

Multi-Species Fall Challenge

Rules

- ◆ Rules are subject to change, any rule changes will be discussed in detail at the pretournament meeting.
- ◆ Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.
- ◆ Each competitor agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation. The violation of a tournament rule may result in disqualification at the sole discretion of the tournament director.
- ◆ Protests must be made in writing within 30 minutes of the final flight check in time, accompanied by a \$30.00 check that will be refunded if protest is judged accurate.

Participation

- ◆ Participation is open to all contestants 16 years of age or older. Any person under the age of 18 entering a tournament must also have the signature of a parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the entry form. All contestants must have a valid fishing license.
- ◆ Entries will be accepted beginning at 8 a.m. Central time, May 1st, 2009.
- ◆ Entries must be made via parcel post / standard mail.
- ◆ The **Multi-Species Fall Challenge (MSFC)** tournament will be limited to a field of 200 participants (100 boats). Late entries will be accepted through registration the day before the tournament, however entries received after 11:00 a.m. Saturday September 12th, will be assessed a \$15 late fee.
- ◆ Entry fees may be refunded if the **MSFC** is notified by 5 p.m. Tuesday, September 15th. Entry fees will not be refunded after Tuesday. Each refunded entry fee is subject to a \$10 service charge.

Practice and competition

- ◆ There will be no practice period or off-limits period prior to the pretournament meeting. Contestants may not enter tournament waters to locate fish or potential fishing waters after the start of the pretournament meeting.

Registration and pretournament meeting

- ◆ Each contestant must register in person or send a person who is 16 years of age or older to represent them providing we have a signed copy of the registration form for all participants on file.
- ◆ Registration hours are 4 - 6 p.m. on September, 18th 2009. Contestants registering between 6 - 6:15 p.m. will pay a \$15 late fee that will be donated to The Patriot Foundation. Contestants more than 15 minutes late for registration may forfeit their entry fee and not be entered in the tournament.
- ◆ It is mandatory that all contestants or their representatives attend the pretournament meeting held at Manhattan Beach Lodge by 7:30 p.m. the day before the tournament. Being late for the pretournament meeting will result in a \$25 late fee that will be donated to The Patriot Foundation. Contestants not present or represented may forfeit their entry fee and not be entered in the tournament.

Flights / position

- ◆ There will be three flights in a full tournament field. Flights will leave fifteen minutes apart, beginning at 7:00 a.m. sharp.
- ◆ The first 66 entrants received will be drawn for either flight one or flight two and boat positioning within the respective flight assigned. All remaining entrants will be granted position based on the date the entry is received.
- ◆ The boat position drawing will be held on Saturday September 12th at Moonlite Bay Family Restaurant and Bar starting at 11:00 a.m. This activity does not require attendance; however entrants are welcome to attend.

Multi-Species Fall Challenge

Safety

- ◆ Safe boating must be observed at all times.
- ◆ Each contestant is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device anytime the primary combustion engine is in operation above trolling speed (5mph).
- ◆ All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition-shutoff device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the primary combustion engine is above trolling speed.
- ◆ Tournament day may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather. In the event a tournament is cancelled all entry fees will be returned minus a \$30 service charge.

Sportsmanship

- ◆ All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, to **MSFC**, **MSFC's** sponsors, the sport of fishing and **MFSC's** efforts to promote the sport. Conduct not complying with these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the rules for the **MSFC**.
 - Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
 - Suspension/disqualification from any tournament or fishing organization.
 - Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards set forth above.
 - Violation of any speed limits in "no wake" zones throughout the Whitefish Chain of Lakes.
- ◆ In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, the **MSFC** shall have the right to refuse an application to compete, to deny a confirmed application to compete by returning the full entry fee or to disqualify a contestant.

Communication

- ◆ The use of mobile communication devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., during tournament hours is strictly prohibited except in an emergency (severe weather, etc.) or when contacting the tournament director.

Boat and horsepower regulation

- ◆ Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment.
- ◆ Maximum horsepower for outboards used in tournament competition is not to exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" placard affixed to the boat by the manufacturer.
 - Each contestant agrees to submit their boat and/or motor to an inspection by **MSFC** personnel.
 - Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating placard will be cause for disqualification from the tournament.

Permitted fishing methods

- ◆ All fish must be caught in a conventional sporting manner.
- ◆ Live and artificial baits may be used.
- ◆ Trolling as a method of fishing is permitted.

Multi-Species Fall Challenge

Permitted fishing locations

- ◆ All fishing must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.
- ◆ Contestants must leave and return to the check-in by boat.
- ◆ The boat must remain in tournament waters during the tournament day.
- ◆ No tournament boat may be loaded on a trailer before the weigh-in except with the permission of the tournament director.
- ◆ In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there will be only two permitted methods of returning to the check-in: (1) by both partners remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or (2) by one, or both, of the partners entering the boat of another tournament contestant. Under these two conditions the contestants' catch may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead-fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules). Contestants who elect to return to the check-in by any other means than cited above will be disqualified at the discretion of the tournament director.

Checkpoints

- ◆ There will be only one checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat inspection and checkout in the morning or failure to check in at the check-in point will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in.

Late penalty

- ◆ Contestants who are not at the check-in area at the appointed time will be disqualified.

Limits / Live fish

- ◆ Every effort must be made to keep fish alive through the use of properly aerated live-wells. A 30% dead fish penalty will be applied to each non-releasable fish presented for weigh-in. Releasable fish must be able to swim upright in the release tank.
- ◆ This is a mixed bag tournament consisting of the following limits and restrictions:
 - Northern Pike – Three (3) per boat, minimum length limit is 20" only two over 30" may be weighed.
 - Walleye – Four (4) per boat, minimum length limit is 14", only two over 20" may be weighed.
 - Largemouth Bass – Five (5) Largemouth Bass per boat, minimum length limit is 12".
- ◆ The official measuring device of the **MSFC** will be the "Judge" ruler. Fish will be measured with the mouth closed and the tail fanned. Any fish determined by the weigh master as "altered" including weight, length or containment marks will subject the participating team to immediate disqualification.
- ◆ Any fish that does not meet the minimum length requirement at the weigh table will not be weighed and assessed a 4oz. penalty on the species limit and/or total weight for each short fish presented. Presenting more than two short fish will result in disqualification.
- ◆ Two person teams attempting to weigh more than two fish over the legal length limit for the State of Minnesota will be disqualified.
- ◆ Fish may be weighed any time throughout tournament hours. Anglers are encouraged to weigh fish as soon as possible to reduce mortality and dead fish penalties.

Multi-Species Fall Challenge

Ties

- ◆ Ties will be resolved by combining and dividing the awards equally among the tied contestants.

Truth verification test

- ◆ Each contestant agrees to submit to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification. Truth verification tests will be used at **MSFC's** sole discretion, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by **MSFC** tournament officials.

Insurance

- ◆ Liability insurance with coverage in reasonable amounts (not less than \$100,000 of liability) is required of all contestants participating in the MSFC.