

Kids' Catch and Release Tournament

Tutorial **02** /24
EVENT PLANNING SERIES

If you are thinking of hosting a fishing tournament for kids, you must first determine event content and structure.

In order to ensure the sustainability of the fishery, seriously consider targeting less popular species of fish. Children enjoy plenty of action. Perch, rock bass and sunfish provide lots of excitement and action, which will keep the children entertained. Contact your district fisheries office and get information on the availability of pan-fish or under-utilized species, as well as copies of fishing regulations and other fishing-related materials.

It is recommended that a strong aquatic stewardship message be included as part of your event and that participants have fun while learning about the environment and fishing. Studies show that information is remembered better when participants physically do things and actively think about the activity, compared to when they listen to a lecture of the same material.

For an educational component, information is provided for a few possible topics: Fish Habitat and Handling, Fishing Knots and Rigging, Casting and Local Information.

With the help of the fisheries agency in your area, a local information hand-out could be prepared and could include:

- Angler education courses
- Fishing tackle loaner sites
- Life jacket loaner program sites
- Fishing rules and regulations and where to obtain licences
- Disabled access sites
- Local clubs that sponsor novices
- Local places to participate in fishing



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READ BEFORE THE EVENT

Canadian National Sportfishing Foundation
2035 Fisher Drive Peterborough ON K9J 6X6
Phone: 705-745-8433 Toll Free: 877-822-8881
Fax: 705-742-4038 www.catchfishing.com

Catch Fishing®

Number of participants:

Since your event is geared toward youth, the number of adult volunteers available will be the primary deciding factor in the number of children to host. There should be one adult volunteer for every three to five children (if children are not accompanied by a parent). This ratio could drop to one on one, depending on the needs of the participants. A safe and enjoyable event should be your primary goal.

Timing:

Events can be held any time of year where water or ice conditions are safe. Whether you choose summer or winter, particular attention must be paid to ice and fast water conditions.

Duration:

With children involved, it is recommended that you begin your event at about 9:00 a.m. with the fishing period ending not later than 2:00 p.m.

What the kids should bring:

Young participants should be advised to bring the following to the event: fishing rod, reel and tackle, if not provided; drinks and snacks; personal flotation devices (life jackets); rain gear; rubber boots or old sneakers; sun-screen; hat; sunglasses; insect repellent; camera.

