

2.5 RULES PERTAINING TO FISHING DERBIES AND TOURNAMENTS

A. SCOPE OF RULE

These rules shall be applicable only to fishing derbies and fishing tournaments as authorized by Title 12 MRSA, Section 12504 & 12504-A

B. DEFINITION

“Fishing Derby” as defined in Title 12, MRSA, Section 12504 & 12504-A, means an organized fishing event conducted on inland waters during which contestants compete for cash awards or other prizes for the purpose of this Chapter (2.04), the term “fishing derby: has the same meaning as fishing tournament.

C. APPLICATIONS

1. An application for a permit to conduct a fishing derby or fishing tournament shall be on such forms as the Department requires. The following information is required.
 - a. Name and address of the sponsor
 - b. Rules of the derby or tournament
 - c. Body(s) of water affected
 - d. Date(s) and time(s) of the derby or tournament
 - e. Prize structure
2. A fee for the permit shall accompany the application.
3. Applications for open water fishing derbies or tournaments will be accepted after January 1 annually.
4. Applications for ice fishing derbies or tournaments will be accepted after September 1 annually.
5. Applications for fishing derbies or tournaments will be processed in order of receipt.

D. RESTRICTIONS

1. No fishing derbies or tournaments will be permitted on any single body of water having surface area of less than 100 acres and managed by the Department for cold water fish species (trout, salmon and/or togue) or if the issuance of a permit would be inconsistent with the fisheries management objectives of the waters being affected.
2. No fishing derbies or tournaments will be permitted prior to June 15th of the open water fishing season.
3. No more than 4 derbies or tournaments will be permitted on any single body of water in a calendar year. County-wide or state-wide derbies or tournaments shall not be counted as a derby or tournament on any one body of water.
4. The total cash value of prizes to be awarded at any single fishing derby (excluding door prizes) shall not exceed \$10,000 except:
 - a. When a derby is of a regional nature, involves more than a single body of water, or only involves waters not managed by the department for cold water fish species (trout, salmon and/or togue), the total cash value of prizes to be awarded (excluding door prizes) shall not exceed \$25,000 or:
 - b. There shall be no restrictions on the cash value of prizes to be awarded(excluding door prizes) at derbies of a statewide nature;
 - c. When, as determined by the department, the derby is consistent with and facilitates the achievement of the Department’s fisheries management objectives for the species and the inland water on which the event will be held, there shall be no restriction on the cash value of the prizes awarded.

E. REQUIREMENTS

1. Except as otherwise provided by law, all anglers in the derby must comply with the licensing requirements of chapters 903 to 923.
2. A copy of the derby or tournament permit and a copy of the sponsor’s rules affecting the derby or tournament shall be conspicuously displayed during each derby or tournament at a location accessible to all derby or tournament contestants.