

WISCONSIN ICE FISHING TOURNAMENTS

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I know if my ice fishing tournament requires a permit?

A: If you plan to have <100 people fishing in your ice fishing tournament you do NOT need a tournament permit. If you have 100+ people fishing in your tournament you will need to apply for a fishing tournament permit. If you are unsure how many people will participate you can decide to get a permit and allow for more than 100 or not get a permit and cap the number of participants at 99.

Q: When should I apply for my ice fishing tournament?

A: You MUST submit a tournament permit application and the associated application fee at least **30 DAYS** before you plan to hold your event. This allows for processing of the application fee and gives the reviewing fisheries biologist sufficient time to approve and mail your permit to you. We cannot accept applications submitted less than 30 days before the tournament start date.

Q: How many people can fish in my tournament?

A: If your tournament is a traditional tournament (i.e. it was WDNR permitted 4 out of 5 years from 2004-08 and since) then you can have up to the maximum number of participants you've had in the past. However, if it is a non-traditional tournament then participation is subject to the limits shown below in yellow. These limits are based on lake acreage. You can look up the acreage of the lake where you are planning to hold your tournament at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/>.

LAKE OR LAKE CHAIN SIZE (ACRES)	MAXIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF BOATS ALLOWED FOR PERMITTED OPEN WATER FISHING TOURNAMENTS	MAXIMUM MONTHLY NUMBER OF PERMITTED FISHING TOURNAMENT BOAT DAYS	MAXIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ALLOWED FOR PERMITTED ICE FISHING TOURNAMENTS	MAXIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF CONCURRENT PERMITTED FISHING TOURNAMENTS
1. Less than 100	0	0	150	1 (ice fishing only)
2. 100-449	25	50	250	1
3. 450-999	50	300	500	1
4. 1,000-4,999	125	1,125	1,000	2
5. 5,000-9,999	150	2,400	1,500	2
6. Larger than 10,000	Determined by actual acreage (1 boat/50 acres)	3,000	No Limit	No Limit

Q: How do I apply for a permit for my ice fishing tournament?

A: You can apply [online](#) OR you can print, complete and mail a [hard copy](#) of the application, or pick one up at your local WDNR service station. Use of the online application is strongly encouraged.

Q: I still have more questions about applying for an ice fishing tournament permit, who do I contact?

A: You can call Eric Eikenberry (608-264-9257) or Jon Hansen (608-266-6883), or you can contact your [local fisheries biologist](#).