



# Holding a Competitive Fishing Event?

## Do You Know the Rules?

Competitive fishing events (CFEs) are organized outings with 25 or more participants who angle for the purpose of winning prizes or money on the basis of fish caught.

### No person shall conduct a CFE unless:

- the CFE meets the standard requirements listed below; or
- the person holds a CFE licence.

CFEs that meet the standard requirements are required to submit a completed **CFE notification form** and a copy of the event rules to the ministry a minimum of 30 days prior to the date of the event as well as submit a completed CFE summary form to the ministry within 30 days upon completion of the event.

**CFEs not meeting the standard requirements must be licensed by the ministry**, with organizers required to submit a completed **CFE application form** and a copy of the event rules to the ministry for review a minimum of 30 days prior to the date of the event.

## Standard Requirements for CFE Organizers

### Tournament (a catch-and-release event):

- limited to: walleye/sauger/saugeye (excluding July and August); largemouth bass (excluding July and August); northern pike, perch, burbot, whitefish/cisco (excluding May 1 to November 30, inclusive) and does not include CR2 or CR3 waters or other waters or portions of waters that may be specified by the Minister of Environment.
- may be conducted for walleye/sauger/saugeye or largemouth bass in July and August only if the tournament rules include:
  - > the immediate measurement of fish length or weight at the point of capture without transporting or any retention of fish; and
  - > the fish are immediately released unharmed at the point of capture after being measured.
- walleye/sauger/saugeye or largemouth bass tournaments must ensure that at least 90 per cent of the fish 'weighed in or measured' are alive and immediately released unharmed into the waters from which they were taken.

'Unharmed' means any fish that:

- is not showing stress that includes any of the following: hemorrhaging on the sides or fins; being unable to swim to the bottom and maintain its level in the water; experiencing a loss of equilibrium; swimming at the surface and gulping for air; or
- has not had its swim bladder deflated with a needle or sharp object to release excess air.

**Derby** (a catch-and-kill event): where fish caught may be kept and counted as part of the angler's legal possession limit:

- limited to: lake trout (excluding September 1 to November 15, inclusive); northern pike, perch, burbot, whitefish / cisco or goldeye and do not include CR1, CR2 or CR3 waters or any other waters or portions of waters that may be specified by the Minister of Environment.
- only fish species identified on the CFE notification or licence as 'eligible' species for the event may be retained for 'weigh-in or measurement' during the event. All 'non-eligible' fish species caught during the event must be immediately released.

CFEs remain subject to all other sport fishing regulations.

NOTE: All anglers 16 years of age and older who participate in CFEs must possess a valid angling licence (excluding Saskatchewan residents 65 years of age or older, First Nations or Métis with Treaty or Aboriginal rights recognized in Saskatchewan).

The province has information on **competitive fishing event guidelines and best practices** to assist tournament organizers in operating catch-and-release events that minimize fish mortality.

To learn more, visit [saskatchewan.ca/fishing](http://saskatchewan.ca/fishing) or call the Ministry of Environment Inquiry Centre at 1-800-567-4224 or email [centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca](mailto:centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca).

**All permits and documents for competitive fishing events can be found at** [publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/categories/156](http://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/categories/156)