

REGULATORY LANGUAGE

Section 230 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations is amended to read:

§ 230. Issuance of Permits for Contests Offering Prizes for the Taking of Game Fish.

(a) Definitions. The definitions below apply to this section.

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[No changes to (a)(1) through (i)]

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- (j) Observer Requirement. ~~An employee of the department may be assigned as an observer and be present at any contest.~~ A permittee shall allow an employee of the department to be assigned as an observer and to be present at any contest. The department will determine if the assignment of an observer would aid the department's efforts to ensure compliance with this section and any special conditions. The applicant or permittee shall reimburse the department \$275 per day for the cost of the observer's services and ~~all~~ associated administrative and incidental costs. Payment shall be sent to the department regional office from which the permit was or will be issued.
- (k) Compliance with Sport Fishing Regulations.
- (1) No provisions of these regulations exempt any angler in a contest from applicable freshwater sport fishing regulations, except that the department may, for permitted contests, authorize an exemption to:
- (A) Black bass regulations which impose an increased minimum size limit larger than 12 inches, a slot size limit, or a reduced bag limit less than five fish and;
- (B) Daily bag and possession limits for all permitted black bass contests, insofar that once the daily bag and possession limit has been reached by an individual angler, that same angler may continue to fish under the condition that each additional fish caught must immediately be returned to the water alive and in good condition, or be used to replace a fish being maintained alive and in good condition from the angler's livewell or other suitable holding facility.
- (2) To prevent the movement of live fish from one body of water to another, the department also may impose permit conditions governing the movement of live fish by anglers or permittees to accommodate off-site contest weigh-in locations.
- (l) Additional Restrictions for Any Black Bass Contest:
- (1) Insofar as possible, all fish shall be returned to the water alive and in good condition, except the department may for scientific or management purposes, take possession of any fish caught during the contest and provide for retention of unusually large fish by participants. The department shall notify the permittee or his designated representative of such exceptions prior to the start of the contest.

- (2) Only artificial lures may be used.
- (m) Special Conditions. To provide for the welfare of fish populations, individual fish, or the resource, the department may impose special conditions in addition to those specified in this section and those listed on form DFW 775 for any contest. Special conditions on form DFW 775 outline required use of the AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES SELF-INSPECTION CERTIFICATION FOR GAME FISH CONTESTS, DFW 777 (NEW 12/22) (form DFW 777), incorporated by reference herein. The department shall provide such conditions in writing to the applicant when issuing the permit. The ~~applicant~~ permittee shall provide copies or otherwise inform every ~~participant~~ angler of the special conditions. It is unlawful for any person participating in a contest permitted under the authority of this section to violate any condition of the permit.
- (n) Submission of Reports. Permittees shall electronically complete and submit a report on a standard form, FISHING CONTEST REPORT, DFW 776 (NEW 12/22) (form DFW 776), incorporated by reference herein, provided by the department, within 30 days after the completion of each contest, following the submission procedures described on the form. Completed reports shall be submitted online via the department's Inland Fishing Contest webpage. The permittee shall answer all the questions thereon relating to the contest, so that department personnel may monitor the impact of such ~~events~~ contests on fisheries resources.

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[No changes to (o) through (o)(6)(C)]

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NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 713, 1050 and 2003, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 37, 67, 711, 713, 1050 and 2003, Fish and Game Code.