



OPEN TOURNAMENT
NY M.I. Chapter 69
Effective 13-MAY-2021
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 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 (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) Tournaments will count as a team event meaning that points accumulated by each boat will count not just single anglers

- m) Planer boards are welcomed as long as it does not become a problem for other anglers. If there are complaints the tournament committee has the right to ask that boat to stop using said planer boards.
- 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
- 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 with club keeping 10%, the remaining money will be split 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.
 - (2) Payouts will be 50% to first place, 30% to second place, and 20% to third place of the remaining \$40 entry fees
 - (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 and Tiger 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 fish will be measured from the tip of a closed lower jaw to the farthest tip of the tail. Pinching of tail is allowed.

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 team during the event. The team with the most points is deemed the winner.

iii) As many 30" and above fish you catch during the tournaments will count for the team's overall points for the tournament.

iv) In the case of a tie for first place, the tie breaker will be the biggest fish by length. If still there is a tie, then the angler's next longest fish will be taken into consideration in the same manner as described above. If there is no second fish for either party the angler who catches the fish earlier in the day will win. If after all fish are accounted for and there is still a tie, then the end result is a tie and the anglers will split the combined prizes for the affected positions.

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

vi) These rules will also apply to the big fish pot.

vii) A team 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 teams the 3rd place will be split between those 2 teams.

viii) If no fish are caught during the tournament we will give everyone raffle tickets for a chance to win each spot.

ix) Fishing with a paid guide during tournaments is not permitted.

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) 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.

(3) *Must have a picture of the fish on the bump board with the specific button or code given to angler on the day of the tournament*

iii) If judge boats are used:

(1) Leave the fish in the water while 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

g) Fish Release forms will be provided to each contestant

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!