

Fishing Derby

Tutorial **04** /24
EVENT PLANNING SERIES

While a derby does not usually involve “catch and release”, you might want to consider the option. Alternately, utilizing the captured fish by means of a fish fry or barbecue is a means of ensuring that participants are made aware that there should be no wasting of our precious natural resources.

If you are thinking of hosting a fishing derby, 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. Where children are involved, perch, rock bass and sunfish provide lots of action and popular game fish are spared the stress of catch and release. 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 each fishing-related activity, 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.

*Information is provided
for a few possible topics:*

*Fish Habitat and
Handling, Fishing Knots
and Rigging, Casting
and Local Information.*

Catch Fishing®

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

Number of participants:

If your event is geared toward youth, the number of adult volunteers available will be the primary deciding factor in the number of anglers 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:

Where children are 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; sunscreen; hat; sunglasses; insect repellent; camera.

With the help of the fisheries agency in your area, a local information bandout 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