



ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR FISHING TOURNAMENTS AT CANDLEWOOD LAKE

Candlewood Lake is one of Connecticut's best and most important fishery resources. The lake provides excellent fishing for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, brown trout rainbow trout, and various panfish species. As a result, it is one of the most popular lakes among tournament bass anglers. More than 140 tournaments are held each year at Candlewood's two public launch areas.

Despite its large size (5,420 acres), boat traffic at Candlewood Lake is frequently heavy. More than 5,500 boats are docked or moored on the lake and up to 200 can gain access through the public launch facilities.

All permits for fishing tournaments at Squantz Cove and Lattins Cove launch areas and Danbury Town Park are issued with the following conditions. All tournament anglers must abide by these instructions. These are necessary to minimize inconvenience to local residents. Following these guidelines helps protect the privileges enjoyed by conscientious anglers and boaters. Please note that your **permit can be immediately revoked** for failure to follow these guidelines. The approval of future permit applications can also be affected.

1. **NOISE:** Minimize the disturbance to those living on the lakeshore by being as quiet as possible when on the water and at the boat launch.
2. **LAUNCH USE AND START TIMES:**
 - **A separate permit is required for each launch used by tournament participants.**
 - Tournaments using one launch cannot start prior to 7:00 AM. Tournaments using more than one launch may not start prior to 8:00 AM.
 - At **Squantz Cove**, tournament anglers must proceed at **no-wake speed** out of the cove until they are well beyond the point and into the main body of the lake. At **Lattins Cove**, tournament anglers must proceed at **no-wake speed** out of the cove until beyond the marked channel.
 - Anglers must not warm up motors at high idle prior to **7:00 AM**.
 - **"Blast-off" starts are prohibited** anywhere on the lake.
 - Please be courteous to local residents who may wish to sleep in the mornings.
 - **Use of 2 or more boat launches-**
 - * Tournaments that launch from **more than one boat launch** may not start until **8:00 AM**. If the event has a single start location, boats launching at other launches may not motor over to the start location prior to 7:00 AM. Please idle out of the coves before motoring over to the start location.
 - * Tournaments that launch from Danbury Town Park can start at 7:00 AM only if **all** tournament boats launch at that site.
3. **SAFETY & BOATING REGULATIONS:** Tournament contestants must adhere to all boating regulations including speed limits (**45 mph** during the day and **25 mph** from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise). Fishing in or casting into DEP-permitted swim areas is prohibited. Night tournament participants are reminded that recreational boats (including those stopped and fishing) must display their required navigation lights at all times between sunset and sunrise. Speed, wake, and reckless operator laws and safety equipment requirements will be strictly enforced! **Participants receiving Boating Safety violations (both citations and written warnings) should be disqualified.**
4. **WEIGH-IN:** Weigh-ins should be held in a location that does not impede the normal flow of traffic through the area.
5. **COURTESY:** Tournament anglers should be respectful of persons in private marinas and on private docks. Do not obstruct movement of other boats in and around marinas. Do not cast onto private boats or docks.

Common courtesy and a concern for the resource will go a long way towards ensuring the future of tournament fishing at Candlewood Lake. Good luck and good fishing.