



BIG BALLER OPEN TOURNAMENT
NY M.I. Chapter 69
Effective 09-OCT-2020
RULES AND REGULATIONS

Open tournament means everyone is welcome, Muskies, Inc. members and non-members.

The Tournament Committee has the right to modify the Tournament Rules & Regulations as they see fit prior to the start of the Tournament, either generally or for a particular event. Where a conflict exists between any of these terms and those on an individual tournament flyer, the tournament flyer shall govern.

1) General Regulations and Responsibilities

- a) All contestants must possess a valid state freshwater fishing license for the body of water fished.
- b) State Angling Regulations apply with the following exceptions:
 - i) 100% Catch and Release Tournament
 - ii) ARTIFICIAL LURES & FLIES ONLY. No live or dead bait can be used
- c) Each person in a boat must be a tournament registrant
- d) All contestants must agree to Release of Liability form at time of registration
- e) Entrants are responsible for any launch fees
- f) All boats must have the following equipment on board:
 - i) All Coast Guard and State required safety equipment
 - ii) Measuring stick, bumper or soft measuring tape and digital camera or cell phone camera to verify fish length and girth (unless judge boats are used). Picture must be clear enough to make out the measurements (must be full length picture of fish and button should also be in the picture)
- g) Additionally, all boats should ideally have the following equipment on board:
 - i) Quality net or cradle fully capable of safely landing and holding a muskie until measured and released. Homemade cradles are acceptable
 - ii) Jaw Spreaders
 - iii) Pliers and hook cutters
- h) Navigation lights are required prior to sunrise or after sunset
- i) Where applicable, tournament boundaries are as shown on the tournament maps. Any boat caught fishing outside the boundaries will be disqualified and will forfeit all tournament fees and voluntary money options
- j) If you sign up as a member and are found to be a non-member you shall forfeit all tournament fees, monies won, and will be disqualified from the tournament. The tournament committee also has the power to disqualify that person from fishing in further tournaments as well.
- k) Unlimited number of anglers allowed on a boat but will be required to stick to a 6 rod 6 lure maximum.
- l) Tournament anglers will be fishing individually for this event. No teams. Only Biggest fish per angler will be counted.
- m) Casting/Jigging only, no trolling is allowed.
- n) If an unknown circumstance arises during the tournament, the tournament committee has the right to make the decision on the matter.
- o) If there are unsafe acts during tournament hours while boating that team/boat will be disqualified from the tournament and the committee has the right to deny such boat in participating in further tournaments.

- p) If purposeful unsafe handling of fish is noticed and reported to the tournament committee, the committee has the right to disqualify said person/persons from the tournament and any further tournaments going forward. We want everyone to have a good time but our main concern is protecting the fish as best as possible.

2) **Tournament Schedule**

- a) Fishing hours for tournament will be announced on each tournament flier or on the website.
- b) Start times subject to change based on light conditions and the readiness of the teams
- c) Unless otherwise stated, the following process will apply:
 - i) Registration will be held online only. Registrations will not be accepted the day of the tournament. NO EXCEPTIONS.
 - ii) Tournament results will be entered and presented at location specified on flyer.
 - iii) Award ceremony with results
 - iv) To ensure a fair competition for all, no fishing on the tournament waters is permitted:
 - (1) On the day of the tournament, prior to the start (e.g. after midnight)
 - (2) After the official end time but before release form submission cut off time.

3) **Prizes, Scoring & Measurement of the Release:**

- a) Any prize amounts listed on tournament fliers are based on full field of designated boats for the tournament. Actual payout will be as follows:
 - (1) All entry fees will be added up minus 10% to club
 - (2) Payouts will be 50% to first place, 30% to second place, and 20% to third place of the \$100 entry fee for members
 - (3) The extra \$10 fee for non-member fishing the tournament will go to the club and then 90% payout from there
- b) The minimum size for all released Muskies entered will be 30 inches regardless of local, state, or provincial laws
- c) All fractions of inches will be rounded off to the nearest inch for awarding points
 - i) A fraction that is 1/2 inch or more will be rounded up to the next inch
 - ii) Any fraction less than 1/2 inch will be dropped

Note: A Muskie that is smaller than 30" is not rounded up to make it legal. All musky will be measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the farthest tip of the tail (NO TAIL PINCHING)
- d) Unless another scoring system is otherwise stated, a points system will be used for determination of the winners

The winner will be determined by largest fish.

- i) In the case of a tie for first place, the tie breaker will be determined by time caught first.
- ii) Ties for second place will be determined in the same fashion as above
- iii) A boat can win multiple spots such as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and big fish if there is only one fish caught for the tournament. If there are 2 fish caught by 2 different anglers the 3rd place will be split between those 2 teams.
- iv) If no fish are caught during the tournament, winners will be drawn at random from pool of all tournament participants.
- e) Only released fish will qualify for tournament results
- f) When a muskie is caught, please:

- i) Keep the fish in the water while removing the hook.
 - ii) Verify fish measurement with:
 - (1) A digital or Polaroid picture accurately demonstrating the fish's length must be taken in order for the fish to count and
 - (2) Another contestant in the boat or in another boat must verify the catch.
If possible, measure the fish in the water while in the net (for the health and safety of the fish).
Coordinate personal photos with measurement photos as much as possible. If fish is removed from the water for measurement and personal photo purposes, please hold the fish out of the water no longer than you can hold your breath underwater.
 - (3) *Must have a picture of the fish on the bump board with the specific button given to angler on the day of the tournament*
 - iii) To ensure the safe release of the fish, there will be no more fishing by anyone in the boat until the measuring and release of that fish is complete
 - iv) Email tournament release forms and entry pictures to BALLER@NYMusky.com by end of tournament day.
 - g) Fish Release forms can be downloaded from website.
 - h) In case a contestant's position is challenged, a written protest must be provided to the Tournament Committee immediately. Individuals concerned may be required to take a truth verification examination. Said parties will both submit monies to the tournament committee to take the truth verification test and depending on the results of the test the losing party will lose their monies to pay for the test.
 - i) The tournament committee is final judge of all tournament rules
- 4) **Courtesy:**
- a) PLEASE respect all Homeowners property
 - b) Unless there is mutual consent, no two contestant boats allowed within 100 feet of each other
 - c) Contestants will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. Your honesty and integrity are expected and appreciated within this Tournament

**NY Chapter 69 of Muskies Inc. is a nonprofit musky fishing club dedicated
to the sport of muskie fishing!**