



# British Pike Championships

## ANGLING TRUST BRITISH PIKE CHAMPIONSHIPS RULES 2025

1. The match is open only to anglers who have qualified through a recognised Angling Trust qualifying match. Proof of qualification is by means of an entry ticket which **must** be produced at the draw on the day of the final.
2. All anglers under the age of 16 who qualify for the Pike Championships final must apply for a Young Angler Exemption Certificate from the Angling Trust Competitions team and **MUST** always be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or designated responsible adult.
3. The competition is for pike only. Only fish caught by fair means will be recorded.
4. **LIVEBAITING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Anyone caught with live baits in the vicinity of their peg, even if eventually intended as deadbaits, will be disqualified.** Anglers may fish only with deadbaits or any legal kind of artificial lure. Any number of deadbaits may be brought to the match but freshwater fish must be frozen and from an approved source. No unused baits may be left on the bank.
5. Competitors must allow officials and stewards to carry out tackle and bait checks at any time, prior to, during, or after the match.
6. The draw will run between 7.30am and 9am (unless otherwise advertised) with fishing from 10am to 3pm.
7. All cars must be parked safely with consideration for other road users and residents. Parking will be in designated parking zones shown on a map at the draw - these are typically opposite the fishing bank.
8. The start of the match will be signalled by section stewards, but competitors hearing the signal are asked to inform anglers at adjacent pegs.
9. 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.**
10. Each competitor will draw a peg number from which to fish. Each competitor must position themselves not more than one yard from the peg in either direction and on no account fish further than the mid-point between theirs and a neighbour's peg. Moving from your allocated peg to place baits or land fish is not permitted.
11. Pre-baiting swims before the start of the match is not permitted.

12. The Organisers – the Angling Trust and stewards – reserve the right to relocate competitors to alternate sections and pegs if the conditions dictate it.
13. Anglers must make every effort to employ suitable tackle to play and land pike in excess of 20lb without causing undue stress when landing the fish. The Angling Trust recommends that hooks should be semi barbed or barbless and be attached to a wire trace of at least 28lb breaking strain.
14. 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.
15. Anglers entering into the Pike Championships should have suitable equipment to retain their pike. Fish must be retained alive in or pike tubes or floating retention slings of an adequate size until weighed and recorded by a steward. All fish must be returned alive, and no dead fish will be weighed in.
16. On no account may retaining equipment be placed in the water before the start of the competition. Only when pike have been caught in the match and await weighing in and recording by the section steward should they be employed.
17. 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.
18. Anglers may fish with a maximum of two rods at any time, although any number of rods may be assembled on the bank ready for use.
19. 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.
20. 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 for the welfare of angler and fish - common sense must prevail in all cases.
21. All runs should be dealt with as promptly as possible in an effort to avoid deep hooking.
22. All competitors can obtain assistance from stewards or neighbouring competitors to unhook fish and anyone experiencing difficulty should immediately summon assistance to ensure the welfare of any fish landed.
23. No angler with litter at his peg will be weighed in.
24. 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.
25. The Angling Trust reserve the right to alter the prize list at any time and to award any prizes as they see fit.