



## GUIDELINES FOR FISHING TOURNAMENTS AT CANDLEWOOD LAKE

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*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 150 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 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 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). **State regulations prohibit fishing in or into a swim area that's been permitted by DEEP.** Night tournament participants are reminded that recreational boats (including those stopped and fishing) must always display their required navigation lights 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.***

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## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NIGHTTIME FISHING TOURNAMENTS ON CANDLEWOOD LAKE AT SQUANTZ POND STATE PARK (SQUANTZ COVE LAUNCH)

*The popularity of tournament fishing has increased greatly over the last three decades. In Connecticut, approximately 800 fishing tournaments are held on public waters annually. At the same time, participation in other water dependent recreational activities has increased. As a result, competition for access to Connecticut's public waters is intense. To both enhance angling opportunities and avoid daytime overcrowding, several groups are sponsoring nighttime fishing tournaments during the summer months. While this may help alleviate crowding during periods of peak usage, it can potentially cause additional problems with lakefront residents if precautions are not taken to minimize noise and intrusive behavior.*

*At Candlewood Lake, plans submitted well over a decade ago to renovate the Lattins Cove access area faced considerable opposition from residents and elected officials. One principal area of concern was nighttime activities at the launch, which include fishing tournaments. DEEP does not believe that the complaints against tournament anglers as a group are accurate. Rather, we are confident that organized anglers are being blamed for the indiscretions of a few irresponsible boaters and anglers. However, we also felt it might be helpful to our overall objectives if nighttime fishing tournament activities were suspended at the Lattins Cove launch. Subsequently, arrangements were made to accommodate tournament anglers at the Squantz Cove Launch. We hope that this concession might help to allay the concerns of residents and give DEEP an opportunity to show that it listens to concerns submitted by the public.*

**All permits for nighttime fishing tournaments at Squantz Cove launch are issued with the following conditions.** All tournament anglers must abide by these instructions. These are necessary to minimize inconvenience to residents and to help 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**. Noise should be kept to an absolute minimum and outboard motors must not be powered up until well out onto the lake. Amplified sound and generators cannot be used.
2. **LIGHTS**: The use of spotlights should be minimized. Anglers should be careful to avoid shining lights on shorefront residences.
3. **LAUNCH AND TAKEOUT**: All tournament contestants must arrive at the boat launch by 8:00 PM.
4. **WEIGH-IN**: Tournament anglers must be mindful of other boaters and area residents during weigh-ins. Keep noise to an absolute minimum and do not impede boaters who are launching.
5. **SAFETY & BOATING REGULATIONS**: Tournament contestants must adhere to all boating regulations including speed limits (**25 MPH FROM ½ HOUR AFTER SUNSET TO ½ HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE** and 45 mph during the day). Speed, wake, and reckless operator laws and safety equipment requirements will be strictly enforced! **Navigational lights must be always displayed between sunset and sunrise. Participants receiving Boating Safety violations (both citations and written warnings) should be disqualified from the tournament.**

In addition to the above, tournament contestants should be familiar with all boating regulations. **COMMON COURTESY AND A CONCERN FOR THE RESOURCE WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS ENSURING THE FUTURE OF TOURNAMENT FISHING IN CONNECTICUT WATERS.** Good luck and good fishing.