

SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR BLACK BASS CONTESTS ONLY

The following conditions are set forth pursuant to Section 230(e) of Title 14 California Code of Regulations. **All contests shall abide by regulations found in Informational Leaflet 41 INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBTAINING PERMITS TO OFFER PRIZES FOR TAKING GAME FISH IN FISHING CONTESTS.** The conditions below apply to contests where live black bass are held in livewells and are weighed.

1. Insofar as possible, all fish shall be returned to the water alive and in good condition.
2. All contestants shall have facilities for keeping bass alive and in good condition.
3. Only artificial lures may be used.
4. All contest sponsors and/or organizations are responsible for advising their participants of all Special Conditions and to monitor their compliance.
5. Failure to comply with the Special Conditions may result in the termination of the tournament and/or cancellation of remaining permits for that organization.
6. 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 tournaments 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 11 below) until disposed of in a legal manner.
7. Department employees may terminate a contest if, in his/her opinion, any permit condition has been violated or a substantial impact to the resource by the contest is observed or expected.
8. 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. Tournament 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.
9. 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. Live wells 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.
10. 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.
11. For tournaments 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.
12. Additional Special Conditions may be added by Regional Department staff as deemed necessary.

Special Release Site Instructions for Black Bass Contests:

Water	County	Instructions
Clear Lake	Lake	All bass shall be released at least two (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 Reservoir	Riverside	All bass shall be released outside of the wave attenuator