

SALMON UNLIMITED

2023 BOAT TOURNAMENT RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. Eligibility:

All active members of Salmon Unlimited and their immediate family, as determined by the membership committee, are eligible to compete. All participants must possess a valid state fishing license and stamp. Members of other S.U. chapters, such as S.U. - Wisconsin, in good standing, are also invited to participate in up to two (2) contests per season. If they wish to participate in more than two contests, then they must become full members of S.U. – Illinois.

2. Teams:

A team will consist of 2 or more fishermen and each team will weigh their best 10 fish, regardless of the number of contestants aboard the boat. All crew members must meet the eligibility requirements as defined above. Teams may use different boats for each contest, but must use only one team/boat name for the season.

3. Donation:

There is a \$30.00 donation per team for each tournament. This includes food following the weigh-in. There is also an optional side wager of \$10.00 per boat. The side wager criteria will be determined by the tournament host boat and announced prior to the start of fishing. Participation in the side wager is voluntary and NOT required to enter the tournament.

4. Registration:

Each boat captain and all crew members must sign a waiver for our insurance company before fishing any tournament. The waiver is valid for the entire season. If your team members are family members, write "Spouse" or "Child" instead of card number (children under 21). Blank waiver forms can be printed from the S.U. website. Registration for each tournament is via radio check-in. Boats may begin checking in one half hour before the scheduled start time. To check-in, hail the tournament host boat on VHF channel 68 and give them your boat/team name and whether or not you want to be included in the optional side bet. Payment of the \$30.00 donation (and \$10 side bet, if applicable) is due at the weigh-in. If you call in that you are fishing and leave early, you are still responsible to pay the donation.

5. Fishing Hours:

Tournament hours are 5:30 am to 12:00 pm for all tournaments. Please check the schedule. **If there is a small craft advisory in effect, the tournament will be cancelled and rescheduled for the designated make-up date.** The tournament may also be cancelled without a small craft advisory being issued if, in the opinion of the tournament committee, weather conditions will not allow the tournament to proceed in a manner that is safe for ALL participants. Three hours of fishing constitutes an official tournament. If a tournament is called due to deteriorating weather conditions after becoming official, all lines must be pulled at the time the tournament is called. The time limit for returning to the check-in is 90 minutes, unless cleared by a tournament official. Failure to pull lines when the tournament is called will result in disqualification. Failure to return within the time limit may also result in disqualification.

- A. All registered boats must check in on VHF channel 68 before the tournament start time.
- B. A tournament may be called by the tournament committee because of bad weather and will be announced on VHF channel 68.
- C. All tournaments called before three hours are up will be unofficial, and will be re-run on the designated make-up date.
- D. If the weather conditions necessitate canceling a tournament, the committee will make every effort to make the decision as early as possible.
- E. It is the responsibility of each captain to decide if their boat is going to fish any tournament.

6. Fishing Rules:

- A. Points and prizes will be awarded for salmon and trout only.
- B. Fishing will be by rod and reel only.
- C. All fish entered in the contest must be whole and freshly caught. All fish will be checked for freshness and any unethical abrasions at the time of weigh-in. Any fish failing to meet the above criteria may be cause for immediate disqualification of the team that entered the fish.
- D. The best 10 fish will be your contest fish, no matter how many crew members you have. No more than four (4) lake trout can be included in your best 10 fish. All possession limits are subject to local DNR rules for the

state you are fishing. Example, in Illinois, 4 licensed fishermen can keep 20 salmon and trout of which no more than 8 can be Lake Trout. The best 10 fish of their 20 fish limit would be weighed in for the tournament.

- E. There is no limit to the distance a boat may travel, as long as they remain on the lake.
- F. Fishing inside of harbor entrances and/or pier-heads/break-walls is not allowed.
- G. All boats must return to the port of registration by the scheduled end of the contest. Exception: If your boat needs assistance or tow, it must be cleared by a tournament official. Once cleared, the boat doing the assistance will be allowed to weigh-in fish. No extra time for fishing will be allowed due to time lost.
- H. All fish entered must be a minimum of 10 inches in length. Fish under the 10-inch minimum must be released immediately. Any boat that attempts to weigh-in a salmon or trout that is under the 10-inch minimum will be disqualified. All fish must be laid flat and measured from end of tail to tip of nose. Do not pinch tail to increase length.
- I. Each team must comply with the fishing regulations of the state they are fishing in, with a maximum of 9 rods per boat and a total possession limit of 5 fish per person. Remember, in Wisconsin, it is 9 *baits*, not 9 rods.
- J. Each team is limited to no more than 4 lake trout in the ten fish weighed in for the contest.
- K. It is suggested that you check the fishing regulations for the state(s) that you intend to fish.

7. Start:

Check-in will begin 1/2 hour prior to the designated start time. All tournaments start at 5:30 with no run time. The start of the fishing period will be announced by the tournament host boat on VHF channel 68. All slipped boats may start out from their home port and call in to the tournament boat beginning one hour before the tournament start time. All boats that are trailered must launch and leave from the designated tournament harbor. Any boat taken out of the water to fish in another port will be disqualified. The tournament committee reserves the right to conduct periodic, random "cooler" inspections prior to the start of the tournament. Any team refusing such inspections will be disqualified. After registration has begun, any boat found to have salmon or trout on board, either whole or cleaned, may be disqualified.

8. Weigh-in:

Weigh-In will commence 15 minutes after the official tournament end time. All teams must check-in, fish or no fish, at the conclusion of the tournament. In addition:

- A. Your boat must pass the tournament harbor mouth or the slipped boats' harbor of origin by the scheduled end of the tournament in order to be eligible for the weigh-in. A committee boat may be stationed at the harbor mouth. Slipped boats may drive their catch to the tournament harbor from their harbor of origin, but their catch has to be at the weigh-in location within 45 minutes of the end of the tournament.
- B. The weigh-in is completed only when the weigh-in form is turned over to the person at the scale, the team's fish are weighed and the entry fee is paid.
- C. All teams must check in, even if they are late or have no fish to weigh-in. Failure to do so will result in a \$50 fine. The boat and all crew members will not be eligible to fish future tournaments until the fine is paid. In addition, if the team does not check-in, it will be assumed that it is in distress and the U.S. Coast Guard will be notified and a rescue mission will be initiated.

9. Scoring:

Each catch weighed will be scored at 10 points per fish, plus 1 point per pound. Weight will be recorded to the nearest 1/10th of a pound (one decimal place). Each tournament will have a designated bonus fish. All fish of that species will be scored at 15 points per fish and 1 point per pound. The bonus fish species will be selected at the start of the season of all tournaments announced over VHF channel 68 before the start of the event. No bonus species will be used for more than two tournaments in a season. All 5 species may be used as a bonus fish. A bonus of 50 points will be awarded for a grand slam (weighing one of each of the 5 salmon and trout species. King, Coho, Steelhead, Lake Trout and Brown). Pink salmon will not count towards the grand slam. Each boat participating will receive 10 points for attending the contest. The highest total score will be the winner. The cumulative total of the best 4 out of 6 tournaments for each team will determine the Boat of the Year.

10. Prizes:

The first-place boat will be awarded a prize of \$5.00 per boat entered (i.e. With 20 boats entered, the first-place boat would receive 20 X \$5.00 = \$100.00). The second-place boat will receive \$3.00 per boat. The third-place boat will receive \$2.00 per boat. The largest bonus fish caught will receive \$4.00 per boat. In the event no bonus fish is caught, the money will carry over to the next tournament. All monetary rewards are based on the number of boats participating.

The \$300 Big 3 contest will be based on 20 points per species plus weight. This contest is part of every club tournament.

Small Boat Prize of \$50.00 awarded for boats under 21' in length with the heaviest weight. This contest is part of every club tournament.

Prizes will be awarded at the next general meeting after the contest. The top three boats will be required to give a presentation at the weigh-in on how they achieved their results.

11. End of Year Awards:

There will be a special award for Boat of the Year, 2nd place boat and 3rd place boat at the conclusion of the season. Awards will be given for up to 4 registered team members. Extra awards will be available by request. A monetary reward for the largest fish caught for the season will also be awarded (\$1.00 per boat per tournament). There will be a special end of the year award for the Rookie Boat with the most tournament points at seasons end. Rookie boats are those that are fishing their first season of S.U. tournaments.

12. Conduct:

Sportsmanship, proper VHF marine radio etiquette, boat courtesy and safety are expected from all participants. The honor system will be in effect, and everyone is expected to comply. No unsportsmanlike or unruly behavior will be tolerated. Any violation may subject the member and/or boat to disqualification from this and/or future tournaments.

13. Policing:

Any boat observing another boat breaking any of the aforementioned rules should contact a tournament official and report the violation.

14. Final Authority:

Any questions concerning rules should be brought to the attention of the tournament committee. The committee is comprised of the weigh-in boat Captains and the directors. In all matters pertaining to the tournaments, the decision of the tournament committee is final. Participants agree to abide by all decisions of the tournament committee.

For additional tournament information, please contact a SU committee member.