

COMPETITIVE LURE ANGLING

WHEN WE FISH AGAIN

Best Practice for the safe resumption of lure angling competitions in England under COVID 19 restrictions

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#WHENWEFISHAGAIN



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1

Running Competitions

- Subject to close season, owner and fishery specific restrictions. Competitions will be permitted on all waters where social distancing guidance can be adhered to. This would include canals, rivers, lakes and reservoirs.
- In roving matches the area to be fished will be designated by the organiser who will ensure that all fishing areas are compatible with social distancing from other competitors and waterway users. This is particularly essential on canals with areas of narrow towpaths where it would be difficult to keep at least 2 metres away from passing pedestrians and cyclists, these should be marked as no fishing areas. Anglers should also be told to give plenty of room to moored boats and should remain a minimum of 2 metres away from them at all times.

2

Booking in payment of Pools / Entry money

- Anglers should "book on" to a competition as per the organiser's instructions, usually in advance by phone, email or online. Wherever possible avoid cash transactions.

3

Travel / Arrival at the venue

- Competitors should travel in accordance with current Government guidelines only. On arrival at the venue vehicles should pay strict attention to signage and park under the instructions of the fishery/organiser. Organisers must ensure that there is sufficient space for competitors to park in a designated area and bear in mind that there will be more cars due to less car sharing because of Covid-19 restrictions.
- On leaving the vehicle, strict social distancing measures must be adhered to at all times, maintaining a minimum of 2 metres apart.
- No physical greetings handshaking etc. to take place.
- No refreshments or food should be supplied by the organiser.

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The Draw

- Wherever possible the draw should take place before the day of the event by the organiser and competitors should be told their draw number in advance.
- Where an on-site draw is necessary, to comply with rules on organised gatherings, the draw should take place outside conforming to the rules on social distancing. Use a "raffle style" approach and it is recommended that the organiser should draw for all competitors.
- Competitors cards, catch returns and tape measures (if being supplied by organiser) should be prepared in advance, placed in a sealed bag and be handed to competitors using gloves by the organiser. Competitors should ensure they are a minimum of 2 metres from all other competitors at all times.

5

The Start

- For roving bank based matches the start should be staggered, with competitors setting off at 20 second intervals. Competitors must stay a minimum of 2 metres away from each other at all times, so if fishing on canals or tight riverside paths a "no over-taking" rule should apply as competitors head to where they intend to start fishing.
- For boat/kayak based matches extra time should be made available for competitors to move gear along the jetty or launch area to their allotted boat/kayak. Numbers using the jetty or launch area at one time should be minimised by only allowing small groups to load at a time. Once one group has finished loading their boat/kayak they should motor/paddle out to a designated holding area to clear the area for the next group. The wearing of gloves and face masks should be encouraged during this loading/set up process. Competitors should ensure they are a minimum of 2 metres from all other competitors at all times.

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Fishing

- If fishing pairs matches it should be emphasised that team mates must stay a minimum of 2 metres from each other at all times. Both team mates should carry a landing net, unhooking mat, measure, competitors card and smartphone for taking pictures. When a fish is hooked it should be landed, unhooked, measured and photographed by a single member of the team. Whoever is the designated captain, can then record the fish and length on the catch return. Anglers should be mindful of other competitors and waterway/towpath users at all times and ensure that they are conforming to the rules on social distancing.

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End of the Match

- Bank based matches: At the end of the match competitors should go straight to their cars in the designated car parking area or other designated holding area and wait there for the organiser to give instructions with regards to the collection of measures and catch returns. They should ensure they remain 2 metres from all other competitors at all times.
- Boat/kayak based matches: At the end of the match competitors should return to the designated holding area used at the start and then return to shore to unload in small groups to avoid overcrowding in a repeat of the loading process. Competitors should ensure they are a minimum of 2 metres from all other competitors at all times.

8

Catch Returns

- The match organiser should wear gloves and have a bucket and a box. The box should be empty and is used to collect the catch returns, the bucket should be half full with disinfectant and is used for collecting measures (if they have been supplied by the organiser). The organiser should then arrange for competitors to return their measures and catch returns in an orderly manner, ensuring that social distancing is maintained at all times. Organisers should consider using an app system for checking competitor catch photographs or alternatively asking designated competitors to digitally send their catch photographs for ratification.
- Bank based matches: At the end of the match competitors should go straight to their cars in the designated car parking area or other designated holding area and wait there for the organiser to give instructions with regards to the collection of measures and catch returns. They should ensure they remain 2 metres from all other competitors at all times.
- Boat/kayak based matches: At the end of the match competitors should return to the designated holding area used at the start and then return to shore to unload in small groups to avoid overcrowding in a repeat of the loading process. Competitors should ensure they are a minimum of 2 metres from all other competitors at all times.

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Prizes and Match Results

- The match organiser should consider posting results online for competitors to view.
- Match organisers should consider paying winnings directly into the angler's bank account by electronic means.
- Cash transactions should be avoided wherever possible. Social distancing must be observed at all times.

ENDORSEMENTS



I was happy to be involved with the Angling Trust to help produce these guidelines to ensure that lure fishing events can be held in a safe, professional and friendly manner during these difficult times.

Gary Palmer, Head Marshall of World Predator Classic and organiser of Perchmania



Lots of our members really enjoy competition lure fishing. They would like to get back to it, but want to fish in a way that's safe for them and for all towpath users. I was really pleased to help the Angling Trust put together the guidelines that will get us back to match fishing safely in these difficult times.

Derek Holmes, Competitions Secretary, Lure Anglers Canal Club

HELP AND SUPPORT

We're here to help you get started fishing again safely

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