

NZACA CASTING

The Sport of Casting

THE HISTORY OF THE SPORT OF CASTING

Exactly when casting as a sport began, or in what country, is not definitely known. In the United States of America it can be traced back to the 1860's when the first tournament was held. At that time casting was for the most part fly-casting which had been introduced to the American's by the English and Irish fishermen. It wasn't until 1883 that the baitcasting was introduced as a competitive event.

Robert B Morston, founder and editor of *The Fishing Gazette* (London) organized the first modern-day type of tournament in England at Welsh Harp fishery, Hendon, in 1881.

From the United States and England the casting sport spread to most European countries and to Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

In 1907 the National Association of Scientific Angling Clubs (NASAC) was formed in America. The NASAC later changed its name to the National Association of Angling and Casting Clubs (NAACC); and is the precursor to today's existing American Casting Association (ACA).

During the first two decades of the twentieth century many European countries got organized into national federations. Casting tournaments started to be held regularly in these countries. For example the first casting tournament in Sweden was held in 1917.

Casting as a sport was by nature quite different from the modern casting of today. The rods and tackle were much different, split-cane and steel rods were used while today we use carbon fibre and other modern material rods. The participants at the casting events were mostly gentlemen from fishing clubs who met and socialized. All casting was done on water. The results recorded were poor compared with today's and proof that modern equipment and better technique has helped greatly. For example in 1940 the world record for single-handed fly distance was 42.6 metres and today the record exceeds 70 metres.

After World War II the interest in sport casting grew considerably and many Americans serving in the US armed services in Europe competed regularly in casting tournaments. It became apparent to the American and European casters alike that a uniform set of rules and regulations were

essential for successful international competitions.

Early in 1953 an invitation was sent out by the NAACC to numerous National Casting Associations inviting them to join the proposed International Casting Federation (ICF). The proposal was well received and resulted in numerous National Associations returning their membership application and naming their delegates, thus founding the ICF. The ICF is now known as the International Casting Sport Federation (ICSF) and was officially formed in 1955.

Original members of the ICF included New Zealand, Australia, USA, Belgium, Finland, Britain, Norway, Sweden and Holland.

Presidents and General Secretaries have been elected annually and have come from most of the member countries of the Federation. New Zealander Con Voss from Rotorua was a Vice President from 1962, but New Zealand, to date, has never had a President

I.C.F. World Championships are held regularly. Past host countries include New Zealand in 1962 as shown below:

1957 West Germany	1980 Austria
1958 Belgium	1982 Czech Republic
1959 England	1984 Canada
1960 Belgium	1986 Spain
1961 Norway	1988 Bulgaria
1962 New Zealand	1990 France
1963 West Germany	1992 Czech Republic
1964 Sweden	1994 Switzerland
1965 Belgium	1996 South Africa
1966 England	1998 Slovakia
1967 Norway	2000 Sweden
1968 Switzerland	2002 Slovenia
1970 Sweden	2004 Switzerland
1973 England	2006 Ireland
1974 Australia	2008 Poland
1975 South Africa	2010 Croatia
1976 USA	2012 Estonia
1977 Norway	
1978 Sweden	

In New Zealand our competitive casting has been more aligned to what is carried out in England, Australia and some other countries where the emphasis has been more on weight distance casting rather than “fly & plug” casting which is the main component of I.C.S.F. competitions. With a

desire to be able to compete internationally with such countries, who cast similar to ourselves, it was decided at the 2012 Association AGM to adopt the rules commonly referred to as the "UKSF rules". This system allows for the use of different line weights coupled with different lead weights in distance events. Accuracy events remain basically unchanged.

NZACA Casting Competitions

Each year the Association conducts a Postal Casting Competition, Three (3) Regional Casting events and a casting competition at the National Championships, comprising distance events using a weight plus accuracy events using imitation bait.

Each casting event has eight categories: Open male and female, Veteran male and female, (55 – 64 years), Golden Oldie male and female (over 65 years), juniors (12 – 17 years) and midgets (under 12's). Ages as at 1st January of current NZACA financial year.

Competitors are allowed three distance casts using line & weight combinations of their own choice from the options available plus three accuracy casts.

In the Postal Casting competition there is a handicap system (to help encourage new casters to take up the sport), which decides the most improved casters and an overall champion decided on the total points in each class.

Clubs are encouraged to hold their own casting days, results of which can be forwarded to the NZACA National Office to be considered for the Postal Casting Competition, as well as for the clubs own competition.

To be eligible for Postal Competition the results must be at the National Office by 1 December each year and on an official Postal Casting Form obtained from the National Secretary. There is a small charge per competitor to cover processing costs

Place getters in the Postal Casting Competition are recognized by the issuing of certificates. There are also Postal Casting trophies, which are awarded at the Nationals Prize-giving function each year. Postal Casting has its own set of records.

Regional event locations are decided by the Executive for each year and there will be opportunities not only to compete but to learn and experiment with different line and lead weight combinations.

At the Nationals results are based on aggregate points of distance and accuracy casts. The Overall Casting Champion at the NZACA Nationals

can come from any competing competitor. Casting results are also included in finding the overall Champion Surfcaster (Wiseman Cup) in New Zealand.

NZ Casting records can only be set at the three Regional sanctioned NZACA Casting Events and the NZACA Nationals. These events will all use electronic approved measuring equipment with the presence of at least two (2) officers or committee members who are not personally involved in the cast.

For more information contact the National Secretary or look at the NZACA website.

The following events are held at annual NZACA nationals to find the champion in each category.

EVENTS. For all classes except Midgets.

Event 1. Distance up to 200 grams.

Weight The weight can be 50, 75, 100, 125, 150 175 or 200 grams
Casts Three
Line and leader to comply with new NZACA rules implemented at the 2012 NZACA AGM. (Refer to rules)

Event 2. Accuracy – artificial bait

Weight 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175 or 200 grams
Bait A wooden dowel 100mm long by 10mm diameter attached to weight with line 450mm in length.
Casts Men 100, 80 and 60 metres.
Ladies 90, 80 and 60 metres
Line and leader to comply with new NZACA rules implemented at the 2012 NZACA AGM. (Refer to rules)

EVENTS for those 12 & under (midgets class)

Event 3. Distance

As for event 1 but weight must not exceed 100 grams

Event 4. Accuracy – artificial bait.

As for event 2 but the weight must not exceed 100 grams and casts to be at 20, 40 and 60 metres.