



RESTARTING MAINE'S ECONOMY

COVID-19 Organized Bass Tournament Angling

The State of Maine has adopted a staged approach, supported by science, public health expertise and industry collaboration, to allow Maine businesses to safely open and allow regulated activities to resume when the time is right. The plan is available at www.maine.gov/covid19/restartingmaine.

This is one of many industry/activity guidance documents that the State is providing for businesses and for regulated activities so they can reopen/resume safely. Please make sure you pair this document with the general guidance document that applies to all industries/activities, which is available on www.maine.gov/DECD, and currently includes requirements for social distancing, wearing protective face coverings when social distancing cannot be maintained, using appropriate hand hygiene, and adhering to 14-day self-isolation (quarantine) for nonresident anglers visiting and residents returning to Maine.

Everyone's goal is to allow organized bass tournament angling while keeping event staff and participants safe and healthy. Please use common sense and keep this goal in mind. A failure to adhere to these guidelines is a violation of the bass tournament permit and may result in the loss of privileges to participate in future bass tournaments.

Please note: This document may be updated as additional information and resources become available.

Updated July 10, 2020

Pre-Tournament Considerations

- People who are not residents of Maine or from [other states exempted from quarantine requirements](#), must have received a negative COVID-19 test result that meets the [Keep Maine Healthy](#) requirements or they must have already completed their 14 day quarantine in Maine.
- Event briefings, communications, and fees should be managed electronically, preferably in advance of events to avoid gatherings and a need to actively manage social distancing. Video recordings for viewing online via Facebook or web link, or other electronic messaging should be sent to all contestants with information about rules and specific times prior to the tournament day.
- Use of electronic registration (phone, web-based, email, phone apps) is recommended to reduce interpersonal contact. This includes signed liability waivers that may be required.



- Under no circumstances should any staff, volunteer or angler participate in a bass tournament if they show signs of illness.

Safety/Cleaning

- Participants should provide their own water bottles, sunscreen, insect repellent and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol while on the water.
- When fishing in teams, participants should wear face coverings when unable to maintain physical distancing of 6 feet between individuals. Note that a “buff” or neck gaiter constitutes a face covering but it should be made with of 2 layers of fabric to be effective.
- Event staff and participants will clean and disinfect any shared equipment or high touch areas between uses. EPA registered disinfection products should be used. Refer to the following resources for additional guidance on general cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing:
 - [COVID-19 Prevention Checklist General Guidance](#) (State of Maine)
 - [Cleaning and Disinfecting \(CDC\)](#)

Launch & Start

- The order of “blast off” will be determined by tournament staff and communicated electronically at the time of registration or onsite boat inspection prior to boat launching.
- People on docks should maintain 6-foot distancing, and gatherings are not to exceed current state guidelines. Be respectful of other members of the public when using the dock and ramp area as well.
- Once a boat is launched and vehicle is parked, all anglers should remain in boats practicing social distancing.

Weigh In:

- Returning anglers remain in their boats, on the water as directed by tournament staff. Tournament staff will control the number of boats allowed into the weigh in area or dock. No more than 3 boats may be positioned in the weigh in at any time, provided social distancing can be maintained. If a team event, then only one angler per team will be allowed at the scales while maintaining social distancing and a wearing face covering. Avoid crowding at the launch and remember the public may be using the dock and ramp as well.
- Event staff and participants will wear face coverings, gloves, and use appropriate hand hygiene when unable to maintain social distancing and handling shared items.



- Any and all waiting tanks, weigh-in tables and scales will be set at a minimum of 6 feet apart. Bags of fish will be placed on the weigh table, weighed, and returned to the contestant who is responsible for releasing their own fish at a designated location by tournament staff.
- Once the boat is loaded and weed inspection has been completed, anglers should leave.

Awards ceremony:

- Event staff are requested to avoid formal ceremonies and gatherings if possible. Any gathering must adhere to size limits as established by the Governor's current Executive Order (including organizers, participants, spectators, etc.), while practicing social distancing (6 feet of separation). For more specific information on large gatherings see: [Large gatherings](#) (released 6/17/20). Use of Facebook Live or another digital platform to manage weigh in results is recommended over an in-person organized ceremony.
- All winnings or prizes should be mailed or distributed in a manner to avoid any type of gathering and in-person interactions.

Meal Preparation / Food

- Events will be allowed to provide food in accordance with [Restaurant Guidance](#) (updated June 19, 2020). Although food is not typically provided at fishing derbies, if provided please apply guidelines that fit your specific operation.