



## GUIDELINES FOR ICE FISHING TOURNAMENTS ON CONNECTICUT PUBLIC WATERS

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The popularity of tournament ice fishing is increasing in the state, and although the vast majority of such events are conducted in a courteous manner, we have been receiving a growing number of complaints from townspeople and lakeside residents concerning the behavior of some ice tournament anglers. The more common complaints include excessive trash being left on the ice and in the parking areas, parking in inappropriate locations along roads and on private property, trespassing on private property, fires left burning on the ice, drunk and disorderly conduct, and urinating in public.

We take all complaints seriously. Fishing tournament permits are issued at the discretion of the Commissioner and further misconduct could result in permits being denied and/or bring about added regulations. Therefore, anglers organizing ice fishing tournaments should comply with the following guidelines:

1. **Provide trash receptacles** and place them at convenient locations for the tournament anglers.
2. **Provide at least one port-o-let for tournaments with 50 or more participants.**
3. **Ensure that available parking is appropriate (legal) and sufficient** to accommodate the total number of anglers allowed to register in the tournament.
4. **Designate one or two individuals to monitor the safety and behavior of the tournament anglers.** They should be clearly visible during the entire tournament and be available to address questions and concerns from the general public. This is important for all tournaments having over 50 participants.
5. **Ensure that participants will not exhibit poor behavior such as littering, rude or drunken behavior, trespassing and illegal parking.** All participants should be informed that poor behavior will not be tolerated.
6. **Cleanup after the tournament.** Designate individuals to be responsible for trash pickup.

**Please note that your PERMIT CAN BE IMMEDIATELY REVOKED for failure to follow these guidelines. The approval of future permit applications can also be affected.**

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*Many tournament directors currently operate effectively in this manner. The future of ice fishing tournaments on Connecticut's public waters depends on keeping a good public image, so lets all do our part!*