

# Wilson Harbor Invitational Rules

Mandatory Captain and Observer meeting Friday May 17th, 2019 6:00 pm sharp! Location: *Wilson Harbor Boat House Restaurant*. Only Captains and Observers need be present.

## Eligibility

1. All U.S. and Canadian anglers must possess a valid NY State fishing license.
2. Anglers must be 16 years of age before May 18th, 2019 or be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
3. Teams will be limited to 8 members.
4. A maximum number of 6 rods to be fished at any one time. When fishing with less than 3 team members, adhere to NYS DEC regulations. At no time shall more than 6 fishing rods be deployed in the water, which includes the rod(s) that may have fish on them. They also count in the act of fishing.

## Boundaries

1. New York State waters of Lake Ontario only.
2. All vessels in violation will be automatically disqualified. Contestants can use the aid of electronic GPS navigation equipment to remain east and south of the U.S.-Canadian border. Under protest, the tournament committee reserves the right to access such navigation devices. In some cases, the use of polygraph or witnesses may be necessary to determine the outcome of such protest. Under protest, the tournament committee reserves the right to withhold winnings until a determination is reached.
3. Competitors must not go ashore anywhere but the designated areas. If a team must go ashore or dock early, they must notify the tournament committee and be given consent prior to touching land or docking.

## Entry

1. Entries are limited to 50 teams.
2. Entries and/or deposits must be received and accounted for by the dates listed on the website. There will be a \$200 late fee for all entries/balances received after the initial dead line and before the final cut off date.
3. It is the Captain's responsibility to ensure that he is at the Captain's meeting. If the Captain cannot attend the meeting, he must send a qualified representative. That representative will assume responsibility for the team at the meeting.
4. All observers must be present at Captain/Observer meeting. If your observer is unable to be present for the captain's meeting, you will need to notify a tournament official.

## Observers

(Your observer is an integral part of your fishing team. It is important that whoever is chosen can withstand harsh or rough water conditions).

1. All teams must provide an observer on Saturday and Sunday, if needed.
2. All observers must be present at Captain/Observer meeting Friday at 6:00 pm. If your observer is unable to be present for the captain's meeting, you will need to notify a tournament official.
3. Observers must be 18 years of age or older. They will be randomly exchanged between teams.
4. All Observers must report to their assigned boat no later than one half hour before scheduled start time.
5. If a team fails to have their observer at the assigned boat at the designated time, they are obligated to use a team member to fill in as an observer. If they do not, that team will be disqualified. (If the observer is late, you will still be required to provide a team member to fill in and they should be in place at the assigned boat no later than one half hour before scheduled start time).
6. Observers are responsible for morning cooler checks. (Tournament committee also reserves the right to complete random checks the morning of the event)
7. Observers are required to collect all cell phones, pads, text messaging/email watches, pagers etc... and place them in the bag provided by the tournament committee.
8. Observers should help ensure all disclaimer forms are signed and submitted prior to cast off.
9. Observer and at least one team member should remain with their catch at all times until after that team has weighed in.
10. All observers must remain on site until dismissed by tournament committee.

## Communication (this is a no communication event)

1. No open communication is permitted during the event hours.
2. Open communication is permitted at these times only: immediately following finish times each day, once dockside, if the event is delayed or postponed, to monitor/talk to tournament control on Channel 16 and Channel 9.
3. Communication is also permitted if there is a need to contact the tournament committee for emergency contact only. I.e; Coast Guard and to maintain contact with tournament control in the event of foul weather, delays or emergency.
4. Under a no communication rule: All communication capable items on the tournament vessel including the observer's possessions, such as: cell phones, pagers, wireless internet devices, pads, text messaging/email watches, etc... are to be turned off, concealed in bag provided by the tournament committee and kept in sight of the observer at all times.
5. Observers must also adhere to the above rules.
6. Tournament boats are also prohibited from all open water boat-to-boat contact unless it involves law enforcement or an emergency. Any exception must be pre-approved by the tournament director or will result in disqualification for the day.
7. In case of an emergency only, a cell phone or VHF marine radio may be used under observer's guidance and observation and only to contact a tournament committee member or USCG.
8. Tournament Control contact number will be: 814-602-8436

## Fishing Hours

1. Official start time will be 6:00 am and teams will be released by shotgun start (or horn).
2. In the event of inclement weather, announcements will begin at 5:00 am on channel 16 in order to advise the fleet of delays. Weather delays will occur in one hour increments.

3. All vessels are permitted to leave dockside as early as 5:30 am provided waiver forms are completed and returned to a tournament committee member in the designated areas.
4. When leaving dock between 5:30am and the shotgun start, vessels MUST remain inside the staging areas located on either side of the pier heads. (300 yards to the east or 300 yards to the west of pier heads)
5. There is NO official stop time. All teams MUST be in line at the pre-check area (Boat House Restaurant) for weigh in no later than **4:00 pm**. Teams must manage their own time and there will be no exceptions!
6. All vessels must return to port under their own power or face disqualification.
7. If the event is cancelled, Sunday May 19th will be used as a makeup day for the competition.

### Scoring

1. A maximum of 6 fish will be weighed in for this tournament. Do not bring more than 6 fish to the pre-check.
2. Only King/Chinook and Coho Salmon will be eligible for weigh in.
3. Minimum length for Kings= 20 inches and Coho= 18 inches. Measurements will be from tip of nose to tip of tail (pinched for maximum length).
4. Culling will be allowed for this event up to the boat possession limit. There shall be no disposing of dead fish or removal of fish from one's live well/cooler to maintain creel. Once you decide to keep a fish, it counts toward the boat limit.
5. Points are awarded at 10 points per fish one point per pound.
6. All fish must be caught and retrieved legally by hook, line and reel. Incidentally hooked fish landed while in the act of trolling can be kept.
7. In the event of a tie in total weight, the tiebreaker will go to the team with the largest single fish.

### Weigh In (This is a dry cooler weigh-in)

1. Upon returning to port, fish must be immediately transported to the designated weigh in location and be in line, no later than **4:00 pm**. Weigh in location will be at the Wilson Boat House Restaurant.
2. One team member and the assigned observer must accompany the days catch to the weigh in and must remain there until the cooler is surrendered by the tournament committee.
3. All coolers must pass through a pre-check area where they will be marked with the number of fish to be weighed and cooler taped shut. Any fish close to the established minimum length will be measured.
4. No weight enhancement of your catch is allowed. (no watering or soaking)
5. All coolers at weigh in are required to be free of water, all forms ice, block/bag ice, bait coolers, etc... and contain only the fish you intend to weigh.
6. Any fish determined to be under sized or of the wrong species will be disallowed. A penalty of 10 points per fish disallowed will be assessed against your final score.

### Weather

1. In the interest of safety, the day's fishing may be cancelled by the tournament committee. However, once released to fish and bad weather or rough water occurs, it will be the Captain's discretion to decide whether his team stays out or comes in early. In other words, once released it will be the Captain's decision whether to fish or not, not the WHI tournament committee.
2. All team members, observers and all tournament boats are prohibited from entering the waters of Lake Ontario if Saturday is cancelled. Any exceptions must be pre-approved by the tournament committee.

### Misconduct

1. Cheating will not be tolerated. Any individual or team found guilty will result in immediate disqualification. This individual or team will also be barred from all future events and tournaments operated as, or in conjunction with The Wilson Harbor Invitational or G.L.S.E.
2. Insubordination of any kind directed toward tournament officials, volunteers, observers, sponsors, and opposing teams will result in disqualification of that team for the current year.
3. The tournament committee's decision will be final for all matters pertaining to the interpretation and conduct of these rules. In the interest of good sportsmanship, the "spirit of the rule" will prevail in all judgment cases.
4. There will be no refunds given if you are disqualified for any reason.

### Protests

1. Any contestant or observer witnessing a violation of the rules is **required** to IMMEDIATELY report the alleged violation to the tournament Committee for investigation.
2. Any team or Observer has the right to file a protest by notifying the tournament committee and pledging \$100. The \$100 will only be refunded if they win the protest.
3. Protests must be presented to the tournament committee within 30 minutes prior to weigh in unless it involves the weigh-in itself.

### Liability

1. All vessels fishing in this event must carry liability insurance.
2. All contestants and observers are required to sign waiver forms on Saturday/Sunday morning prior to leaving dockside. There are no exceptions! Waiver drop off locations will be announced at Friday's captains meeting.
3. The tournament committee will take every reasonable precaution to protect both person and property. All contestants agree to hold all those associated with the production of The Wilson Harbor Invitational/Great Lakes Special Events harmless from any liability or claim of damages.

### Disclaimer/Agreement

1. Wilson Harbor Invitational reserves the right to modify or add rules as necessary to maintain the integrity of the event.
2. By agreeing to fish the Wilson Harbor Invitational, you understand and agree to abide by all tournament rules.
3. By agreeing to fish the Wilson Harbor Invitational, you also agree to allow the WHI/GLSE to use your team's boat and team member's pictures/videos for future advertisements.