

COMPETITIVE ANGLING

# WHEN WE FISH AGAIN

Best Practice for the safe resumption of angling competitions in England under COVID 19 restrictions

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# COMPETITIVE ANGLING

## Best Practice for the safe resumption of angling competitions in England under COVID 19 restriction

### 1

#### Running Competitions

- Subject to closed season, owner and fishery specific restrictions. Competitions will be permitted on all waters where social distancing guidance can be adhered to. This would include commercial fisheries, canals, rivers and lakes.
- All competitors will fish on allocated "pegs". It is the organisers responsibility to ensure that these pegs are appropriately spaced to ensure that social distancing is maintained at all times.

### 2

#### Booking in payment of Pools / Entry money

- Anglers should "book on" to a competitions as per the organiser's instructions, usually in advance by phone, email or on-line.
- Pools and peg fees should be paid as stipulated by the organiser. Wherever possible avoid cash transactions

### 3

#### Travel / Arrival at the venue

- Competitors should travel in accordance with current Government guidelines only. On arrival at the venue vehicles should pay strict attention to signage and park under the instructions of the fishery/organiser.
- On leaving the vehicle, strict social distancing measures must be adhered to at all times maintaining a minimum of 2 meters apart. No physical greetings handshaking etc. to take place.
- Cafes / shops and inside seating areas will remain closed. Book and collect facilities may be available at some venues for refreshments.
- Onsite tackle shops should only open in line with Government guidance. Click and collect facilities may be available.
- Observe strict cleaning instructions when using on-site toilet facilities.

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### 4

#### The Draw

- The draw should be held in accordance with the organiser's pre-stated process to ensure social distancing is maintained..
- Wherever possible the draw should take place online.
- Where an onsite draw is necessary to comply with rules on organised gatherings the draw should take place outside conforming to the rules on social distancing.
- Hand sanitizer should be made available.
- If using a "raffle style" approach it is recommended that the organiser should be the only person to draw.
- When a peg is allocated the angler should immediately make their way to the fishing location as normal.

### 5

#### Use of keepnets / Weighing in

- Keepnets are permitted for use in competitions and should be used in accordance with the local fishery rules. Check fishery rules for permission to use if pleasure fishing.
- At the end of the competition competitors will be expected to remain at their pegs until the weighing official arrives. Strictly no anglers are permitted to follow the scales.
- Ensuring safety and adherence to the social distance guidelines during the weigh-in is the responsibility of the organiser. Two weighing officials will be appointed, one to weigh the fish and the other to record the weights. Weighing officials should consider the use of gloves and masks as a precaution and maintain social distancing measures at all times.
- The angler should remove their keepnet themselves and transfer the fish into the weigh sling without breaching social distancing guidance (weigh slings of a self-supporting design achieve this). The angler must then step away to allow the weighing official to come in and weigh the fish. The weighing official then calls the weight and the anglers must agree that they are happy with it. The weighing official then returns the fish to the water. The process is then repeated if several weighs are required. Social distancing guidelines i.e. the 2m rule should be obeyed at all times.
- Once weighed in the angler will pack up and return directly to their vehicle.
- **In order to avoid breaching Government rules on organised gatherings special attention should be made to the announcement of results at the end of the match.**

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### 6

#### **Payouts / collection of winnings**

- The match organiser should consider posting results online for competitors to view.
- Match organisers should consider paying winnings directly into the angler's bank account by electronic means.
- Cash transactions should be avoided wherever possible.
- Social distancing must be observed at all times.

# HELP AND SUPPORT

**We're here to help you get started fishing again safely**

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