

RULES

- ◆ Rules are subject to change, any rule changes will be discussed at check in.
- ◆ 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 check in time.

PARTICIPATION

- ◆ Participation is open to the first 100 contestants or 50 boaters. 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 MN fishing license.
- ◆ Entries may be made via parcel post, or hand delivered to Tournament Director.
- ◆ Entries will be accepted on a first come first served basis until the event is full. Boat placement/number will be determined by the order in which they were received.
- ◆ Entry fees may be refunded if the **M.S.F.C.** is notified by 5 p.m. the Thursday prior to the event.

PRACTICE AND COMPETITION

- ◆ There will be no off-limits practice time.

REGISTRATION AND PRE-TOURNAMENT CHECK IN

- ◆ Livewell checks, ribbon placement, boat number card, rules talk will start at 6:00am down at the docks.

FLIGHTS / POSITION

- ◆ There will be two flights in a full tournament field. Flights will leave fifteen minutes apart, beginning at 7:00 a.m.
- ◆ If check in is going a little long, the tournament will still be 8 hours. I.E. 7:20am to 3:20pm
- ◆ Anglers will be assigned a number that will carry through the entire tournament (hand in card at weigh in). Flight #1 will be boats 1-25 and will leave in sequence beginning with boat #1 and flight #2 boats 26-50 will also follow in numerical sequence.

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 days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather. In the event the entire tournament is cancelled all entries will be refunded.

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 **M.S.F.C.**, sponsors, the sport of fishing and **M.S.F.C's**

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efforts to promote the sport. Conduct not complying with these **M.S.F.C.** standards includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the rules for the **M.S.F.C.**.
 - 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 Lakes included in fishable tournament waters.
- ◆ In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, the **M.S.F.C.** 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 entirely with subsequent loss of entry fee.

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 **M.S.F.C.** 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.

PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS / OFF LIMITS

- ◆ 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, 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.
- ◆ **Fishable waters will be determined by the DNR and rules will be amended to reflect the boundaries.

CHECKPOINTS

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- ◆ 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 back in at the check-in point in the afternoon 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. Releasable fish must be able to swim upright in the release tank.
- ◆ This is a mixed bag tournament consisting of the following categories, limits and restrictions:
 - Bass – Five (5) Largemouth Bass
 - Walleye – Four (4) per boat, only two fish over 20” may be weighed.
 - Northern Pike – Three (3) per boat, only two over 30” may be weighed.
- ◆ The official measuring device of the **M.S.F.C.** will be the “Judge” ruler. Fish will be measured with the mouth closed and tail pinched. 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 is determined to be dead will result in a 4oz penalty of the total bag weight.
- ◆ Two person teams attempting to weigh more than two fish over the legal length limit for the State of Minnesota will be disqualified.

Weigh in Procedure

- Weigh in will be in order of boat number, boat # one weighs in first, boat # two weighs in second ect. Put your fish in a weigh bag (a couple will be provided, but you are invited to use your own), with plenty of water, and bring them up to the scale, also hand in your boat number card at this time. The fish will then be placed into the weigh basket to be weighed. After that, place your fish in the release boat. It is your responsibility to pick what fish, if any, to be weighed for big fish.

TIES

- ◆ Big fish will be tie breaker, if no big fish is weighed for both boats, a coin flip will decide the tie among the 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 **M.S.F.C.’s** sole discretion, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by **M.S.F.C.** 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 **M.S.F.C.** event.