



# The Legacy Tournament Fishing Rules

Effective January 1, 2026

New or updated rules from the previous year are highlighted in **red text**.

All student anglers and boat captains are expected to read the rules prior to tournament participation.

## **1. INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF RULES**

- A. All rules potentially have "loopholes." It is our intention to conduct a fair and responsible tournament. Tournament officials will apply the "spirit of the rule" at all times regarding rule interpretation and enforcement.
- B. Enforcement of these rules will be performed by the tournament director. Decisions of the tournament director are final and are not subject to appeal.
- C. Questions about the rules must be resolved with tournament officials before the start of the tournament.
- D. Reporting Rule Violations - Each angler, coach, and boat captain agree to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation. Failure to report violations may be cause for disqualification.
- E. Penalties - Violation of any tournament rule may result in disqualification from the tournament or ineligibility to participate in future tournaments.
  - i. Tournament director may disqualify a team for poor sportsmanship, rules/safety violations, or other issues at his/her discretion.

## **2. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

- A. Students in grades 6-12 during **the most recently concluded school year** are eligible to participate.
- B. Seniors who graduated in **the most recently concluded school year** are eligible to participate.
- C. Student anglers must have the proper fishing license for the State of Minnesota. Failure to obtain and possess a fishing license will result in disqualification from the tournament.
  - i. Minnesota requires all anglers aged 16 or older to purchase a fishing license. If the angler will be age 16 on or before the start of the tournament, then the angler will require a fishing license.

### **3. TEAM**

- A. A team consists of two student anglers.
- B. In the event of family emergency, sickness, etc., a student angler may fish solo during competition without his/her partner if one of the scenarios below is followed.
  - i. Boat captain is the student angler's parent, guardian, or relative. (i.e., student and his/her parent are present in the boat)
  - ii. Boat captain is not the student angler's parent or guardian, and another adult is present in the boat as an observer. (i.e., 3 people are present in the boat)
- C. Number of Teams - The tournament may have a maximum number of teams resulting from applicable federal, state, and local regulations and laws, or by designation of the tournament director.
  - i. Tournament entries will be determined on a first-come, first-serve basis based on receipt of tournament registrations / applications.
  - ii. There may be a limit to the number of teams accepted into a tournament from each community or school.

### **4. BOAT CAPTAIN**

- A. Student anglers must be accompanied by an adult boat captain who is at least 19 years old.
- B. Boat captain cannot do the following:
  - i. Fish.
  - ii. Tie knots.
  - iii. Touch rods/reels while a line is in the water.
  - iv. Choose fishing locations for student anglers.
  - v. Choose fishing techniques for student anglers.

- vi. Act as a fishing guide.
  - vii. Run the boat electronics when the students are fishing. (i.e., students must be the ones interpreting the sonar output)
- C. Boat captain can do the following:
- i. Run the outboard motor.
  - ii. Run the electric motor if the boat captain fears for the safety of the vessel.
  - iii. Net fish.
  - iv. Monitor and enforce safety and ethics procedures on board the vessel.

## 5. SAFETY

Safe boating and safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by student anglers and boat captains.

- A. Student anglers and boat captain must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD) while the outboard motor is running.
- B. Boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment.
- C. Boat must have an outboard motor kill/shutoff device that must be securely attached to the driver's body when the outboard motor is running.
- D. All persons in the boat will remain seated in a manufacturer-recommended seating location when the outboard motor is running and in gear.
  - i. All persons are prohibited from sitting on pedestal seats when the outboard motor is running and in gear.
- E. Only the boat captain is permitted to drive the boat when the outboard motor is running, except under the following conditions.
  - i. Anglers can assist with loading and unloading a boat from the trailer.
  - ii. Anglers can assist in the case of an emergency upon direction from the boat captain.
- F. Boat captain is responsible for the safety of all persons on board the vessel.
- G. Boat captain must be in the boat with anglers at all times. If a boat captain needs to use the bathroom, take a break for health reasons, or needs to be absent from the boat for any reason whatsoever, all fishing by student anglers must cease. Student anglers are prohibited from fishing and/or running the trolling motor while the boat captain is not in the boat.
- H. If unsafe weather or water conditions are present on the designated body of water, then anglers and boat captain may seek shelter during the tournament.
  - i. Moving to a different body of water is prohibited.

## **6. BOATS**

- A. Teams must provide their own boat.
- B. Boat must be a minimum of 14 feet in length.
- C. The outboard motor must not exceed the maximum horsepower capacity specified on the “Maximum Capacities” placard on the boat.
- D. Student anglers and boat captain must comply with all Minnesota fishing and boating laws, rules, regulations, and licenses.
  - i. The boat captain’s vessel and trailer must be properly licensed with the State of Minnesota.
- E. Boat Electronics - At this time, any of the following types of boat electronics are allowed.
  - i. Standard 2D sonar (CHIRP)
  - ii. Down Imaging or Side Imaging sonar
  - iii. Live Imaging, forward facing sonar, or 3D sonar
- F. When using any of the boat’s electronics for fishing, the student anglers must choose the sonar settings, interpret the sonar output, etc.
- G. All boats are subject to inspection by the tournament director.

## **7. TOURNAMENT BOUNDARIES**

- A. Anglers can fish any body of water in Minnesota that has a public boat access available to all anglers.
  - i. Anglers cannot fish private lakes or ponds.
- B. Anglers must specify the body of water at the time of tournament registration.
  - i. If anglers desire to change their body of water, then they must notify the tournament director in writing (email or text message) at least two (2) days prior to the tournament start.
- C. Anglers caught fishing a body of water that is different from what they specified in the tournament registration or subsequent communication with the tournament director will be disqualified.
- D. Anglers must abide by all local regulations, speed limits, and signage, including no fishing areas.
- E. Tournament director may designate off-limits locations for some bodies of water.

## **8. PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING**

- A. A pre-tournament rules meeting may be held. If such a meeting occurs, then it will be virtual and at least one member from each team is required to attend.

- B. All student anglers and boat captains are expected to read the rules prior to the tournament.
  - i. In addition to the written rules, there may be a rules video instead of a meeting. A link to the rules video will be provided to all registered participants.

## 9. COMPETITION PARAMETERS

- A. Tournament hours are from 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM central time.
  - i. Anglers must not begin fishing until 7:00 AM.
  - ii. Anglers must stop fishing at or before 2:00 PM.
  - iii. All fish entries must be logged prior to the end of the tournament. No exceptions.
- B. Boats are allowed to launch from any public boat ramp on the designated body of water and proceed to their fishing location before the tournament start time.
- C. Boat captains are expected to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species by following safe practices of removing weeds from trailers, draining water from live wells, etc.
- D. Soliciting and/or Receiving Information - Anglers, coaches, and boat captains are prohibited from purchasing or bartering information, GPS waypoints, etc. pertaining to the tournament body of water.
- E. Placing of Fish Attractors - Anglers, coaches, and boat captains are prohibited from placing brush or other physical fish attractors, including chum of any kind, in the tournament body of water.

## 10. TOURNAMENT FORMAT – MEASURE, PHOTO, RELEASE, RECORD

- A. All fish must be measured, photographed, and released safely and unharmed.
  - i. Any fish not safely released will be disqualified.
- B. Measuring Fish:
  - i. Length is measured in  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch increments.
  - ii. Length is rounded up to the nearest  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch when it falls between the lines.
    - 1) Example: if a fish exceeds the 12" line, but does not make the 12  $\frac{1}{4}$ " line, then it would be logged as 12  $\frac{1}{4}$ "
  - iii. Teams must use a hard-style, flat measuring board (i.e., bump board) that has a fixed 90-degree angle for nose touching and which marks zero and at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ " lines.

- 1) Flexible tape measures are not permitted.
  - 2) Built-in, permanently affixed, rulers on a boat are not permitted. This includes those that are painted, embossed, affixed to carpets or foam decking, etc.
  - 3) All measuring devices must be commercially made.
    - a. Examples of allowable devices:
      - i. "The Judge" Tournament Ruler
      - ii. Student Angler Tournament Trail branded rulers
      - iii. Gator Grip Golden Rule Measuring Board
      - iv. Ketch Board
      - v. Check-It Stik
      - vi. Hawg Trough Measuring Board
      - vii. Muskie Bumper
    - iv. Measurements must be done with the fish mouth closed, nose touching the zero inch end of the board, and pinching the tail.
- C. Photographing Fish - Teams must photograph fish as follows.
- i. One or more photos of each fish on the measuring board with nose touching 90-degree angle and with tail pinched. The entire fish laying on the measuring board must be visible in the photograph.
    - 1) Hands or other body parts cannot hinder the ability to clearly read the fish measurement.
  - ii. If the total fish measurement is not clearly readable in the submission photo, it may be rejected by the tournament director.
  - iii. Pictures cannot be uploaded from your camera history. Pictures must be taken within the tournament mobile app.
    - 1) Tournament officials cannot accept any emailed photos.
- D. Recording Fish - Record the fish using the designated tournament mobile application, which requires a mobile device.
- i. All fish must be submitted through the **FishDonkey** app which can be installed on any smartphone.
    - 1) <https://www.fishdonkey.com/>
  - ii. The app must be installed when your phone has a good connection (i.e., at home prior to the tournament).
  - iii. The app will only allow entries during the designated fishing times for the tournament.
  - iv. The app can capture fish log/picture details without needing a good cell phone connection.

- v. Once your phone has a good connection anywhere on the lake, the fish log/picture will be uploaded to the leaderboard and tournament officials will be able to see the results.
  - vi. The app records an audit trail of each submission. Tournament director may engage FishDonkey officials to obtain the audit trail in cases of tournament protests or potential rules violations.
- E. Releasing Fish - Release the fish as soon as possible after catch and in proximity to where the fish was caught.
- i. Minimize the amount of time that a fish is out of the water.
  - ii. Ensure the fish is released under its own power. If a fish is struggling to survive, it is the student anglers' and boat captain's responsibility to remain with the fish until it safely swims away (no matter how long that takes).
- F. Using a livewell to store fish for any reason is prohibited.

## 11. FISHING METHODS

- A. Fishing methods must adhere to Minnesota laws and regulations.
- B. Fishing is only allowed with artificial lures or artificial bait. No live or dead bait is permitted.
- C. Trolling is not permitted.
- D. Anglers cannot fish at any time when the outboard motor is running.

## 12. SCORING

- A. Species - Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass are the allowable species for the tournament.
- B. Scoring is determined by converting the length of fish to an approximate weight. The conversion will use the proprietary formula built within FishDonkey.
- C. **Minimum fish size is 12 inches. Any fish logged that is less than 12 inches will not be scored.**
- D. Length is the sole factor to determine if a fish is scorable.
- E. Each fish may only be entered once in the tournament mobile app. Each fish submitted must be a different fish.
- F. The number of fish counted toward each team's weight for the tournament is 7.
  - i. The 7 fish used will be those with the top length-to-weight conversion.

- ii. The top 7 fish will establish the team's cumulative weight for the tournament.
- G. Tournament places will be determined by the cumulative weight (pounds and ounces) of each team's fish limit.
- H. Points will be awarded to each team based on their tournament place.
  - i. Max points that can be earned by a team is 100 for the fishing portion of the tournament.
    - 1) Example: 1st place team earns 100 points, 2nd place team earns 99 points, etc.
- I. Scoring assumes that 100 teams are participating. If more teams participate, then the max number of points accrued for each discipline (e.g., fishing, trapshooting) will increase.
- J. Teams may be tied in points at the end of the fishing portion of the tournament. There are no tie breakers for the fishing portion.
  - i. Tie breakers will be handled on the subsequent day of competition for a different discipline (e.g., trapshooting).
- K. Tournament director has the final say in determining team placements.

### **13. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

- A. In the event of equipment failure or emergency during tournament competition, anglers, boat captain, or other party will notify the tournament director as soon as it is safe to do so.
- B. In the event of equipment failure, arrangements can be made for backup equipment if the tournament director is notified and agrees.
  - i. Any backup equipment must adhere to the rules herein.
- C. If a team is unable to continue in the tournament, then their current set of fish logged within the tournament mobile app will be counted.

### **14. ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO**

- A. During the tournament, all alcohol and tobacco logos are prohibited and may not be worn or displayed on any person or vessel.
- B. Anglers cannot possess or consume alcohol.
- C. Coaches and boat captains, regardless of age, cannot possess or consume alcohol during the tournament.

- D. Anglers, coaches, and boat captains cannot smoke or use tobacco products during the tournament.

#### **15. TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST**

- A. By registering for this tournament, anglers, coaches, and boat captains agree to submit to a polygraph examination and to abide by its conclusion.
- B. Failure to pass an examination, or refusal to take an examination, will result in disqualification.
- C. Tournament officials have sole discretion on the use of truth verification tests and for whom the tests are administered.

#### **16. LIABILITY AND INSURANCE**

- A. Student anglers, parents/guardians of student anglers, and boat captains assume all liability and legal and financial responsibilities for tournament participation to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- B. Boat captain must have watercraft and liability insurance with coverage in reasonable amounts that apply to the vessel used during the tournament.
  - i. Insurance coverage must cover all passengers in the boat.
- C. Boat captain must have proof of insurance either available electronically on a phone or in written format.
  - i. Tournament officials will ask to see proof of insurance before or during the check-in process on the morning of the trapshooting portion of the tournament.
  - ii. Failure to provide proof of insurance when requested by the tournament officials will result in disqualification.
- D. Event officials will not be providing insurance for the event.

#### **17. SPORTSMANSHIP**

- A. All anglers, parents/guardians, coaches, and boat captains are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, ethics, and conservation.
  - i. Examples of conduct that don't comply with these standards include, but are not limited to, the following.
    - 1) Violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the rules herein.
    - 2) Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during tournament hours.

- 3) Conviction of a felony within the past 24 months.
  - 4) Suspension or ban from any other fishing tournament or fishing organization.
  - 5) Boat operation in an unsafe or unsportsmanlike manner.
  - 6) Violation of a posted no-wake area.
  - 7) Any words, conduct, or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and compliance with tournament rules.
  - 8) Any words, conduct, or actions reflecting unfavorably upon, criticizing, or questioning the integrity of tournament officials.
- B. Tournament officials reserve the right to disqualify any angler or team for failure to comply with tournament rules or sportsmanship.