

BRITISH PIKE CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

1. The match is open only to anglers who have qualified through a recognised current Angling Trust qualifying match. Proof of qualification is by means of an entry ticket which **must** be produced on the day of the final.
2. All anglers fishing the pike final will be issued with a clear set of rules.
3. The competition is for **PIKE** only. Only fish caught by fair means will be recorded.
4. All juniors under the age of 16 involved in the championships should be accompanied by a parent, guardian or responsible adult.
5. Anglers must make every effort to employ suitable tackle to play and land Pike in excess of 20lb that will not cause undue stress when landing the fish. The Angling Trust recommends that hooks should preferably be semi barbed or barbless, and be attached to a wire trace of at least 28lb breaking strain.
6. Every competitor must allow officials and stewards to carry out a tackle and bait check at any time, prior to, during, or after the match.
7. Anglers entering into the Pike Final match should have suitable equipment to retain their Pike. Fish must be retained alive in Carp sacks or Pike Tubes of an adequate size until weighed and recorded by a steward. **ANY FORM OF KNOTTED KEEPNET IS NOT ALLOWED.** All fish must be returned alive and no dead fish will be weighed in. **GAFFS AND STRINGERS ARE OF COURSE STRICTLY BANNED.**
8. On no account must Retaining Equipment be placed in the water before the start of the competition. Only when pike have been caught in the match and wait weighing in and recording by the section steward should they be employed.
9. Stewards will make every effort to ensure that Pike are not retained for longer than necessary and wherever practically possible will weigh, record and return fish while the match is in progress.
10. Anglers may fish with no more than two rods at a time, although any number of rods and tackle may be assembled on the bank ready for use. Only one bait can be presented with each rod employed in the match. The practice of offering two or more baits or lures on a single set-up is strictly forbidden.
11. Able-bodied anglers must strike, play and land their own fish. Junior and less-abled anglers must strike and play their own fish but assistance with landing and unhooking is allowed - common sense must prevail in all cases. All runs should be dealt with as promptly as possible in an effort to avoid deep hooking. All competitors can obtain assistance from stewards or neighbouring competitors to unhook fish and anyone experiencing difficulty should immediately try to summon assistance to ensure the welfare of any fish landed.

12. All Anglers entering the Pike Final should be in possession of the appropriate unhooking tools. This should include, **as a bare minimum**, forceps and an unhooking mat.
13. **LIVEBAITING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Anyone caught with live baits in the vicinity of their peg, even if eventually intended as dead-baits, will be disqualified.**
Anglers may fish only with dead-baits or any legal kind of artificial lure. Any number of dead-baits may be brought to the match but freshwater fish must be chemically preserved. No unused baits may be left on the bank or thrown into the water after the match.
14. The draw will run between **7.30 and 9 am** with fishing from 10 am to 3 pm. The start will be signalled by section stewards, but competitors hearing the signal are asked to inform anglers at adjacent pegs.
15. Fishing must not begin before the starting signal at 10 am and must cease at 3 pm. An angler who is playing a fish when the final signal is given will be allowed a reasonable time to land his catch. **No fish hooked after the final signal will count.**
16. Each competitor will draw a peg number from which to fish. He should position himself not more than one yard from the peg in either direction and on no account fish further than the mid-point between his and his neighbour's peg. Moving from your allocated peg to place baits or land fish is not permitted. Pre-baiting swims before the start of the match is not permitted.
17. The Organisers – The Angling Trust & Stewards – reserve the right to relocate competitors to alternate sections and pegs if the conditions dictate it.
18. No angler with litter at his peg will be weighed in and all cars must be parked safely, in designated parking zones, shown on a map at the draw. These are typically opposite the fishing bank.
19. Stewards or competitors should report breaches of the above rules to the organisers. Only after consulting with the organisers shall the steward have the power to disqualify a competitor.
20. Organisers and the Angling Trust reserve the right to alter the prize list at any time and to award any prizes as they see fit.