

Fisheries Fact Sheet: Competitive Fishing Event Licence Conditions for Winter (Ice-covered) Events

Licencing for Competitive Fishing Events

The following is a comprehensive listing of Competitive Fishing Event Licence conditions for winter (ice-covered) events. Depending on the licence type and issue date, the conditions that apply to a particular licence may vary.

Event organizers and participants are required to follow all conditions attached to the Competitive Fishing Event Licence and are also encouraged to adopt all applicable best management practices in the handling and release of fish.

For more information, see Sustainable Resource Development's My Wild Alberta website at:
<http://www.mywildalberta.com/home.aspx>

Small Competitive Fishing Events

A Small Competitive Fishing Event is defined as an event having 26 to 75 participants and prize value totalling less than \$1,000.00.

Participants of Small Competitive Fishing Events are required to follow the angling regulations that relate to the water on which the event is licensed. Retention of fish caught by registered participants of the event is permissible for only those species specified on the Competitive Fishing Event licence and where and when allowed by the current *Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations*.

The following conditions apply to all Small Winter Competitive Fishing Events:

Organizer Conditions

1. The organizer must clearly post a copy of the event licence, conditions, participant list (see condition 5) and directions on how and where to contact the organizers.
2. All event advertisements or postings must include the Competitive Fishing Event licence number issued for the event.
3. A copy of the event licence, a signed copy of Schedule "A" and the organizer's Event Rules must be provided to all registered participants. (NEW) Organizers are responsible for enforcing all the event rules.
4. The organizer must complete and return a Competitive Fishing Event Reporting Form and associated worksheets within 14 days from the conclusion of the event.
5. The organizer must maintain a list of all participants that are registered for the event noting which participants were issued a registration package.
6. Competitive Fishing Events must be planned and executed in a manner that complies with the current Alberta Fishery Regulations applicable to the water body.

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7. The weigh-in station (portable canopy, tent or large ice fishing hut) must be marked or signed for easy identification.

Organizer and Participant Conditions

8. Organizers/Participants shall only measure, weigh-in or harvest the species identified on the Competitive Fishing Event licence.
9. Organizers/Participants shall not fizzle* fish or attempt or practice fizzling fish (see the definition of "fizzle" and "fizzling" fish at the end of this document).

Participant Conditions

10. All participants in a licensed Competitive Fishing Event must have a valid Alberta Sportfishing Licence (except those legally exempted from the Alberta Sportfishing Licence requirement i.e. youths and seniors, or during a designated Free Fishing Weekend).
11. Before participating in a Competitive Fishing Event, all participants must ensure they have been registered by having their name included on a list of participants that is maintained for the event, and that they have received a copy of the event licence, a signed copy of Schedule "A" and the organizers event rules.
12. All participants fishing under the authority of a Competitive Fishing Event Licence must follow the Alberta Fishery Regulations for the water body specified on the licence. Participants may only fish in areas open for fishing.
13. Participants of Competitive Fishing Events who catch a fish, the possession of which is prohibited by the *Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations* or Event Rules, must immediately return the fish to the waters from which it was caught, and release it in a manner that causes it the least harm.
14. Fish that are not immediately returned to the water must be of a size of fish that is lawful to retain under the daily catch limit for the water body as specified in the *Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations*.
15. Participants shall not bring, in total on any day, more fish to the weigh-in than the number of fish specified as the daily limit per person for that species in the current *Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations*.

Medium and Large Winter (Ice-covered) Competitive Fishing Event

A Medium Competitive Fishing Event is defined as an event having 26 to 75 participants and prize value totalling in excess of \$1,000.00.

A Large Competitive Fishing Event has greater than 75 participants and prize value totalling in excess of \$1,000.00.

Under the authority of a valid Medium or Large Competitive Fishing Event Licence registered participants are granted the ability to retain fish of the targeted species (as specified in the licence) for the purpose of measuring, weighing and registration only.

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The following conditions apply to all Medium and Large Winter Competitive Fishing Events:

Organizer Conditions

1. The organizer must clearly post a copy of the event licence, conditions, participant list (see condition 5) with directions on how and where to contact the organizers.
2. All event advertisements or postings must include the Competitive Fishing Event licence number issued for the event.
3. A copy of the event licence, a signed copy of Schedule 'A' and the organizer's Event Rules must be provided to all registered participants. Organizers are responsible for enforcing all the event rules and implementing the Adverse Weather Contingency Plan.
4. The organizer must complete and return a Competitive Fishing Event Reporting Form and associated worksheets within 14 days from the conclusion of the event.
5. The organizer must maintain a list of all participants that are registered for the event noting which participants were issued a registration package.
6. The organizer shall ensure that all fish that are measured or weighed are handled in a manner that causes them least harm and that they are released back into the waters from which they were taken.
7. The organizer shall maintain a reporting form recording all dead fish and the number of stressed fish that may not survive. All dead fish must be packed on ice and stored in a clean insulated container.
8. All dead fish must be disposed of as specified by Fish and Wildlife in consultation with event organizers.
9. The boundary of the fishing area shall be no more than 800 metres (0.5 miles) from the weigh-in site.
10. Competitive Fishing Events must be planned and executed in a manner that complies with the current Alberta Fishery Regulations applicable to the water body unless otherwise specified in condition 22 below.

Organizer and Participant Conditions

11. Organizers/Participants shall only measure or weigh-in the species identified on the Competitive Fishing Event licence.
12. Organizers/Participants shall not fizz* fish or attempt or practice fizzing fish (see the definition of "fizz" and "fizzing" fish at the end of this document).
13. All event organizers and participants must, during the hours that the competitive fishing event is operating, wear a visible form of identification that indicates they are involved in the event.

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14. Fish must be transported immediately to the weigh-in (in a cooler filled with a sufficient amount of water from that lake to submerge the fish), measured or weighed and released as quickly as possible at the weigh-in station. Fish may not be held in a cooler and replaced with a larger fish.
15. Coolers complete with lids (not buckets) must be used for catch and release events in the winter.

Participant Conditions

16. All participants in a licensed competitive fishing event must have a valid Alberta Sportfishing Licence (except those legally exempted from the Alberta Sportfishing Licence requirement i.e. youths and Alberta seniors, or during a designated Free Fishing Weekend).
17. Before participating in a Competitive Fishing Event, all participants must ensure they have been registered by having their name included on a list of participants that is maintained for the event, and that they have received a copy of the event licence, a signed copy of Schedule "A" and the organizers event rules.
18. Participants fishing under the authority of a Competitive Fishing Event Licence must follow the Alberta Fishery Regulations for the water body unless otherwise specified in condition 23 and may only fish in areas open for fishing.
19. Participants shall not intentionally kill any fish taken during the Competitive Fishing Event during the period that the licence is valid to operate the Competitive Fishing Event.
20. Participants of Competitive Fishing Events who catch a fish, the possession of which is prohibited by the "Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations" or Event Rules, must immediately return the fish to the waters from which it was caught, and release it in a manner that causes it the least harm.
21. Participants in this Competitive Fishing Event must practice immediate catch-and-release for all fish species caught during the event except for the species identified on the face of the Competitive Fishing Event licence.
22. Fish that are not immediately returned to the water must be of a size of fish that is lawful to retain under the daily catch limit for the water body as specified in the Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations.
23. Participants shall not bring, in total on any day, more fish to the weigh-in than is allowed for that species in the "Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations" for that water body unless specified in Schedule "A", which are the conditions attached to the Competitive Fishing Event Licence.
24. A fish can be retained only briefly and for the purposes of measuring or weighing or both. All fish that were retained and transported to the weigh-in must be weighed and immediately released in a manner that causes the least harm.

*"To fizz fish" or "to practice fizzing fish" refers to the practice of releasing, or attempting to release air from the air bladder of a fish.