



OPEN TOURNAMENT
NY M.I. Chapter 69
Effective 06-04-2017
RULES AND REGULATIONS
TEAMS FORMAT

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 flier, the tournament flier 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) A team consists of all contestants aboard a participating boat.
 - i) Each person in a boat must be a tournament registrant.
 - ii) There is a limit of 6 rods per boat (team) but no limit of team members on the boat.
- d) All contestants must sign a Release of Liability form.
- 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.
- 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.

2) Tournament Schedule

- a) Fishing hours for tournament will be announced on each tournament flier.
- 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 the day of the tournament, starting one hour before the official start time. Registrations will not be accepted more than 15 minutes after the official start time of the tournament, NO EXCEPTIONS.
 - ii) Cut off for check-in and submission of release forms will be determined at the launching dock with the Tournament Officials (generally one half hour after conclusion). NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.
 - iii) Award ceremony will be held shortly after submission cut off time.
 - 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.
 - (2) \$25, will go to the Chapter for administration of the tournament.
 - (3) The remaining fees collected will go to the prize pool.
 - (4) Payouts will be 50% to first place, 30% to second place, and 20% to third place.
- 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.
- d) Unless another scoring system is otherwise stated, a points system will be used for determination of the winners.
 - i) Points are awarded as follows: 4 points per musky plus 1 point for every inch over 30 inches.

<u>LENGTH-POINTS</u>	<u>LENGTH-POINTS</u>	<u>LENGTH-POINTS</u>
30 - 4	40 - 14	50 - 24
31 - 5	41 - 15	51 - 25
32 - 6	42 - 16	52 - 26
33 - 7	43 - 17	53 - 27
34 - 8	44 - 18	54 - 28
35 - 9	45 - 19	55 - 29
36 - 10	46 - 20	56 - 30
37 - 11	47 - 21	57 - 31
38 - 12	48 - 22	58 - 32
39 - 13	49 - 23	59 - 33

- ii) The winner will be determined by adding all points accumulated by each team during the event. The team with the most points wins first place, followed by second and third place respectively.

iii) In the case of a tie for first place, the tie breaker will be the biggest fish by length. If there is still a tie, then the team's next longest fish will be taken into consideration in the same manner as described above. If after all fish are accounted for and there is still a tie, then the end result is a tie and the teams will split the combined prizes for the affected positions.

iv) Ties for second place will be determined in the same fashion as above.

e) Only released fish will qualify for tournament results.

f) If there is a big fish pool, all team members on a boat must be entered in it to participate.

g) When a muskie is caught, please:

i) Keep the fish in the water while removing the hook.

ii) If there are no judge boats used to verify fish measurement then:

(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.

iii) If judge boats are used:

(1) Leave the fish in the water in the net while waiting for the judge boat to arrive.

iv) 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.

h) Fish Release forms will be provided to each contestant.

i) In case a team'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.

j) 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!