

Interested in giving the club tournaments a try but not sure how they work? It is actually very easy to join the fun! To enter a tournament, simply hail the committee boat on VHF channel 68 and tell them you are in! The entry fee is \$30 and there is a \$10 OPTIONAL side pot for biggest fish (so \$40 total for both). You will hear most boats enter by saying, "Boat XYZ is in for both". Entry fees are collected at the weigh-in.

While the tournaments are run out of North Point Marina, slipped boats may call in, leave from & return to their home port. They can then drive their cooler to the weigh-in by car. However, trailered boats must launch from North Point. All coolers need to be in line for the scale at the SU pavilion 45 minutes after the end of the fishing period.

At the weigh-in, you will fill out a weigh slip, available at the scorer's table, with your boat name, captain and crew. Please remember everyone on the team must be an SU member and sign a waiver of liability. The entry fee & weigh slip are handed in at the scorer's table when you weigh your catch. At the weigh-in, enjoy the BBQ, learn from your fellow club members and build your network. And most importantly, HAVE FUN!

Membership Form, Waiver of Liability and Complete Rules can be found on the SU Club Tournaments page.

Club Tournament FAQs

These FAQs are intended as a brief summary. Please refer to the complete rules for the final word on any of these topics.

- Who can participate in the SU club tournaments?
The club tournaments are open to all current club members. Everyone taking part in the event MUST be an SU member and sign a waiver of liability form. Waiver forms are available on our website. Spouses and minor children of members are considered members already.
- Who do I give my signed Waiver form to?
You can bring your signed Waiver of Liability form to the weigh-in of the first club tournament you enter. Alternatively, you can scan your form and email it to:

salmonunlimitednews@yahoo.com

One signed form is valid for the entire season; there is no need to sign a new form for each tournament.

- How do I enter a club tournament?
Entering a club tournament is as easy as making a radio call. Starting 30 minutes prior to the start of run-time, hail the SU committee boat on VHF channel 68 and tell them your boat is in. Since there is an OPTIONAL side bet on biggest fish, you will need to tell them if you are in for that, as well. Most boats will simply say, "Boat XYZ is in for both". If the host boat does not identify the "Target" fish species, you can

also ask what that is (see Target fish FAQ below). That's it; you are ready to fish! There is no registration form and no captain's meeting. At the weigh-in, you will fill out a weigh slip at the scorer's table and turn it in with your entry fee when you arrive at the scale.

- How much do the club tournaments cost?

The entry fee for each club tournament is \$30 per boat. This entry fee includes the tournament and lunch for all participants. There is also an OPTIONAL side bet on biggest fish for an additional \$10. Entry fees are collected at the weigh-in.

- What if I decide to skip the weigh-in?

If you decide to skip the weigh-in because you did not catch any fish, a family emergency came up or any other reason, you are still responsible for paying the entry fee. You will not be allowed to enter subsequent tournaments until this amount is paid. In addition, it is MANDATORY you notify the host boat or the tournament committee that you are leaving early. Otherwise, if you fail to check in at the end of the contest, we will assume you are in distress and we will notify the U.S. Coast Guard to initiate a search and rescue mission. Any costs associated with a search and rescue operation will be your responsibility.

- How does the club handle weather decisions?

If NOAA has issued a Small Craft Advisory, the tournament will automatically be cancelled and re-scheduled for the designated make-up date. In the event the weather is less than favorable but no SCA has been issued, the tournament committee and the designated host boat will make a go/no-go decision approximately 30-45 minutes prior to the scheduled run time. All captains are ultimately responsible for the safety of their vessel and crew, so if you are not comfortable with the conditions, please don't go!

- What if my boat is not located at North Point Marina?

If your boat resides in a slip at a marina other than North Point, you can still fish the club tournaments without burning all the fuel needed to travel by boat to Winthrop Harbor. Simply leave from & return to your home port within the same time constraints as the rest of the contestants (the tournaments are all "on your honor"). Once you return to port, simply bring the cooler to the weigh-in by car. As long as you are in line at the scale within 45 minutes of the end of the tournament, you are good. Also note the boundaries of the fishing area are centered on North Point and still apply, regardless of the location of your home port (see the Where can I fish? FAQ below). This option is available to boats kept in a slip only. Trailered boats must launch from and return to North Point.

- What are the tournament start & end times?

The fishing period for club tournaments is 6:00am to 1:00pm for events in May & August and 5:00am to 12:00pm for contests in June & July. The make-up date, if it is needed, will use the August schedule. In all tournaments, participants may leave port to run to their chosen fishing area 30 minutes prior to the official start time.

However, no baits may be placed in the water before the start of fishing time. All boats must be back inside their harbor of origin by the end of the fishing period. There is no run-time at the end of the tournament.

- Where can I fish?
Club tournaments are limited to a 30 nautical mile range, centered on North Point Marina. The southern boundary is N 42° 14.00' and the northern boundary is N 42° 44.00'. This corresponds roughly to Lake Forest, IL to Racine, WI. You may go as far east as you wish and as far west as the shore, however fishing inside of any harbor is not allowed.
- Where is the weigh-in held?
The weigh-in and BBQ for all club tournaments will be held at the Salmon Unlimited pavilion at North Point Marina. The pavilion is located directly across from the fish cleaning station, adjacent to the launch ramps.
- What can I win?
Club tournament prizes consist of bragging rights and small cash prizes. First place will receive \$5 per boat entered (i.e. If 20 boats enter, 20 x \$5 = \$100 for 1st place). Second place will receive \$3 per boat and third place gets \$2 per boat. The boat weighing in the heaviest fish will win the side bet for largest fish. The boat weighing in the heaviest "target" fish will get \$4 per boat. There is a \$300 prize for the heaviest 3 fish combined weight. This "Big 3" prize is sponsored by ThermalCraft, Leader Sales, Ron Vallas, Duckbill Charters and AmeriPlate. There is also a \$50 prize for the highest scoring "Small Boat" under 21' donated by SU. At the end of the season, the boat with the highest combined score will be awarded the coveted Boat of the Year award. Awards will also be presented to the 2nd and 3rd place teams, as well as the Rookie of the Year to the top finisher in their first season of fishing the club tournaments. Finally, the biggest fish of the year will earn a pot of \$1 per boat per tournament.
- Can I use my VHF radio and/or cell phone during the tournament?
YES! In fact, it is encouraged. These tournaments are for club members to help each other catch more fish and have fun. We hope everyone will take advantage of the opportunity to network with other members and share information.
- How many rods can I run?
The maximum number of lines in the water at any time is nine (9), regardless of the number of anglers on the boat. Of course, a crew of 2 persons is limited to six (6) lines by DNR regulations.
- How many fish can I catch and weigh?
Each boat may catch up to a legal limit of fish for the number of anglers onboard. From this, the team will select their 10 best fish to be weighed and scored. Of the 10 fish selected, no more than 4 can be lake trout.

- How does the scoring work?
Tournament results are determined based on points. Points are scored on the following basis:
 - 10 points per fish weighed
 - 1 point per pound of weight (to the nearest 0.1 lb.)
 - 5 points per "target" fish weighed
 - 50 points for a "grand slam"
 - 10 points per boat for participating in the tournamentIn the overall standings for the year, each boat counts only their 5 best scores. If 5 or fewer tournaments are held due to weather cancellations, all scores will be counted.
- What is a "target fish"?
For each club tournament, the committee boat will choose a "Target" fish species. For that tournament, each fish weighed in of that species will be awarded an extra 5 points. The largest target fish will win \$4 per boat for the team that caught it. If no target fish are weighed in, the prize money will roll over to the next tournament.
- What is a "grand slam"?
A "Grand Slam" is a catch containing at least one of each of the salmon/trout species. This would include King Salmon, Coho Salmon, Steelhead (Rainbow), Brown Trout and Lake Trout. Any boat weighing in a grand slam in a club tournament will be awarded a 50 point bonus.
- Is food served at the weigh-in?
YES! Part of the entry fee goes to providing a BBQ lunch at the weigh in for all participants. Typical menus include bratwurst, grilled chicken, pulled pork or burgers, along with a side or salad. Soft drinks are provided, but if you'd prefer something else, it is BYOB.