

COMPETITIVE GAME ANGLING

WHEN WE FISH AGAIN

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

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SUPPORTED BY:



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1

Running Competitions

- Subject to close 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, reservoirs, lakes and small stillwaters.
- Competitors will fish on allocated "pegs" or designated boats. It is the organisers responsibility to ensure that these pegs are appropriately spaced and boats large enough to ensure that social distancing is maintained at all times.

2

Booking in payment of Pools / Entry money

- Anglers should "book" their place for a competition as per the organiser's instructions, usually in advance by phone, email or on-line.
- Permit and entry 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 metres apart. No physical greetings handshaking etc. to take place.
- Cafes / shops and inside seating areas will remain closed in line with Government guidance. 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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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 on-site 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 or boat is allocated the angler should immediately make their way to the fishing location as normal.

5

Loch Style Fishing

- Organisers to allocate additional time to the event to facilitate a staged/phased start and end to the match to ensure social distancing on the jetty.
- Boats should be large enough to ensure the distance between anglers is a minimum of 2 metres.
- Organisers are advised to use a marked holding area around the jetty where boats can await instruction to dock and disembark.
- Anglers are required to be in possession of hand sanitizer and a face mask. Face masks should be considered by competitors/organisers and worn in accordance with organisers guidance.
- In the event of an issue with the engine, anglers should disembark to allow fishery staff to tend to the problem. All surfaces should be cleaned before the boat is handed over.

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Scoring / Weighing in

- Anglers should not exchange score cards during the match.
- Measure & Release matches should be avoided to ensure social distancing and competition integrity is maintained.
- At the end of the competition, competitors will be expected to follow the organiser's instructions for weighing in or returning score cards ensuring that social distancing guidance is adhered to at all times. Weighing officials should consider the use of gloves and masks as a precaution and maintain social distancing measures at all times. Hand sanitizer should be used after each competitor's fish are weighed.
- Where competition rules stipulate Catch & Keep as the method of scoring, an appointed match official should weigh all fish to ensure social distancing is maintained. The angler would be required to place the fish into a vessel and step back to allow the match official to collect and weigh the catch. The match official should then step away to allow the angler to collect the fish from the vessel and immediately vacate the weigh area. The angler is responsible for the removal of the fish.
- Once weighed in or having returned score cards the angler will 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.**

7

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.
- Any post-match presentation should comply with social distancing guidelines.

HELP AND SUPPORT

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

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