

Humminbird /Cannon

SAUGATUCK/WAYPOINT BIG LAKE CLASSIC

Official Rules – 2019

I. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Open to any fishing team willing to abide by the Tournament Rules, Michigan DNR regulations and payment of entry fees.
- B. There will be two separate divisions – Professional and Amateur. Each boat can be entered in only one division. Licensed Charter Boat Captains must register in the Pro division (Any Captain who has actively chartered in the past 5 years is required to fish in the Pro division); Non Charter Boat Captains may fish in either division.
- C. **SAME FOR 2019 – Boats may dock in Holland or South Haven and return to their port Pier Heads and bring fish by vehicle to Coral Gables in Saugatuck. Teams must be in line by 3:00pm each day.**

II. ENTRY FEES

Pro Division: The basic entry fee is \$450. If paid by Aug 1st \$500 after.

Amateur Division: The basic entry fee is \$225. If paid by Aug 1st \$275 after.

The DENNY ALLEN Big Fish: additional fee of \$50. Open to all boats participating in the tournament.

2nd Chance: additional entry fee of \$100 for Pro Division or \$50 for Amateur Division

- A. In case of a last minute emergency that prevents an entrant from participating in the Tournament, said entrant may apply to the Tournament Committee for a refund of his/her entry fee. The decision to refund shall be made by the Tournament Committee and its decision shall be final.
- B. In the event of the cancellation of the Tournament due to weather or other reasons beyond the control of the Tournament Committee, said Committee reserves the right to retain up to 10% of the entry fees paid in order to cover costs incurred. All entry fees not retained will be returned to the entrants. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final in this regard.

III. ENTRIES

- A. Boats must be 18 feet or longer (length as listed on the boat title).

IV. PRIZES

Pro Division:

1st Place - \$5,000; Based on 18 Boats

Amateur Division:

1st Place - \$2,500; Based on 35 Boats
Will pay 20 places; Based on 35 Boats

- A. **In case of ties**, the prize money between the two or more places the participants would have won will be divided equally between the tied contestants.
- B. **Second Chance Tournament**
 - 1. Entry fee is \$100 Pro and \$50 Am.
 - 2. All entries must be received prior to the start of day two.
 - 3. Payout will be 70% of 2nd Chance fees to 1st Place and 30% to 2nd Place for each division
 - 4. Winner will be determined based on total points for day two
 - 5. Top 3 boats after day one are ineligible and 2nd Chance entry fees for those boats will be refunded
- C. **The DENNY ALLEN - Big Fish Contest**
 - 1. Entry fee is \$50 and all entries must be received by conclusion of captains meeting.
 - 2. Boats may enter The Big One **only** if so desired, and not compete in the two day Tournament.
 - 3. One fish may be weighed each day by a boat – but only cash one time for largest of the two days.

4. 1st place will be awarded for the biggest fish based by weight. 15 Places will be paid.
5. Boats may leave from Saugatuck, Holland, South Haven or Port Sheldon for "The Big One" only Tournament – Coolers may be transported to Saugatuck weigh-in by auto with ONLY one (1) fish in the cooler. (This will be for those boats only in the Big One Tournament, Tournament teams may have more than the one fish in their coolers)

D. **All prizes will be awarded at the Awards Ceremony on Sunday.**

V. SCORING

- A. All winners will be determined by the Tournament Committee and its decision shall be final.
- B. Winners will be determined on the total accumulation of points based on the following:
 1. Ten (10) points per legal fish weighed.
 2. One (1) point per pound of total weight, rounded to the nearest hundredth.
- C. There will be a limit of twelve (12) fish weighed per Pro boat and per Am boat each official day of the Tournament. (**See Fishing Rule D**)
- D. The contestant accumulating the highest number of points over all of the hours of the Tournament shall be the winner; the contestant with the second highest accumulation of points shall be second; and so on.
- E. The following species shall be eligible: Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, Lake Trout, Brown Trout, Atlantic Salmon, Steelhead or Rainbow Trout

VI. OBSERVER SYSTEM

- A. **PRO Division - Observers ARE REQUIRED for the PRO DIVISION for the 2019 Tournament and into the future years.** Pro Boats must provide an observer to fish on another Pro boat – if no observer – Tournament Committee may have a few Observers at a cost of \$50 per day.

Am Division - may be assigned to at least the top one - three Amateur boats as determined by the Tournament Committee for at least the final day of the tournament. (Observers may be assigned randomly on day 1)

VII. BOAT IDENTIFICATION

- A. The Tournament Committee will furnish to each contestant a colored flag.
- B. The flag must be flown from a place in full view from all directions at all times during the contest.

VIII. DATES & HOURS

- A. The Tournament will be held on Saturday, August 10, 2019, and Sunday, August 11, 2019.
- B. The official Tournament start is 6:30am of Day One (unless the Tournament start is delayed due to weather) (For any delays 30 minutes prior to the planned start an announcement will be made on Channel 88A about Weather and Lake Conditions) (Day 1 Tournament fishing hours may be extended past the 1:30 time period due to a late start based on Weather or Lake Conditions); the official Tournament end is the end of the fishing period on Day Two. All boats may fish only during times established by the Tournament Committee
- C. The Tournament schedule will be as follows:
 1. Friday, August 9, 2019:
 - 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.- Registration and refreshments
 - 7:00 p.m. - Captains' Meeting
 2. Saturday, August 10 & Sunday, August 11, 2019:
 - 6:30 a.m.- Begin fishing period (no run-time). All boats must remain within 500 yards of the Saugatuck, South Haven and Holland breakwater prior to 6:30 a.m.
 - 1:30 p.m.- End of fishing period; **All boats must be inside Saugatuck, Holland or South Haven pier heads.**
 3. Sunday: 3:00 p.m.- Awards Ceremony and Payoffs (immediately following final weigh-in)
- D. The contest will be considered official if a total of three (3) consecutive hours are fished between Saturday and Sunday and prizes will be awarded based on the point accumulation during the fishing time that was available.
- E. If a fishing day is cancelled before three (3) hours have elapsed, the catch is not weighable for that day.
- F. Fishing will not be allowed outside of the stated tournament hours by any boat or participant from commencement to completion of the Tournament, unless declared otherwise by the Tournament Committee.

- G. Tournament Control will start and end each Tournament period by radio communication on Channel 88A.
- H. Boats may depart from Saugatuck, Holland or South Haven pier heads.
- I. All boats must be inside the **Saugatuck, Holland or South Haven** pier heads at 1:30pm; no more fish are to be boated. Saugatuck entrants may proceed directly to the weigh-in station and fish cooler and at least one crew member may be dropped off by boat at the Coral Gables sea wall for the weigh-in, or can bring by car. Holland and South Haven Boats must bring cooler by vehicle to Coral Gables and be in Line by 3:00pm each day. Note – Any boat that does not make it into the pier heads by designated quit time, will be disqualified for that day.
- J. Alternate fishing times and weigh-in times may be established by Tour Comm according to circumstances.

IX. FISHING RULES

- A. There is no distance limit set on where a Tournament boat may fish. However all fishing must be conducted outside of the Pier Heads. (No fishing in the river is allowed)
- B. All fish entered must be fairly caught on hook and line in accordance with the conservation laws. No meat lines or other similar devices may be attached to any part of a boat or downrigger.
- C. There will be a maximum of nine (9) lines in the water at any one time, with no more than two (2) lures per line in use. Dodgers, attractors or other similar hookless devices do not count as lures. Sliders or Add-A-Lines shall not exceed 6' length.
- D. The first fifteen (15) legal size fish caught constitutes the tournament limit, of which twelve **(12) fish (only 9 Lake Trout) are weighed in the pro division and Am division** per boat each official day of the Tournament. The fifteen (15) fish caught and the twelve (12) fish weighed may not exceed the DNR legal limit for the number of licensed fishermen on board.
- E. When the 15 fish limit is reached, the boat must cease fishing immediately and proceed to the weigh-in. NO CULLING OF FISH IS PERMITTED.
- F. After check-in, no further fishing is allowed on day 1.
- G. From the start of a fishing period until the catch is deposited at the weigh-in station, no boat entered in the contest may run gunwale to gunwale with any other boat nor may any objects of any kind be passed between any participants in the contest and any other person. Violation of this rule is automatic disqualification for that day.
- H. There may be a Committee boat on the lake observing and spot-checking boats at random throughout the Tournament. Any rules infractions observed by the Committee boat may result in disqualification from the Tournament. Boats that come in past the designated Fishing quit time will be disqualified for that day.
- I. Random cooler checks may be made.

X. WEIGH-IN

- A. At the close of each contest period, each captain is to proceed immediately to the weigh-in station. There, he/she will deposit one crew member, the observer (if applicable) and the fish cooler for weigh-in.
- B. At least one crew member and the observer must remain with the catch until it has been officially scored.
- C. **Each Pro and Am team can weigh no more than 12 fish (Only 9 Lake Trout) and your cooler must only have 12 fish at the weigh-in station. If you have more than 12 P fish in the cooler at the weigh-in station, you will be disqualified for that day's catch...NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- D. You must return to Saugatuck with your catch and drop it off at the Coral Gables weigh station. **You may transport your catch to the weigh-in by automobile.** You must be in the weigh-in line by 3:00PM. (Unless otherwise determined by the Tournament Committee)
- E. **No excessive water or loose ice can be in the cooler at the weigh-in station.**
- F. The boat cooler must be identified with the Boat Name or registered fishing team name attached to it. (Duct tape may be used)
- G. All fish weighed may become the property of the Tournament Committee, at their discretion, otherwise said fish will be returned to the entrant. (Day 1 and 2 fish may be donated to some Nonprofit Groups.)

XI. RADIO PROCEDURE

- A. Every boat should be equipped with an operating FM Marine Radio. This radio should include Channel 88A.
- B. There are no communication restrictions for participants in Pro or Am Divisions.
- C. Be aware, important Tournament announcements will be made on Channel 88A. Participants who miss these announcements will still be held accountable.

XII. DISQUALIFICATION OR PENALTY

- A. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to utilize polygraph technology as it deems appropriate and necessary.
- B. Any participant who violates any of the rules of the contest or acts in an uncooperative or disorderly manner shall be disqualified or penalized at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. The Committee may also at their discretion deduct any number of earned points from any contestant for a violation of the Tournament rules or improper conduct.
- C. Automatic disqualification shall result from the following:
 - 1. Running gunwale to gunwale with any other boat or passing objects of any kind between a participant in the contest and any other person at any time between the starting gun and the time the catch is dropped off at the weigh-in station.
 - 2. Failure to report directly to the weigh-in station after the 15 fish limit is reached or at the close of each fishing period.
 - 3. Possession of fish during Tournament hours other than fish fairly caught while participating in the Tournament.
 - 4. Any participants who are disqualified may not be invited back to the Saugatuck Tournament.
- D. All boats must be within the pier heads and observed by designated Tournament Control at the end of the fishing period. ANY LATE BOAT WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FOR THE DAY.
- E. All Tournament participants shall be duty bound to report any and all violations of the rules they observe on any boat.

XIII. CANCELLATIONS

- A. The Tournament Committee may cancel the Tournament at any time when, in their opinion, they feel fishing conditions could be dangerous to persons or property. EACH CAPTAIN IS ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF HIS CREW AND VESSEL. The Committee will announce by radio before each Tournament period their decision as to whether or not the contest shall be run. Announcements will be made on Channel-88A. (For any delays 30 minutes prior to the planned start an announcement will be made on Channel 88A about Weather and Lake Conditions)
- B. The Tournament Committee may also decide to delay the start of any fishing period or to shorten any period due to deteriorating weather conditions. A delay in the starting time will be announced on radio Channel 88A. The shortening of a fishing period will be announced by radio and there will be at least a 15-minute warning by Tournament Control before the shortened period is announced.
- C. If a fishing period is shortened, all boats at the end of said period must proceed to and be within the pier heads within 60 minutes. Unless otherwise determined by the Tournament Committee.
- D. The decision of the Tournament Committee to cancel, delay or shorten the contest shall be final.

XIV. PROTESTS

- A. Any and all protests must be made in writing to the Tournament Committee before 3:00 p.m. on the day of the alleged infraction that is being reported. There is a \$150 fee to register an official protest.
- B. A panel of five (5) judges appointed by the Tournament Committee will resolve all disputes. Their decision shall be final and binding.
- C. If the protest is upheld, the filing fee will be refunded; if the protest is not upheld, the filing fee will not be returned

XV. RULE CHANGES

The Committee may change or modify any of these rules, but changes must be in writing and posted forty-five (45) minutes prior to the start of the Tournament.

XVI. LIABILITY

- A. Every reasonable precaution will be taken by the Humminbird / Cannon Saugatuck Waypoint Big Lake Classic Tournament Committee to protect persons and property during the contest; however, neither the Tournament Committee, nor judges, nor any officers, directors or employees of the same are responsible for the safety of persons or property of participants as regards accident, theft, damage by fire, vandalism or any other cause.
- B. All participants further understand and agree to hold harmless the aforementioned groups and individuals from damages incurred as a result of participation in the Tournament in whatever form or manner said liabilities or damages might be incurred.

- C. By participating each participant agrees to hold the Big Lake Classic Committee, and all sponsors, their officers, directors, agents, or employees, harmless and blameless from any and all liability of any kind of injuries, loss of life, disfigurement, dismemberment, pain and suffering by the registrants and their crews during the entire time the tournament is being held. Registrants agree to be held strictly liable for any liability arising from this tournament.