

# Carp to Croc Fishing Competition

## Safety Advice and Considerations

### DPI Fishing Competition Code of Practise



This safety document has been based on the Department of Primary Industries Code of practise for fishing events in NSW specifically part *1.10 Safety: considering the welfare of participants, organisers, and others*. The document can be accessed here: [Code of practice for fishing events in NSW](#).

**Locations to be safe and accessible:** Please refer to site locations outlined in the FishDonkey App upon registering for the competition.

**Timing:** It is recommended that people fish during the early morning or late afternoon/early evening to avoid the heat of the day. Ensure you are fishing while there is still light and do not fish when it is dark, or visibility is reduced.

**Advice on Weather Conditions:** Fishing should take place on days that are dry or cool with minimal wind. Do not fish during rain or storms and always check the weather forecast before you go out.

**General Safety Guidelines:** Some general safety suggestions to keep in mind while fishing include:

- Never go fishing alone. Always fish with someone else and, ideally, with two other people. If one person is injured or in danger, a second person can stay with them while the third person seeks help.
- Let somebody know the location of your fishing trip, who you are going with and an approximate time you will be back.
- Carry a charged mobile phone with you at all times.
- Wear non-slip shoes and take care to avoid slipping or cutting yourself on sharp, rocky edges.
- Wear lightweight garments worn in layers. Bulky woollen jumpers become extremely heavy and difficult to remove if you fall in the water.
- Carry a first aid kit with you.
- Be SunSmart. Wear sun protective clothing, use SPF30+ (or higher) sunscreen and lip balm, wear an appropriate hat, seek shade where possible and wear sunglasses.
- Take adequate drinking water.

**Alcohol:** Avoid drinking alcohol while fishing. Alcohol can impair your judgement. It also seriously affects your chances of survival if you fall in the water.

**Life Jackets:** Always wear an AS4758 approved lifejacket: Lifejackets suitable for fishing are widely available in a range of modern styles, designs and budgets. Select and use the lifejacket best suited to your requirements. Remember, a lifejacket is useless unless you wear it! In New South Wales, life jackets or personal flotation devices are compulsory on:

- powerboats up to 4.8 metres long
- off-the-beach sailing yachts
- personal watercraft
- canoes, kayaks and rowing boats
- pedal boats and fun boats
- kiteboards and sailboards
- recreational tenders
- Stand-up paddle boards - It's recommended that people using stand-up paddle boards (SUPs) wear a lifejacket. If this is not possible, it's recommended that you use a leg rope so you do not get separated from your board.

Children under the age of 12 must wear a specified personal flotation device at all times on any vessel.

Wear a life jacket when fishing off rocks, ledges, a riverbank, or a boat. Make sure a life jacket is available for each person, including children, and that they are worn at all times while in or near the water.

**Use and store fishing equipment safely:** Take care when using and storing fishing equipment to avoid the risk of injury. Fishing hooks and rods can be dangerous if not handled with care. Lead sinkers can be a risk to you and your family's health and to the environment. Some suggestions include:

- Make sure the hook is secure and hold the rod parallel to the ground when you carry your fishing rod.
- Cover or remove fishhooks from fishing rods before transporting. Exposed hooks on rods should be corked or placed in a hook safety cover.
- Fish at least 10 metres away from the person next to you.
- Check there isn't anyone behind you when you cast.
- Instruct beginners and children on safe rod and hook procedures.

- Take care if you make your own lead sinkers. Melting, grinding, sanding or swallowing lead can be dangerous. Young children and pregnant women are especially at risk. Follow safety precautions for handling and storing lead products and don't work with lead in or around your home. Consider using non-lead alternatives.

**Weather and fishing:** Staying aware of weather conditions is an important part of fishing safety. Make sure you have the most up-to-date local weather information available and be prepared for sudden changes. For coastal locations, take particular note of unexpected tide and swell conditions.

**Boat fishing:** Plan carefully before going out on the water. Make sure all your safety equipment, including a radio, is in good working order before you go out in the water and check fuel levels before you leave. Have your motor and boat serviced regularly and update your boating knowledge habitually.

**If you fall in the water or an injury occurs:**

- Do not feel for the bottom with your feet. Underwater rocks, tree trunks and debris are less likely to snare your trailing hands. Try to steer towards a clear bank feeling for the bottom with your hands.
- Stop fishing immediately if an injury occurs and seek prompt medical treatment.
- Always carry a charged mobile phone with you in case of emergency.