

## **Backlashes & Loops Tips**

### **Baitcasting Reels**

Backlashes on a baitcast level wind reel can be frustrating but are a part of fishing we encounter at some time. With proper reel settings there is a way to keep them at a minimum. First hold the rod at a 45 degree angle then adjust the tension knob on the side of the reel to a point where the lure weight will make it descend slowly when you put the reel in free spool. When the lure hits the ground the spool should stop turning with no loops forming. If the tension is set too loose you will surely get backlashes as the spool will not stop when the lure is cast and hits the water. It is safer to set the tension tighter as that will only shorten the casting distance but reduce or eliminate backlashes. Your reel may also have a magnetic side break that can be adjusted to control the end of the cast. The higher the number setting the less chance of a backlash but also shorter casts. Experiment to see what is the best setting. During your cast you can also add slight thumb pressure to the spool to maintain gentle line tension as the lure head toward your target. Proper reel settings will minimize or eliminate backlashes.

If you do get a backlash, the first thing to do is nothing. Do not begin pulling on the snarled loops. Instead, put the reels drag on full tension, press your thumb hard against the line / spool and reel hard. This reverses the direction of the fouled loops, and they will pick out 9 times out of 10. Keep repeating this process until the backlash is gone. You won't believe this until you try it, and it is especially true with braided lines.

### **Spinning Reels**

When a loop forms on the spool of your spinning reel, do not open the bail to pull the loop free - this will only worsen the tangle. Instead, loosen the drag and pull the line off steadily against tension, until the loop is drawn free. Reel up slack under tension from your thumb and forefinger to avoid other loops.

To help avoid spinning reel line tangles develop the habit of always flipping the bail closed manually. Do not close the bail by turning the reel handle. It's important to make sure you manually flip the bail closed on any spinning reel at the end of the cast every single time before your lure touches the water at the end of the cast. This helps stop loops from forming.

By closing the bail before the lure touches the water there is still tension on the spool. The line is tightly packed. When you wait until the lure settles into the water you have slack line which can cause tangles on the spool. If you have some slack line after the cast sweep your rod backwards (away from the lure) until there is no slack line and then start reeling. This will minimize line tangles.

It also pays to carry a "pick" to be able to pick at tight loops to free the line if necessary.

**Practice makes perfect.**