

Rules For The Lough Ree International Pike Festival 2012

These are the rules of the Lough Ree International Pike Festival 2012 and we have taken every care to ensure that they are comprehensive and fair. However it may be necessary to amend these rules from time to time and if this happens the updated rules will be posted on the following website www.activeirishangling.com and a full copy of the rules will be provided in each anglers pack at the start of fishing on the first day. To ensure fair play the rules will be strictly enforced by the Judging/Dispute panel and if you are unsure of anything in the rules then you should contact dave@activeirishbreaks.com for an explanation or speak to the Chief Steward at the Festival.

General Rules

1. The competition will take place on 18th, 19th and 20th April 2012 and is open to all anglers fishing by boat.
The Chief Steward may decide to reduce the number of days should circumstances dictate and competitors will be informed as soon as is practicable.
2. The entry fee is €100 and is payable in advance. All anglers wishing to fish all three days must have confirmed their entry by 3.00pm on Tuesday 10th April. Day anglers may enter each day and pay their entry on the shoreline or in advance but are only eligible for day prizes and raffle prizes and are not eligible for the overall prize or the World Cup prize. (See rules on prizes and prize giving)The entry fee for day anglers is €40.
3. The following are the times allowed for fishing on each day
Wednesday 25th – 9.00am to 5.00pm
Thursday 26th – 9.00am to 5.00pm
Friday 27th – 9.30am to 4.00pm
Angling may not begin until the start whistle has been blown. The Chief Steward may change these times should circumstances dictate and competitors will be informed as soon as is practicable.
4. This is a boat fishing competition and anglers must be in a boat while fishing. The boat must not be anchored, moored, grounded or rendered

unmovable by the natural water current in any way while fishing; this includes driving the boat into reeds.

5. Boats may launch at any point on the lake but must attend their allotted official start point to collect their packs each day. Boats arriving late will not have their fishing time extended and they must finish at the allotted time along with the other anglers.
6. Boats must return to their allotted official starting point each day to return their pack regardless of whether they have caught a fish or not.
7. The winners will be decided based on the length of the fish caught and each boat will be given a measuring board and unique marker to be used in measuring the exact length of the catch. Each boat must have a digital camera for recording this (see rules on taking photographs).
8. Each boat must have a mobile phone switched on at all times and the number must be the one which was noted on the original entry form. If this number changes then the Chief Steward must be informed before the angler goes fishing.
9. Lure fishing, fly fishing and dead baits are the only methods allowed. Anglers may only use two rods (spare/reserve rods and/or spare/reserve reels are not allowed in the boat). There must be at least two anglers in each boat and a maximum of three anglers and a maximum of four rods on the boat.
10. The Chief Steward and anyone he/she appoints along with Officers of Inland Fisheries Ireland have the right to search any competing boat at any time prior to launch, during the competition and after fishing finishes.
11. Anglers must follow instruction received from competition stewards, Inland Fisheries Ireland Officers and other appointed safety boats, failure to follow instructions or being abusive to any official may lead to expulsion from the competition.
12. Angling is confined by the following boundaries – Lough Ree north of the Athlone By-Pass Bridge and south of an imaginary line to the north of Inchcleraun (Quaker) Island and south of Clawinch Island from Rinany on the Roscommon Shoreline to a point on the Longford Shoreline. This line will be indicated on the map which will be given to all anglers.

13. It is not permissible to bring a non fishing partner/ghillie in the boat unless they have been appointed by the Chief Steward.
14. The use of fish/depth finders is allowed.
15. The Judging/Dispute panel will consist of the Chief Steward and an Officer from Inland Fisheries Ireland.
16. In the event of a dispute or an incident occurring which is not specifically covered in the rules a decision will be made by the Chief Steward and an Officer from Inland Fisheries Ireland and any decision rendered will be binding on all parties.
17. A decision made by the Judging/Dispute panel may only be appealed to the Judging/Dispute panel if it can be shown that new information has been found which could alter the decision.
18. All appeals or complaints must be registered with the Chief Steward either orally or in writing by midday on the day following the incident being appealed or complained of and the decision rendered will be final and binding on all parties.
19. It will be the decision of the Judging/Dispute panel as to what penalty for breaches of the rules will be imposed. The penalty can range from “No action to be taken” to “Disqualification from the festival”.
20. By entering this competition and paying the appropriate fee you agree to be bound by these rules.

Proposed Rules For Taking Photographs

1. Each boat must bring a digital camera to be used for photographing the fish. All memory cards are acceptable.
2. Each boat will be given, by the organisers, a measuring board and a unique marker and these are the only ones which must be used in the photograph. Photographs which do not have the correct measuring board or the correct unique marker will not be considered.
3. The board must be placed in the horizontal position and the fish placed upon it in a relaxed manner
4. The angler or companion will hold the fish carefully with the hands placed at a third and two thirds along the pike's body with the

numbered tag clearly visible on the board. (An example photograph will be included in your angling pack). Hands may be used to keep the fish in place - they should be placed lightly upon the fish and the hands should not be gripping, squeezing or stretching the fish in a manner that is likely to cause damage to or adversely increase the length of the fish. Only fish measured in the proper manner will be counted.

5. The fish may not be measured in the vertical or semi vertical position or suspended in any manner whatsoever including chinning and using pliers.
6. The nose of the fish must be touching the upright red section at the top of the board and the tip of the tail must be clearly visible in the photograph. It is not necessary to have the anglers face or body in the photograph.
7. The belly of the fish must be on the side of the board which says "PLACE BELLY OF FISH HERE".
8. It is the angler's responsibility to ensure that the picture is clear and that both the head and tail are clearly visible in the picture. If part of either the head or tail is not in the picture and the true length of the fish cannot be ascertained because of the missing piece or the picture is un-readable due to any other circumstance it will not be considered.
9. Anglers are allowed to take more than one picture of the same fish to ensure that they get it correct.
10. Anglers must fill in their daily sheet with their estimate of the length of the fish before handing it back to the stewards. Should the sheet not be filled in it will not be considered as it will be assumed that there is no photograph available. The sheet cannot be filled in retrospectively and no appeal will be allowed.
11. Anglers have until midday on the following day to appeal a decision on a photograph of the Judging Panel. The appeal is to the Judging Panel and the decision rendered will be final and binding on all parties.
12. The Judging Panel will consist of the Chief Steward and an Officer from Inland Fisheries Ireland.

13. After fishing on the Wednesday and Thursday an event will be held in a local Pub/Hotel and the results for that day will be announced and the prizes given out. Photographs of the fish on the winners list each day will be available at the evening events either on hard copy or on a laptop/slideshow.(See Rules on Prizes and Prize Giving)
14. Photographs must not be manipulated or altered in any way and each photograph will be checked for Exif and properties/details and any that are found to be incorrect will not be considered and the angler may be expelled from the festival.



Rules for Prizes and Prize Giving Ceremony

1. First prize is a guaranteed €3000 and is sponsored by Failte Ireland and will be awarded to the Angler with the longest fish caught over the three days. The world Cup prize of €1000 will be awarded to the boat with the longest overall length of pike by measuring the single longest fish caught each day.
2. In the event of a tie the prize will be shared.
3. All entry fees will be used for all other prizes which will include day prizes, World Cup prize, raffle prizes. There will only be one overall prize i.e. no second or third place overall prizes will be awarded as in previous years, however the angler who has the longest pike will receive the €3000 in addition to their daily prize.
4. Only anglers who have registered for the three days and who have paid the €100 entry fee are eligible for the overall prize. Anglers who register for one or two days are only eligible for the day prizes and raffle prizes and cannot win the overall or World Cup prize.
5. The organisers may, from time to time, publish a proposed list of prizes and at no time can these lists be construed as the final list of prizes and are not guaranteed.
6. As the prizes are based on the number of entries received the organisers are unable to give a definitive list of prizes in advance of the competition starting, however, the definitive list of prizes will be available to competitors at the end of the first days fishing. This is to allow for anglers who, due to unavoidable circumstances, fail to turn up and seek a refund of their entry fee.
7. Once an angler has started fishing no refund can be given.
8. After fishing on the Wednesday and Thursday an event will be held in a local Pub/Hotel and the results for that day will be announced and the prizes given out.
9. In the event that an angler is unable to attend on the Friday evening and they have won a prize it will be sent to them by registered post the following week.

List Of Recommendations For Anglers To Follow.

We want all anglers to enjoy this event in a manner that is safe for them as well as for the fish so we make the following strong recommendations. The ethos of this event is that the fish are treated with respect and in a manner that does not cause damage to them. When a fish is out of the water it is not in its natural environment, it should be handled with care, unhooked, photographed and returned to the water ASAP. Remember to hold the fish in the water by the tail until it has recovered enough to swim away; anglers should not hurry this as survival is paramount.

1. It is a legal requirement in Ireland that life jackets/buoyancy aids are worn at all times while on the water and we would ask that all anglers respect this law
2. Each boat should have the following equipment to ensure that the fish are treated correctly and returned to the water uninjured;
 - A. Each boat should have a knotless landing net of at least 60cm in diameter
 - B. Each boat should have an unhooking mat so that damage to the fish is minimised
 - C. Each boat should have the proper tools for removing the hooks from the fish in a timely and efficient manner.
 - D. Anglers should use pressed down or barbless hooks as they are easier to remove and cause less damage to the fish.
3. Anglers are not allowed to fish alone for two reasons;
 - A. In the event of an accident or medical emergency it is important that someone should be on hand to help.
 - B. If you are lucky enough to catch a fish it is very difficult to photograph it correctly as the fish tends to move about.

It is not permissible to bring a non fishing partner/ghillie in the boat with you unless they have been appointed by the Chief Steward. In the event that one is appointed then they may not use rods or play the fish but they may use the net to help land the fish and may help in the unhooking and photographing process.

4. In the event of a medical emergency the Civil Defence will be on hand and their contact number is also in the pack provided and they should be contacted in the first instance to render help.
5. A contact list of all the organisers is also in the pack and they can be contacted at any time to give guidance and help.
6. If at any time you become aware of behaviour that is outside the rules of the competition, against the law, is unacceptable or anti social then we ask that you contact the Inland Fisheries Ireland Officers in the first instance so that they may attend the incident and you should then report it to the Chief Steward.

.....and finally remember, as my brother once said to me “This is our hobby not our living”, so get out there, enjoy yourselves and we’ll see you in the pub afterwards!

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