

Kansas Fisheries Division proposed Best Management Practices for fishing tournament Special Event Permits during COVID-19 crisis:

During the COVID Crisis, the state of Kansas intends to keep fishing open as part of everyday recreational activities. To reduce possible concerns regarding anglers conducting fishing events, and to keep both recreational and competitive fishing open, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism **has issued the following mandatory guidelines regarding fishing tournaments on state property**. Failure to comply could result in the rejection of Special Event Permits for future fishing tournament activities. Also See: <https://ksoutdoors.com/Fishing/Tournaments>

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

- Observe social distancing guidelines including maintaining a six-foot distance between persons during the entirety of the event
- Observe the fourteen (14) day quarantine period prior to the event if traveling from areas listed on the KS Department of Health and Environment website: <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 and is encouraged to wear a mask and gloves
- Only one person may operate the scale and is encouraged to wear a mask and gloves
- No more than one angler may be at the scale at one time and is encouraged to wear a mask and gloves
- Fish are returned to the angler after weighing them to complete 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 ten (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 provisions outlined in the regulations are still 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. (See

<https://ksoutdoors.com/Fishing/Tournaments>) Per regulation, this permit application must be submitted to the Park Manager or Public Lands Manager five (5) days prior to the event date.

Additional Recommendations:

- *Include link to KBN video* – how to safely conduct a tournament and fish from a boat: <https://vimeo.com/405583056>
- Pre-registration (online or other) – avoids gatherings and lines before events for anglers to sign up to fish
- Angler Information Meetings – 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.
- Paper/Virtual tournaments – 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 during an in-person weigh-in.