
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NON-BASS TOURNAMENTS

Anglers

- When possible, immediately release fish, especially if you believe that you are not going to weigh the fish in. Many species of fish, particularly trout, crappie, Striped Bass, and Wall eye, are unlikely to survive being placed in a live well, even if extreme care is taken by the angler so it is best to either harvest those fish or release them immediately. As a result it is recommended that anglers refrain from culling, even when under the daily bag limit.
- To avoid issues with daily bag limits on waters or waste of edible portions of meat, never attempt culling or continuing to fish for the same species once you have reached the daily bag limit for the water you are fishing.
- Keep fish in the water as much as possible. Limit the time spent handling fish. This includes taking pictures.
- If any species of fish are held, it is recommended that they be held in an aerated live well. The use of stringers, baskets, or un-aerated buckets are not recommended due to the increased chance of mortality with these holding methods.
- Tournament participants should avoid crowding other boaters and anglers, and be familiar with all state and local boating regulations. Common courtesy and a concern for the resource will go a long way towards ensuring the future of tournament fishing in Arizona waters.

Organizers

- Whenever possible, tournament prizes should be awarded on the basis of total length rather than total weight. Consider implementing catch-photo-release tournament formats where fish are photographed on a standardized measuring board and immediately released instead of the traditional format where fish are brought into a centralized location to be weighed. This will help increase the chance that a fish survives and reduces displacement of fish from popular fishing locations.
-

-
- If total weight is desired, set up tournament rules to either require immediate release or for anglers to put that fish in possession for handling sensitive species such as trout, Striped Bass, or Walleye. This will reduce potential legal issues for participants (e.g. waste of game meat if fish are released dead or going over daily bag limit) and issues with other anglers using the same waterbody.
 - If culling is allowed, limit participants to keep one under the daily bag limit for that species. For example, if there is a trout tournament where the daily limit is four, keep the tournament limit to three. This is another measure to ensure participants will not continue fishing for the same species after their daily bag limit is met.
 - For other species, require the use of aerated tanks or livewells. Have a tournament organizer inspect each participant's tank or live well set up to ensure it is working properly.
 - **Trout specific recommendations:**
 - Tournaments should not be held when water temperatures are over 68°F
 - The use of live bait or prepared bait (e.g. powerbait or salmon eggs) should be avoided if possible when the release of fish is planned. The use of live or prepared baits significantly increases the chance of death of the fish. Even if the fish initially swims away, delayed mortality is likely when using prepared or live bait.
 - Catch-photo-release tournaments are the most ideal format if anglers do not want to harvest fish to eat.
-



The Arizona Game and Fish Department receives Federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and thus prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age and sex pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. To request an accommodation or informational material in an alternative format or to file a discrimination complaint please contact the Director's Office at (602) 942-3000 or by mail at 5000 West Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086. Discrimination complaints can also be filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce, Attention: Public Civil Rights and Disability Coordinator, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041.
