

Section 3. Special Conditions for Fishing Contests

The following conditions are set forth pursuant to Section 230(m) Title 14 California Code of Regulations. All contests shall abide by regulations.

Conditions for all contests:

1. All contest sponsors and/or organizations are responsible for advising their participants of all Special Conditions and to monitor their compliance.
2. To prevent the movement of invasive species all vessels, trailers, and equipment must be clean, drained, and dry prior to participating in the contest, and cleaned of debris and drained of water at the conclusion of the contest.
3. Unless inspected by the contest organizer or water manager (or their agent), each contest participant must perform a self-inspection of their vessel, trailer, and/or equipment prior to participating in the contest to confirm that it is clean, drained, and dry, and complete form DFW 777, Aquatic Invasive Species Self-Inspection Certification for Game Fish Contests. Contest organizers shall confirm and document each participant's completion of their form DFW 777. Completed forms shall be kept on the participant's vessel for the duration of the contest.

Additional conditions for contests that target **Chinook Salmon** (does not include Landlocked Salmon, CCR Title 14, Section 5.41):

1. Anglers must keep the first legal fish captured up to the legal daily bag limit.
2. Permittee must provide current freshwater sport fishing regulations for salmon to each participant.

Additional conditions for contests that target **Sturgeon**:

1. Only White Sturgeon may be targeted.
2. Permittee will randomly pick a size in the legal White Sturgeon size range immediately before the start of the tournament or some other approved random selection process. Winners will be anglers with fish closest to that randomly selected target size.
3. Each angler fishing for White Sturgeon must possess all documents and equipment required by fishing regulations, which may include a Sturgeon Fishing Report Card, tags, suitable measuring device, net, etc.
4. Permittee must provide freshwater sport fishing regulations for sturgeon to each participant.

Additional conditions for contests that target **black bass** and require anglers to retain fish for a centralized weigh-in or measurement:

1. All contestants shall have facilities for keeping bass alive and in good condition.
2. At the completion of the weigh-in, insofar as possible, all fish shall be returned to the water alive and in good condition.
3. Dead bass that are legal to retain shall be disposed of consistent with California Sport Fishing Regulations (Sec 1.87, Title 14, CCR: Wastage of fish is not permitted). For contests granted an exemption, dead bass within the slot limit or below the minimum size may be held in possession of an angler with proper documentation (see 7 below) until disposed of in a legal manner.
4. Bass shall be transported to and from the vessel to the weigh-in site in water-filled containers with sufficient water to cover the fish, except during the actual measuring/weighing process. Individual bass over approximately five (5) lbs. shall be held in separate containers both before and after weighing. Fish shall be held in water-filled containers no longer than three (3) minutes prior to or after the weigh-in unless the water in that container is replenished. Contest organizers shall ensure that all fish are handled expeditiously in a manner that maximizes the survival of all fish. All bass shall be released immediately after weigh-in near the weigh-in site unless otherwise specified by the Department or a local entity. Bass shall not be towed to the release site in devices made of mesh or netting to prevent fish from being impinged upon the mesh.
5. Because of high water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen levels, in contests held during the period June 15 through September 15, the maximum allowable period before and between weigh-ins is six (6) hours. All participants are required to weigh-in and release any and all black bass at each required weigh-in time. Livewells shall be inspected so that no fish are retained by the competitors prior to the final weigh-in on each day of the contest. Multiple weigh-ins do not allow teams or individual competitors to weigh in more than a single daily possession limit of black bass per day.
6. The sponsor shall provide personnel and necessary equipment to decompress bass that cannot swim down to deep water. Decompression can be by hypodermic needle or cage release at 35 feet or deeper.
7. For contests with an exemption to size and/or bag limits, organizations shall provide all participants with written identification containing the following information: (1) Name of contest sponsor; (2) name of participant(s); (3) contest permit number; (4) date of contest; (5) contest weigh-in location. This information shall be in possession of all participant(s) for the duration of the contest and afterwards if possessing dead bass under the exemption rule.
8. Only artificial lures may be used.

Special Release Site Instructions for Black Bass Contests:

Water	County	Instructions
Clear Lake	Lake	All bass shall be released at least (2) miles from the weigh-in site, and 400 yards offshore.
Pine Flat Reservoir	Fresno	All bass shall be released outside 5 MPH or "no Wake" buoys
Diamond Valley	Riverside	All bass shall be released outside of the wave attenuator