

Hornád Open Fly Fishing Competition

Regulations 2026



Name of the competition:

Hornád Open

Organisor and Promotor:

Blue Circle, s.r.o. in cooperation with 'Hornad River Flyfishing'
Na Horke 30
040 01 Kosice, SK

hornadopen@gmail.com

Organising committee:

Michal Leibiczer (Chief Referee)
Peter Tomko (SRZ Council Official)
Tomas Eichler (Sector Referee / accommodation and organisation) +421 915 319 736
Robert Baldovic (Race director and Track construction) +421 908 188 888
Ab Olde-Scheper (International competitors contact) +421 907 707 005

Technical instructions:

The competition will be held in the LRU - fly fishing discipline according to the SZŠR competition rules for LRU - fly fishing. Each competitor is required to comply with the Enforcement Regulations for Fishing and Decision-Making during Competitions and the Regulations for Sports Activities of the SRZ III, 2012 edition, and their updates for 2026.

Competition Date and Schedule:

Saturday 30 May 2026

06:00 Presentation
06:45 - 07:00 Drawing of sectors and race sections

07:00 - 07:15 Start of competitors and opening of the race
07:30 - 08:00 Transfer of competitors to competition sections
08:00 - 09:00 First round of competition
09:00 - 09:20 Transfer of competitors to competition sections
09:20 - 10:20 Second round of competition
10:20 - 10:40 Transfer of competitors to competition sections
10:40 - 11:40 Third round of competition
11:40 - 12:00 Transfer of competitors to competition sections
12:00 - 13:00 Fourth round of the competition
13:00 - 14:30 Lunch break
14:30 - 15:00 Transfer of competitors to competition sections
15:00 - 16:00 Fifth round of the competition
16:00 – 16:20 Transfer of competitors to competition sections
16:20 – 17:20 Sixth round of the competition
17:20 – 18:00 Evaluation of the competition
18:00 Announcement of results and award ceremony

Competition location:

Bar 'Centrum Lodina'
Veľká Lodina 47, 044 81 Veľká Lodina

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/wdh2zpTHtK9rjkSv9>

Registration:

Registration possible until 20 May 2026 online via www.hornadopen.com

Entry Fee and Payment:

29,-- Euro per person to be paid by bank transfer mentioning **first and last name & 'Hornad Open'**

Bank details:

Tatra banka
Blue Circle s.r.o.
IBAN: SK17 1100 0000 0029 4113 0893
SWIFT code (BIC): TATRSKBX

Accommodation:

- The hostel of the local fishing organisation (MsO SRZ Kosice) can be booked through booking.com

use this link: <https://www.booking.com/Share-vNney3g>

Hornad Open competitors that book here will get a free breakfast on 30 and 31 May!

Or

- Partner hotel Michaels Palace, <https://www.hotelmichaelspalace.sk/>

Use the code HORNAD1 when booking on their website, for 10% discount on their standard tariff!

General rules summary:

- Individual race for amateurs and competition fly fishers
- Maximum number of competitors is 36
- Fly fishing only
- Catch and release only
- Barbless hooks only
- Wading necessary
- Minimum age 15 years

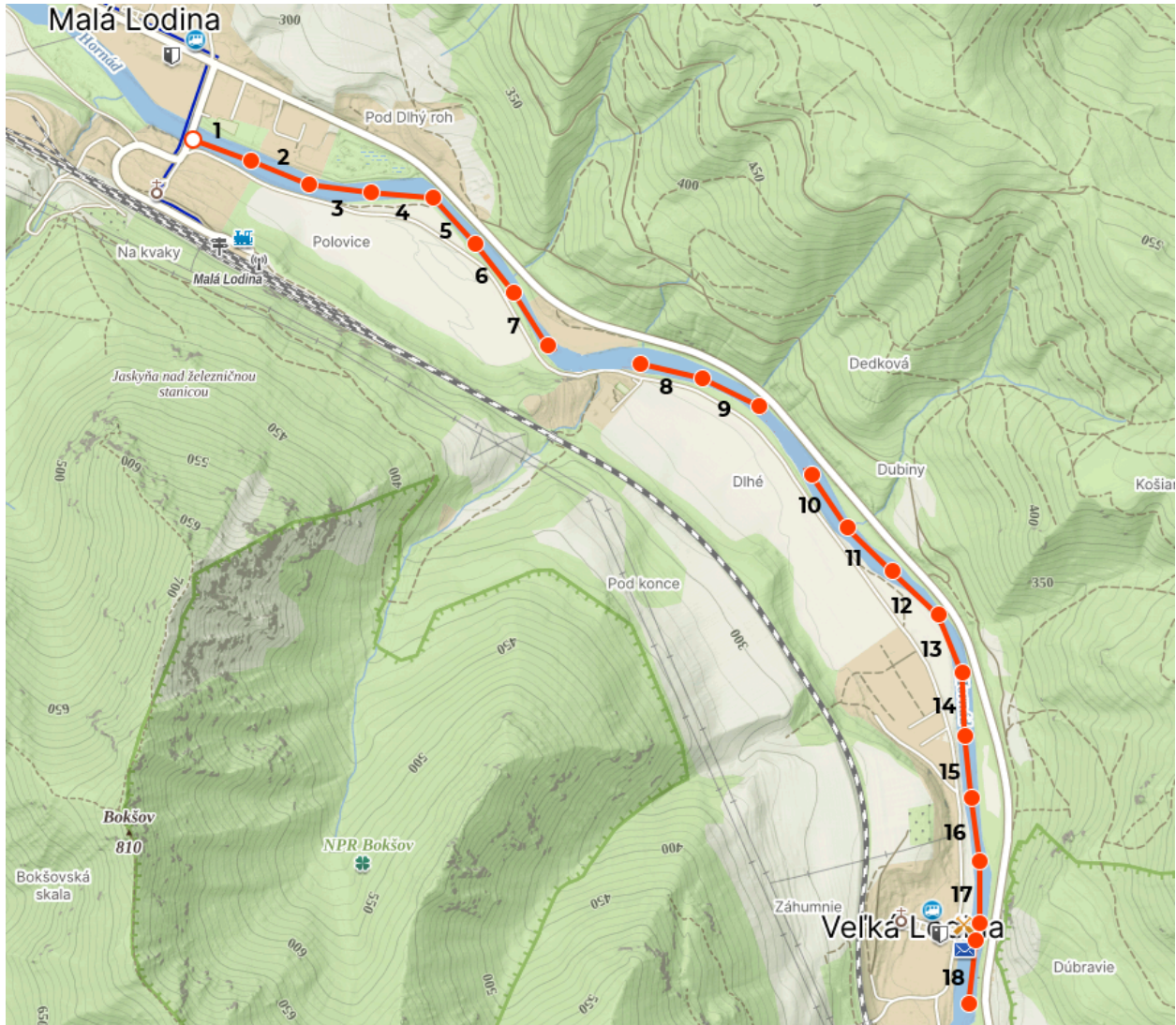
Competition method:

- You are fishing several sessions (3) on several beats based upon a random draw, and you will control several sessions (3) on several beats upon a random draw;
- You are fishing with an assigned competitor in every beat;
- When you will fish your assigned competitor will control, and you will control when your assigned competitor will fish.

River sections:

You are fishing on the catch & release part of the Hornád river in Veľká Lodina (no. 2b 4-0641-4-1), specifically the section between the bridges of Mala Lodina and Velka Lodina. This is a medium to fast flowing river with a water level between 1.2mtr - 1,80 mtr. The width of the river at the race course is 10-13 meters.

Wading is possible along the entire length of the race course. The bottom is hard, rocky, with gravel banks. The banks are overgrown with vegetation.



All sectors and beats are clearly marked and your sector and beats will be appointed to you during the morning draw. A river map will be handed to you at the event registration in the morning.

The beginnings and ends of the sectors are marked with tape on both banks of the river, unless they are formed by a natural obstacle (e.g. a bridge). The sectors are divided into competition sections with a length of ca.150 m.

The competition sections are marked in ascending order from number 1 in the direction of the flow.

Bank fishing and Wading is allowed

Fish Species:

You are fishing for Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Chub, Common Nase, Chad and Barbel.

Licenses and training:

The registration fee includes the regional fishing license and permits you to fish during the race day and one training day.

On Thursday 28 May and Friday 29 May, the days prior to the event, the race sections are closed for fishing. **Training is allowed on two other designated trout sections (Hornad 2a 4-0640-4-1, Mala Lodina & Hornad 2c 2-0642-4-1, Kysak)**. Your registration fee includes the regional fishing license and permits you to fly fish on the training day before the competition (Friday 29 May) under Catch and Release conditions with barbless hooks only. Training is allowed from 07:00 - 19:00.

Violation of the training rules is grounds for disqualification of the competitor from the competition.

A national fishing permit is obligatory. These are available in each local municipal office in Slovakia. Prices for a national license are:

- Euro 1,50 - For one week
- Euro 3,00 - For one month
- Euro 7,00 - For one year
- Euro 17,00 - For three years

If you need assistance in retrieving a national licence contact the organisation via hornadopen@gmail.com at least two weeks prior to the race!

Fly Rod:

fly fishing, fly fishing rods of any material with a maximum length of 366 cm, equipped with a fly fishing reel, may be used, and an automatic reel may also be used.

Competitors may have several rods assembled in a ready position.

Competitors are responsible for protecting their own rods and other equipment, even if they have agreed to have them carried by a personal referee during the competition.

Fly Line:

Competitors may use any factory-made fly line, floating, sinking or with a sinking end, except for those with a lead core. Each fly line must have a minimum diameter of 0.55 mm (0.22") with a surface coating.

Extension:

- Allowed is one extension (monofilament line including leader) with a maximum length of twice the length of the rod used.
- Extensions may be tied or whole, tapered from the fly line or of the same thickness. One simple loop (connector) with a maximum length of 10 cm may be used to connect the extension to the fly line. If the extension is tied, the minimum distance between the knots must be 30 cm in a freely hanging position.
- Side leaders to which no flies are tied are prohibited. If a side fly (double/triple) breaks off during the fight, the remaining part of the leader is considered regular and the fish caught may be presented for measurement.
- Micro rings are only allowed on the leader in a quantity of three, with a maximum size of three millimetres. Each micro ring may have three knots, and one micro ring is considered one knot.

Flies:

Competitors may only use flies tied to a single hook without a barb or with a ground or pressed barb, which must pass a test of smooth passage through fabric. Weighted flies are permitted if the weight is concealed in the body of the fly; flies whose body-shaped weight is only surface-treated (colouring, chemical treatment, etc.). A fly may have a maximum of one visible weight of any shape (usually round), which must be threaded on the axis of the hook without specifying the material and its treatment, and none of its dimensions may exceed 4 mm. Flies must not be modified by bending or straightening the hook, or by removing or concealing the point.

A competitor may have a maximum of three flies on the extension rod at a minimum distance of 50 cm measured freely in the vertical position of the extension rod, from eye to eye of the fly.

Explanation: If the length of the hook is less than 20 mm, the fly (its thickness) must fit into a 5 mm slot.

A 4 mm hole is the maximum size for a bead on a fly.

If the length of the hook exceeds the 20 mm gap, the fly (its thickness) must fit into a 3 mm gap.

The maximum total length of the hook must not exceed 40 mm.

The narrowest gap is 0.53 mm to check the smallest permitted diameter of the fly line. The line must not easily fit into the hole.

Weighted flies are permitted if the weight is concealed in the body of the fly and the weight does not extend beyond the hook bend and the length of the weight is no more than from the hook eye to the furthest part of the hook bend of the fly

Any attachments, parts, or fly bodies (worms, roe, fish, etc.) made of moulded or otherwise created artificial materials such as silicone, rubber, etc. are prohibited.

Moulded or extruded silicone/rubber material exceeding the level of the hook bend/eye of the hook is not permitted (squirms), with the exception of extruded thin rubber imitation legs up to 0.53 mm thick (measured with a notch in the international scale for checking the minimum diameter of the competition line)

Landing net:

The length of the landing net must not exceed 122 cm when fully extended. The net material must be made of soft cotton or other suitable soft material and, if possible, without knots.

Measuring device:

A trough-shaped measuring device with a length indicator in mm is used, allowing for the gentlest possible handling of the fish during measurement. The measuring devices are provided by the competition organiser. At the start of the competition, the measuring devices are taken over by the referees in the first round of the competition and carried throughout the competition.

Scoring card:

It is used to record the fish caught by competitors and is kept by their personal referee. It contains information about the competitor, the personal referee, a record of the competitor's offences, information about the fish caught, including the species, length and time of catch. Each piece of information about the fish caught must be signed by the competitor. Each fish caught must be immediately recorded by the personal referee on the scorecard and signed by the competitor. Failure to comply with this obligation is grounds for disqualification of both the competitor and the referee in the competition.

The competitor is responsible for receiving and handing over the scorecard. If the scorecard is not handed over within 45 minutes of the end of the morning or afternoon round of the competition, the competitor will be evaluated as a competitor without a catch in that round.

Presentation of participants:

The timing of the presentation is determined by the competition organiser in the competition rules.

During the presentation, the following will be carried out and prepared:

- list of competitors (cup competitions)
- list of referees
- the organiser's roster

Drawing of competitors and beats:

The draw is done manually at the reception and registration before the start of the race by drawing tickets. Each ticket provides a number of the fishing spot marked with the sector and number and function (fisherman or controller).

The draw is only carried out for the first round of the competition, it is entered into the programme and the programme adds further competitor positions according to the specified draw parameters, further processing and evaluation is carried out in this programme.

After all competitors have been drawn, the starting list is printed and posted. If, during a manual draw, a competitor draws the role of judge for a competitor from the same organisation or club, the programme will notify this during the draw recording and the draw for this competitor must be repeated.

Parameters entered for the programme – manual draw:

- the fisher and referee must not be from the same organisation or club
- A competitor will draw as and A-fisher or B-fisher.
 - A competitor who fished in the first round (A-fisher) of the competition shall judge in the second round of the competition, fish in the third round and judge in the fourth round. After the fourth round there will be a 2 hour break and lunchtime. After the lunch break the A-fisher will judge the the round and fish the sixth round.
 - A competitor who judges the first round (B-fisher) of the competition shall fish the second round, judge the third round and fish the fourth round. After the fourth round there will be a 2 hour break and lunchtime. After the lunch break the B-fisher with fish the fifth round and judge the sixth round.

Start of individual competitions:

The competition is started by the competitor's personal referee, according to his own timer.

Fishing and judging during the competition:

Fishing is permitted both from the shore and by wading in the water in such a way as not to disturb other competitors.

- Fishing is permitted with dry or wet flies, nymphing, trolling, or streamer fishing, or a combination of these methods.
- The fishing technique depends on the equipment used and is not otherwise restricted. Fishing is permitted with one rod.
- the starting bank is determined by the competitor before the competition at their own discretion and the referee is obliged to respect the competitor's decision,
- the competitor and their referee may only wade to the starting bank before the competition via the competitor's section,
- in the case of wading to the starting bank through another competitor's section, the competitor and his referee may do so no later than 1/2 hour before the start of the competition round and only by the shortest possible route,
- The personal referee moves along the starting bank in line with the competitor so as not to scare the fish away. If the competitor is fishing near the starting bank or if there is an island in the competition section that obstructs the referee's view of the competitor, the referee must make decisions on this island.
- Fish may only be caught using a landing net; fish caught without a landing net will not be counted.
- Fish are measured by the referee only on the starting bank.

- Fish that escape outside the competitor's section during landing will be recognised as a catch if they are caught in the assigned section.
- The minimum distance between competitors is 20 metres, with the competitor who starts the competition at the beginning of their section having priority at the start of the competition.
- Fish caught during the regular fishing time and landed within 10 minutes after the end of the regular time will be recognised as a catch.
- After being caught and landed in the landing net by the competitor, the fish should be brought to the referee for measurement as soon as possible. During the entire transfer, the fish should be submerged in water (if possible) or in contact with water.

Prohibited fishing methods and other prohibitions:

- a/ the use of any additional floating device on the line, leader or extension is prohibited,
- b/ It is prohibited to use any additional weights on the line, leader or extension.
- c/ Fishing without a fly line and with the aid of a casting reel.
- d/ fishing from water structures, road structures and vessels anchored or moored on rivers,
- e/ during the competition, competitors may not accept any outside assistance, except for verbal instructions from the team leader (captain) in team competitions,
- f/ competitors may not handle fish after landing them in a landing net, LRU-MUCHA Rules (Modification 2024) 22
- g/ Competitors are prohibited from training on the race course less than 5 days before the start of the race.
- h/ During the race, the referee is not allowed to wade in the race section – to accompany the competitor by wading. Exceptionally, he may enter the water only in order to bypass an obstacle that cannot be bypassed on the starting bank, with the consent of the competitor and only in the bank section and for the necessary length.
- i/ During the competition, neither competitors nor referees are allowed to change the starting bank, even by mutual agreement.
- j/ unsigned catches on the scorecard, pre-signed columns on the scorecard or signing of catches by the referee.

Interruption and premature termination of fishing:

Only the chief referee may interrupt or terminate the competition after consulting with the council guarantor and the competition director or the responsible representative of the organiser. The personal referee may interrupt the race for the necessary time for the following reasons (conditions threatening the health or life of competitors):

- health problems of a competitor or referee,
- storm,
- flash flood,
- threats from other persons or animals.

This interruption shall be reported to the sector referee, chief referee or race guarantor, and if the interruption does not exceed 20 minutes, the competitor shall be allowed to make up for this

time. All time data in these rules shall then be adjusted by this time for the competitor and his referee.

Cloudy water, rain, wind, cold weather, and rising water are not reasons for a personal referee to interrupt the competition.

Shortened competitions are valid if the competition lasts at least 60 minutes in the case of cup competitions and 90 minutes in the case of team competitions

Catches:

The fish being scored must be hooked in the head section, i.e. from the tip of the nose to the rear edge of the gill arch, and its minimum total length from the tip of the nose to the longest part of the compressed tail fin must be equal to or greater than 20 cm.

Fish hooked outside the head area, clearly not reaching the prescribed length, or non-scored fish species must be returned to the water by the competitor after catching, without physical contact and without undue delay, with due care.

In non-scored competitions, all fish species listed in the competition rules are evaluated.

Measuring catches:

The competitor will bring the fish caught in the landing net to the starting bank of the drawn competition section for measurement by the referee, who is obliged to watch where the competitor decides to get out of the water and, without undue delay and with due care, follow him so that the competitor loses as little time as possible waiting for the referee. The referee carefully removes the fish from the landing net with wet hands, releases the hook and places it in a wet measuring device with its head facing the beginning of the measuring scale. After measuring to the nearest millimetre, the referee revives the fish by holding it with its head against the flow and releases it back into the water. The valid length for recording the catch on the scorecard is from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail fin pressed together. The referee is obliged to carry out this entire process without delay and with due care. Any physical contact between the competitor and the fish during landing and measuring is not permitted.

Once the competitor has signed the scorecard, no complaints or protests regarding the length of the fish shall be accepted. In the event of a dispute between the judge and the competitor regarding the length of the fish, the judge shall make the final decision on the length of the fish. If the caught fish does not reach the prescribed minimum length, the referee shall return it to the water without undue delay and with due care after measuring it. In the event of a fish being lost due to the fault of the judge during the evaluation, the judge shall enter the abbreviation "SR" (lost fish) in the column for the length of the caught fish on the scorecard. In the case of the "Scoring catches without measuring catches" method of evaluation, only one fish or a number of fish specified in the rules shall be measured, in accordance with the instructions in the section "Scoring catches without measuring catches".

Scoring catches:

For each fish that can be scored, the competitor receives 100 points and 20 points for each centimetre of the fish's length, rounded up to the nearest whole number (21.2 – actual length = 22 cm – scored length). The number of fish caught, the sum of their lengths (cm) (after rounding each fish) and the largest fish caught in mm are entered into the results programme. The programme automatically calculates the points. Fish shorter than 200 mm are not evaluated. If a fish is lost by the judge during measurement, the competitor will be awarded the length of the fish calculated as the average of all fish caught in the relevant competition in the given sector. The length of the fish awarded in this way will be scored by the head judge.

The score system can be adjusted according to the advice of the Chief Referee.

Complaints:

All complaints regarding the results list must be formulated and submitted to the chief referee within 30 minutes of the results being published. The Chief Referee has the sole rights for judging the complaint and taking appropriate actions according to his judgement.

Rights and obligations of participants:

All participants shall conduct themselves in accordance with the competition rules, shall have the same rights and obligations under these rules, and shall compete at their own risk.

Personal referee:

The duties of personal referees are:

- be familiar with the competition rules
- be obliged to cooperate with the sector referee, chief referee, and council guarantor and follow their instructions
- cooperate with other members of the organising committee in ensuring the proper conduct of the competition,
- supervise and control the competitor's fishing activities and evaluate their performance in accordance with the competition rules,
- release, measure and carefully return the measured fish to the water,
- record the measurement results in the scoring card,
- check that the distance between competitors is maintained,
- transmit time signals,
- apply sanctions against competitors if they violate the competition rules,
- resolve disputes between competitors with neighbouring referees,
- propose a warning ("yellow card") for a competitor by recording it on the scorecard,
- propose the disqualification of a competitor by recording it in the scoring card,
- resolve cases of spectators and the surrounding area disturbing a competitor in such a way that neither the spectator nor the competitor is injured. A referee whose competitor has not

appeared must remain at the designated location for another 30 minutes before leaving the stand. The referee shall report the competitor's failure to appear to the sector or chief referee.

Penalty rules:

- a) Disqualification follows the awarding of a "red card". Even after receiving a red card, the competitor must complete the race.
- b) Two "yellow cards" are equivalent to a red card.
- c) If a competitor is disqualified, they will be assigned a position equal to the number of participants in the race plus one.
- d) A competitor who is given a yellow card by the refereeing committee will have their offence noted on their registration card for a period of 2 years. In the event of any further offence during these 2 years, the committee will consider this a repeat violation of the rules, which will be dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary rules.

Rights reserved:

The organizer hold the right to change or modify the competition rules and regulations, which will be timely published on the website and or the notice board during the event.