Participants must be registered by Saturday September 1, 2007.
  - "Walk-ons" to the competition will not be permitted.
  - Cortland Line Company may hold regional elimination qualifiers for the Casting Challenge as part of their marketing campaign
  - The CFFC&M will receive and account for all Challenge Registration donations.
  - The Eastern Rodmakers will forward challenge participants information to the CFFC&M as it receives registration information for the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Catskill Rodmakers Gathering to be held in conjunction with the event.
  - The CFFC&M can also arrange for food to be made available to the participants at and extra charge to participants. This will be indicated on registration forms.
  - The CFFC&M will coordinate the production of challenge medallions to be presented to the winner and any other prizes to be awarded to the participants.
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# **1<sup>st</sup> International Rodmakers and Casting Challenge**

## **Conduct of the Challenges**

There will be two parts to the Challenges. On Saturday, September 8, 2007 there will be the qualifications. This will be when the qualifying 5 best Bamboo Rods and Casters will be decided for the Finals to be conducted on Sunday, September 9, 2007.

The Rodmaker Challenge will only have a Qualification Round on Saturday September 8, 2007. The Casting Challenge may have regional elimination rounds prior to the Qualification Round based upon response. Cortland Line Company representatives will conduct these regional elimination rounds. The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum (CFFC&M) in Livingston Manor, NY will host the Qualification and Finals.

Entry fee to the Challenges will be \$25, payable to the CFFC&M as a donation to offset the expenses of hosting the Challenges. No entry fee will be required for those entrants that are registered for the 12<sup>th</sup> Catskill Rodmakers Gathering.

Qualification Rounds will be conducted on Saturday September 8, 2007. For the Rodmakers Challenge, selected professional casters will cast each challenge rod 5 times for distance. The top 3 distances will count for the rod. The 5 rods with total cumulative combined distance by all casters will be entered in the finals.

The Casting Challenge Qualification will have selected "stock" bamboo fly rods chosen by the Technical Committee as representing the various styles (parabolic, progressive and straight tapers) of quality casting bamboo fly rods. Each Challenge Caster will have 5 casts with each stock rod and the longest 3 will count for the cumulative total. The 5 Challenge Casters with the longest cumulative total distance will qualify for the finals.

In the Challenge Finals each Casting Challenge Finalist Caster will cast each Rodmaker Challenge Finals Rod 5 times. The longest 3 casts will count for both the Finals Caster and Finalist Rod. The Caster and Rod with the greatest cumulative total distance will be declared the winners of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Rodmakers and Casting Challenge. A presentation ceremony will be held immediately following the decision of the Challenge Technical Committee and certified by the Executive Director of CFFC&M.

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