
REQUIREMENTS FOR BASS FISHING TOURNAMENTS DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY

(effective June 17, 2020 until further notice)

There are several modifications and additional restrictions and requirements based on maximum group size limits, the need to avoid congestion at and/or near boat launches and nearby facilities (including picnic areas, parking lots and other DEEP properties) and maintain adequate “social distance” from other users.

All bass tournaments will be required to observe the following conditions:

- Maximum size of 50 individuals for standard tournaments (tournaments with 51 to 100 participants may be permitted following consultation with DEEP, additional requirements not listed here may also apply). This includes participating anglers, organizers running the tournament but not fishing, and any spectators or others associated with the tournament.
- All participants shall adhere to current requirements concerning social distancing and participant behavior at outdoor gatherings as provided for by Governor’s Executive Order, state and local laws and regulations, and current outdoor facility use requirements as set by applicable management for use of outdoor facilities (in most cases this will be for use of DEEP’s boat launches). ***These provisions include, but are not limited to, wearing a mask whenever one is within 6 feet of any non-household member.***
- **No physical weigh-in at or near the launch facilities, including docks, ramp, parking area, and associated green space.** DEEP strongly suggests the use of catch- measure –immediate release procedures for all tournaments.

Failure to follow these requirements could lead to permit revocation and will negatively impact future applications for fishing tournament permits.

Additionally, there are new provisions concerning permitting and tournament use of facilities:

- Until further notice no tournament or tournaments will be allowed to exceed use of more than 50% of the parking capacity at any state boat launch.
- Should multiple tournaments be permitted on the same day at a launch, the start and end times will be staggered by at least one (1) hour between tournaments.

Please contact Bill Foreman (860-424-3868, William.foreman@ct.gov) for additional information and guidance.

Thank you for your patience during these difficult times. We will continue to provide updates as the situation and requirements are modified further.