

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) Fisheries Division
Fishing Tournaments/Special Event Permits During the COVID-19 Pandemic

In an effort to continue providing safe outdoor recreational opportunities for all, KDWP has issued the following rules for fishing tournaments on state property during the COVID-19 pandemic. Failure to comply with the practices outlined in this document could result in the rejection of Special Event Permit applications for future fishing tournament activities.

All persons participating in events on state-owned or -managed properties shall:

- Observe social distancing guidelines, including maintaining a 6-foot distance between persons for the entirety of the event
- Observe the 14-day quarantine period prior to the event if traveling from an area listed on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Travel Quarantine List, here: <https://ks-kdheccovid19.civicplus.com/176/Travel-Related-Quarantine>
- Obey all tenants outlined in approved Special Event Permit for events launching from department properties

For tournaments with weigh-ins, the following shall be enforced:

- Only one person may check to make sure fish are legal; this individual should wear a mask and gloves.
- Only one person may operate the scale; this individual should wear a mask and gloves.
- Only one angler may approach the scale at one time; anglers are encouraged to wear masks and gloves during the weigh-in process.
- Fish must then be returned to the angler to complete the weigh-in process.

In addition to the above actions, no registration tents or tables are permitted. Ceremonies may be performed only if the gathering is limited to 10 persons or less, and social distancing is observed. Tournament organizers are responsible for notifying KDWP of violations to any of the above provisions. For Black Bass Tournaments, all regulations (see the *2020 Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary*) remain in effect.

As a reminder, a Special Event Permit is required for all competitive fishing events on department lands and waters including state parks and state lakes. Per regulation, this permit application must be submitted to the Park Manager or Public Lands Manager five days prior to the event date.

Additional Recommendations:

- Monitor the COVID-19 information page on the KS Department of Health and Environment for health guidelines and updates: <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/>
- Monitor the COVID-19 information page on the KS Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism for updates on possible location closures and activity guideline: <https://www.ksoutdoors.com/KDWPT-COVID-19-Updates>
- Event pre-registration via phone or online. This avoids gatherings and lines before events for anglers to sign up to compete.

- Meetings for anglers regarding event rules or other items must be limited to no more than 10 people. Using a PA system, isolating anglers to their boats, or paper handouts are encouraged.
- Tournament directors are encouraged to conduct paper/virtual weigh-ins where anglers record catches on the water and submit a paper or virtual record. This would avoid gatherings and contact during an in-person weigh-in.
- The Kansas Bass Nation created a video for guidance on maintaining safe practices while participating in fishing tournaments. If interested, please visit the link to view: <https://vimeo.com/405583056>