

# RULES & REGULATIONS FOR 2024 TOURNAMENT

**1. THE GENERAL CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE SHALL BE THE SOLE INTERPRETERS OF THE RULES. THEIR DECISION SHALL BE FINAL. THE RULES SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED DURING THE TOURNAMENT HOURS. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REVISE THESE RULES FROM YEAR TO YEAR.**

2. REGISTRATION AND WAIVER/LIABILITY form is required before any fish will be weighed in. Pre-registration would be appreciated. Registration can be done at weigh station Friday 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on tournament grounds, or during the day on Friday outside the business office. Electronic Registration is also permitted and will be available through our Facebook page using a Google Form. Mailed registration forms must be postmarked by September 15th.

3. A Pennsylvania fishing license is required for all contestants 16 years of age and older.

4. Anglers must always practice safe boating habits. **Please Note: Excessive use of alcohol is prohibited.** All contestants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. ALL PA Fish & Boat Commission Fishing and Boating regulations, including lengths and creel limits shall apply. All fish become property of the PA State Championship Fishing Tournament upon registration.

5. All fish must be taken from the Allegheny Reservoir (PA Waters) Allegheny River (Kinzua Dam to Hunter Station) Tionesta Lake & Creek from Dam to Kelletville Bridge; Brokenstraw Creek & Conewango Creek (PA Waters) beginning at 12:01 a.m. September 28th, ending promptly at 8:00 p.m. that same day. **Weigh-in closes at 8:00 p.m. sharp.**

6. **CATCH AND RELEASE RULES WILL BE FOLLOWED:** Every attempt to keep alive must be made. Fish must be brought to the outside weigh station in water filled containers. DRY BAGGED OR HAND CARRIED FISH ARE NOT PERMITTED. Fish can be registered between the hours of **5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, Sept 28<sup>th</sup> and 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.**

7. **Junior Champion Angler Division:** Contestants ages 9 to 15 are eligible for the Junior Champion Angler trophy and prizes. The Junior Champion Angler will be crowned on Saturday evening at approximately 8:30 p.m.

8. **Saturday's Contest:** **Total weight per category** will qualify the contestant for Sunday's contest. There will be a 4 oz. penalty for each dead fish. **Qualifying will be in a single category only.** Contestants are not permitted to "double qualify." Only one weigh-in per day. *Scales on Saturday, September 28th, are open from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. SHARP.* Qualifiers for Sunday's finals will be announced Saturday night at approximately 8:30pm.

9. **Sunday's Contest:** The **total weight of the combined catch** will determine the Champion Angler. There will be an **8 oz. penalty** for each dead fish. Qualifiers will fish with a referee starting at 5:00 a.m. There is a limit of two person's permitted per boat, one of which may be a designated referee. **REFEREE CHANGES MUST BE APPROVED BY THE FISHING REGULATIONS CHAIRMAN.** Anglers **MUST** be into the scales by 2:30 p.m. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Crowning of the Champion Angler will be on Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. **Scales are open from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. SHARP Sunday September 29th.**

10. **Terms of Disqualification:** Any fish determined by the committee not to have been caught during the specified tournament hours, any fish determined not be caught within the designated fishing areas, any fish not brought to weigh station in a water filled container, or the contestant has not otherwise made a reasonable effort to keep their catch alive, will be disqualified. Any contestant reasonably believed by the PA Fishing Regulations Chairman and Committee to have violated any PA Fish & Boat Commission or US Coast Guard Laws, will be disqualified. Any person determined by the Fishing Regulations Chairman and Committee to be intoxicated and/or disruptive to tournament procedures or any person violating tournament rules, will be disqualified.

11. By submitting fish for weigh-in, contestants verify that they have caught and entered fish in strict compliance with Pennsylvania State Championship Fishing Tournament rules. The Contestant **CONSENTS TO FULL COOPERATION OF BEING INTERVIEWED BY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING COMPLIANCE WITH THE TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

12. Intentional violation of the rules may subject the violators to civil liability and/or criminal penalties including fines and/or possible imprisonment.

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## **PLEASE REGISTER ALL GAME FISH**

MUSKELLUNGE must be 40 inches to qualify. Only ONE per contestant, per day.

NORTHERN PIKE must be 24 inches to qualify.

WALLEYE must be 15 inches to qualify.

SMALL MOUTH BASS must be 12 inches to qualify.

TROUT must be 7 inches to qualify.

Observe Creel Limits according to PA Fishing Regulations.

Catfish can be registered for Saturday's Lunker awards only. Catfish are not a qualifying game fish for this tournament; therefore, Catfish registrations **WILL NOT** lead to a spot in our Sunday's contest.

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th, 2024**

Cash and trophies will be awarded to contestants qualifying for Sunday's contest beginning at approximately 8:30 p.m.

The three contestants with the highest weight registered per category receive awards as follows:

1st - **\$25.00 and a trophy**

2nd - **\$15.00 and a trophy.**

3rd - **\$10.00 and a trophy.**

**\$10.00 and trophy** for the largest CATFISH.

**Lunker Awards** will be given in each category.

**\$100** to the oldest male contestant who registers a fish- sponsored by Tidioute Towers.

**\$100** to the oldest female contestant who registers a fish- sponsored by a tournament friend.

## **JUNIOR CHAMPION ANGLER**

Open to youth ages 9 to 15

Trophy and Prizes are awarded to the top 3 junior contestants