

An excerpt from the NFLCC Bylaws, Standing Rules and Code of Ethics.

Rule 6. SALES AND TRADING GUIDELINES

A. Members should answer all inquiries and correspondence promptly and courteously; promptly advise individuals of the acceptance or rejection of a tackle exchange; always give a fair and equitable value in a trade or sale exchange of tackle items.

B. No trade or sale is final or complete until both members mutually agree to the exchange acceptance. If one or both parties do not, or cannot reach a mutually acceptable agreement within a period of no more than 14 days, all tackle items and monies must be returned to the respective owners in a courteous and prompt manner. Regardless of subsequent facts or information, after 14 days all exchanges are considered final.

C. All face-to-face transactions at sanctioned NFLCC functions are to be considered final; the 14-day return/exchange policy does not apply. An exception would apply if a Code of Ethics violation by the seller was attributed to the transaction by the buyer. If the disagreement cannot be settled by the parties, then the parties can seek settlement from an NFLCC arbitration committee. The arbitration committee would have the power to implement a return privilege with the outcome of the arbitration. The NFLCC encourages both parties in a face-to-face transaction to inspect, question, seek advice and counsel on all items before final agreement.

D. If members participating in non-sanctioned NFLCC activities (such as sports shows and electronic auction/bidding systems) identify themselves as an NFLCC member, they should indicate in writing their return/exchange policy, and should always request the same from others with whom they are dealing. If they plan to extend the NFLCC return policy to other NFLCC members, they should clearly state so, and should always ask the same in return, in writing.

E. Members offering tackle for sale through bid or sales list, and/or websites must always provide clear and adequate disclosure of all terms of sale, bid process, deadlines, postage, insurance, shipping, etc. Members selling tackle items for others (consignment sales) should assume liabilities of shipment, description, and finality of sale unless so disclaimed on such listings. All items must be fairly and honestly described. Consignment sales should be clearly identified as such on sale or bid lists.

F. The NFLCC Standard Lure Grading System, the NFLCC Standard Reel Grading System, and/or the NFLCC Standard Rod Grading System, should be used on all sale and bid lists and verbal discussions of tackle grading. Bid or sales lists should include a maximum 14-day return privilege, from the buyer to the seller. After 14 days all exchanges are considered final.

Rule 7. GRADING SYSTEMS

1. NFLCC Standard Lure Grading System*

Numerical Scale Description / Condition

- 10 (NIB) New-in-box. Unused w/original box or carton
- 9 (M) Mint. Unused w/o box
- 8 (EXC) Excellent. Very little or no age cracks, very minor defects
- 7 (VG) Very Good. Little age cracks; some minor defects
- 5-6 (G) Good. Some age cracks; starting to chip, small defects
- 3-4 (AVG) Average. Some paint loss and/or chipping; showing age
- 2 (F) Fair. Major paint loss and/or defects; much chipping
- 1 (P) Poor. Parts missing, poor color and/or major chipping
- 0 (R) Repaint. Original paint covered over in all or part

* Originally obtained from "Streater's Reference Catalog of Old Fishing Lures" 1978. Conditions may be clarified by the use of (+) or (-) ratings with the regular, or by the numerical scale and adding ½ to the rating number.

2. NFLCC Standard Reel Grading System

Numerical Scale, Appearance, Description, Examples of Imperfections

- A10 Mint. Original factory condition, never used. Unflawed. Looks "Mint" but no guarantees as to whether it was ever used.
 - A9 Excellent, used condition. Hard rubber still polished; edges sharp; markings sharp; machining marks crisp; plating intact; no corrosion or pitting; no chips; if recently polished, no scratches.
 - A8 Very Good, used condition. Occasional light scratch; minor normal plating wear; rubber edges may not be sharp; foot lightly filed or somewhat bent; clean; crank knobs tight.
 - A7 Very Good, with minor flaws. Small chip(s); some plating wear; screw slots obviously used; light cleansing required; if recently polished, some surface defect.
 - A6 Good, used condition. Chip(s); small dent(s); scratch or two from normal use; light corrosion; foot filed more heavily or bent more severely; some screws "buggered".
 - A5 Good, more serious flaws. Larger chips and/or scratches; heavier corrosion; light pitting; slight bends in pillar, crank; knob pin(s) bent or loose; may need small replacement parts such as a screw, nut, or bearing cap. Easily restorable.
 - A4 Fair, has significant problem. Heavy corrosion; buggered screws; cracked rubber plate; small broken part; missing major part(s) such as pillar, line guide, click button; foot seriously damaged.
 - A3 Fair, more serious problems. Broken foot or other frame part; bent or badly dented plated. Major restoration needed.
 - A2 Poor. May be useful for parts
 - A1 Virtually valueless except, perhaps, for scrap.
- ### 3. Mechanical Condition

Numerical Scale Description/Examples of Imperfections

M10 Excellent. All functions work perfectly, no wear

M9 All functions work well, though some wear apparent. Spool fully adjustable; strong click; strong brake; smooth level-wind; worthy of use.

M8 Very Good. All functions work well, though complete adjustment may not be possible. Slight spool dinging; some click wear; brake pressure may not be maximal.

M7 Normal use and wear. Spool "sloppy"; click weakening; level-wind slightly wobbly.

M6 Good. All functions work, but some may be fairly worn. Some gear noise; click may slip or be very weak; brake pressure weak; level-wind needs new pawl.

M5 Functions work, but with some difficulty. Click or brake not functional; level-wind jams; broken gear tooth or worn gears. Restorable with minimal effort.

M4 Fair. Functional problem(s) requiring manufacture of minor part(s) if not replaceable from "parts" reels.

M3 Major functional problem(s), possible due to missing or broken parts that are not easily replaced.

M2 Poor. Major problems requiring major restoration.

M1 Restoration would require almost building the reel from scratch.

Ratings for both appearance and mechanical condition should be used to supplement complete verbal descriptions. Restoration should be indicated by an "R" after the rating number; restored parts should be marked as such. Replacement of a part with a correct one of the same manufacture need not be considered as restoration.

4. NFLCC Standard Rod Grading System

Numerical Scale Description / Condition

10 (NIB) New-in-box. Unused w/original container

9(M) Mint. Unused w/o container

8 (EXC) Excellent. Very minor flaws in finish, over all condition excellent

6-7 (VG) Very Good. Finish showing wear, no missing parts

4-5(G) Good. Minor physical problems, finished

scratched or worn, possible rewrap and/or revarnished, minor parts missing.

2-3(F) Fair. Major physical problems, such as, cane separation, short tip, etc.

1(P) Poor. A junker, good for parts only.

Conditions may be clarified by the use of (+) or (-) ratings with the regular, or by the numerical scale and adding ½ to the rating.

Reproductions, Repaints, Restorations, Folk Art and Contemporary Guidelines for Lures, Decoys, Rods and Reels, not excluding any item related to the hobby of fishing collectibles.

1. Definitions

a. Reproductions: A contemporary imitation of a rod, lure, decoy or fishing related item by a craftsman or company intended to appear identical or nearly identical to the original or commercially produced product.

b. Repaints: An authentic lure, decoy or fishing related item that has been repainted in any manner after the craftsman or company originally marketed or manufactured said item.

c. Restoration: An authentic lure, decoy, rod or fishing related item restored to the original condition of up to but not exceeding 20% of the item. Restoration exceeding 20% shall be considered a repaint.

d. Folk Art: A unique lure or fishing related item, regardless of size or color, by an individual reflecting personal craftsmanship and unique regional style.

e. Contemporary: A modern lure, decoy or related item manufactured by a present day craftsman or company.

f. NFLCC Commemorative Limited Edition Lure: A modern lure which must be indelibly marked and box marked with NFLCC and year of issue.

2. Identification of Reproductions, Repaints and Restorations

a. Reproductions: The NFLCC does not support the reproduction of antique fishing tackle for fraudulent purposes. Reproductions may be displayed and/or sold at any sanctioned NFLCC show or event, only if they are permanently marked, tagged, or otherwise clearly identified as such.

b. Repaints: Shall be marked deeply into the lure or item with the artist's initial or trademark, in such a manner making it impossible to remove without altering the item. The artist's identifying mark or marks should be registered with the NFLCC Secretary/Treasurer, to be published annually for identification and educational purposes.

c. Restoration: Any known restoration or alteration must be pointed out to a prospective buyer or trader. An identifying tag should be attached to the item to avoid misunderstanding. Failure to do so will void a sale/trade at the option of the buyer or trader within 14-day exam period.