



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Dear Bass Tournament Director:

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFGD) will be accepting fishing tournament applications for the 2024 Lottery process between October 1 and December 1, 2023. All permit applications received between October 1 and December 1, 2023 will be ranked by individual tournament request via a computer generated random number drawing. Tournament applications can be downloaded and printed from our tournament web page [Tournaments | State of New Hampshire Fish and Game \(nh.gov\)](https://www.wildlife.nh.gov/tournaments).

****** If a bass tournament report form is not submitted to the Inland Fisheries Division within 30 days after completion of a fishing tournament, all future tournament applications will be returned without processing until all tournament report forms have been received. The Executive Director of Fish and Game has the authority to deny a club's future tournament permit applications.

Please remember:

- Clubs may only conduct a bass tournament on the specific water for which they are permitted, even if a navigable channel exists between that water body and other water bodies. For example, Ossipee Lake and Danforth Ponds, Big Squam Lake and Little Squam Lake, Crescent Lake and Wentworth Lake.
- It is legal to hold your weigh-in on a connected water body as long as all bass are released back into the water body in which they were caught.
- Clubs fishing Squam Lake and holding their weigh-in on Little Squam Lake can apply for a special permit to release bass into Little Squam Lake. The intent of this permit to release is to increase bass survival during times of warm water temperatures and heavy boat traffic in the channel. This permit to release will be issued on a case by case basis between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend, otherwise bass must be released back into Squam Lake.
- When a permitted fishing tournament uses a NHFGD owned or controlled boat access facility, no more than 50% of the facility's designated parking spaces shall be used by participants in the tournament. Tournaments consisting of cartop and/or trailered vessels can use 50% of the cartop parking spaces and 50% of the trailered vehicle spaces for trailered vessels only. There shall be no parking of cartop vehicles in trailered vehicle spaces. It is the duty of the responsible party for the organization holding the fishing tournament to notify us in writing of arrangements made for the alternate parking, which indicates a name, address, and contact number of the parking location.

- No tournament weigh-ins shall occur at NHFGD owned or controlled access facilities in a manner as to obstruct any avenue of ingress or egress of boats in the boat launching areas. For clubs holding tournaments on Crescent or Wentworth Lake (Wolfeboro), Hopkinton Lake, Newfound Lake, Sunapee Lake, Bow Lake, or Spofford Lake special circumstances apply and information is available upon request.
- If a club is utilizing a launch not owned or controlled by the NHFGD (see <https://nhfg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2243091f322449819c244c0c3b2f3f43> to determine launch ownership), the club must contact the owner of that launch to ensure there is adequate parking, to arrange for alternate parking if needed, and to ensure there is no conflicting event occurring at the launch on that day.
- In addition to submitting your application for a fishing tournament permit, you must also submit an application for a “Water Event Permit”, which is issued by the Department of Safety, Division of Safety Services. The permit form can be downloaded at <https://www.nhsp.dos.nh.gov/resources/documents-and-forms#marine-patrol> or you can request one at (603) 293-2037 (ext 4).
- If you have any questions concerning fishing tournaments, please contact Vikki Leonard at (603) 271-2501 or Fisheries Biologist Jason Carrier at (603) 352-9669. Have a safe and successful fishing tournament season.

Sincerely,

Dianne Timmins
Chief Inland Fisheries