

2020 Wilson Harbor Invitational Rules

Mandatory Captain meeting Friday May 15th, 2020 at 6:00 pm sharp! Location: *Wilson Harbor Boat House Restaurant*. Only Captains need be present.

Eligibility

1. All U.S. and Canadian anglers must possess a valid NY State and/or Ontario fishing license when fishing in said waters.
2. Anglers must be 16 years of age before May 16th, 2020 or be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
3. A maximum number of 8 rods to be fished at any one time. When fishing with less than 3 team members, adhere to NYS DEC regulations. When fishing in Canadian waters, only 2 rods may be used per angler. At no time shall more than 8 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.
4. The tournament committee reserves the right to decline entry or participation by any person, team or boat, as deemed necessary, to ensure such things as integrity, image, reputation, and relationships with sponsors, participants and supporting groups.
5. All NYS/DEC and OMNR fishing rules apply.

Boundaries

1. None.
2. 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 (US currency) 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, he must send a qualified representative. That representative will assume his/team responsibility.

Communication (this is a no communication event)

1. No open communication of any kind 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/postponed, to monitor/talk to tournament control on Channel 16 or 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, 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.
5. Tournament boats are also prohibited from all open water boat-to-boat contact unless it involves law enforcement or an emergency. Exceptions must be pre-approved by the tournament director or will result in disqualification for the day.
6. In case of an emergency only, a cell phone or VHF marine radio may be used only to contact a tournament committee member or USCG.
7. 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, then 9, in order to advise the teams 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, 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. *All teams will be required to fly a tournament ID flag. The flag is required to be placed in clear view.
6. 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!
7. All vessels must return to port under their own power or face disqualification.
8. If the event is cancelled, Sunday May 17th will be used as a makeup day.

Scoring

1. A maximum of 6 fish will be weighed in for this tournament. Do not bring more than a combined 6 Kings or Coho to the pre-check.
2. Only Chinook and Coho Salmon will be eligible for weigh in.
3. Minimum length for Chinook= 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. Even if the fish is alive. Once you decide to keep a fish by placement in the cooler, live well or floor box, 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 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 intentional weight enhancement or altering of your catch is allowed. *However, teams can keep their fish in a live well or cooler containing water and/or ice.*
5. All coolers at weigh in are required to be free of water, all forms ice, block/bag ice, bait coolers, etc... and contain 6 fish maximum.
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. There will be no replacing that fish.

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. (REFER to Rule 2 under Boundaries).
2. *All team members 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. Boats can move within the harbor for fueling, maintenance etc...

Misconduct and Prevention Controls

1. Cheating will not be tolerated. Any individual or team found guilty will result in immediate disqualification. This individual and possibly team members, 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 future year event(s).
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. Random lie detector tests can be given to the prize winners in the WHI, Trout and Salmon Slam and 1K A Day. This will be at the discretion of the tournament committee.
5. *Flags will be handed out at the captain's meeting for the purpose of identifying all tournament boats. These must be placed in clear view of other boats from all sides.
6. *Spotter boats may be used to spot check all tournament boats on the water.
7. Random boat and cooler checks may be conducted before, during and after by a tournament official. Teams who refuse boat inspections or cooler checks will be disqualified.
8. Random fish may be cut open for inspection after they are weighed. Refusal will result in disqualification.
9. Random coolers may be collected and transported by a tournament official once teams dock. They will be sealed and become the responsibility of the official for purpose of transportation to the weigh-in. Refusal will result in disqualification.
10. Lie detector tests can be given to any participants upon request by tournament officials. Failing a test can result in disqualification. Refusal to take a test can result in disqualification.
11. To protect the integrity of the event, anyone accused of cheating in any organized fishing tournament or derby, prior to this event, and after vetting such claim, can be requested to take and pass a lie detector test. Failure to pass a lie detector test will disqualify said person from competing in any of the WHI/Trout and Salmon Slam, 1K A Day, and all GLSE events. The test will be paid for by GLSE.
12. There will be no refunds given if you are disqualified for any reason.

Protests

1. Any contestant witnessing a violation of the rules is **required** to IMMEDIATELY report the alleged violation to the tournament committee for investigation.
2. Any team 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 15 minutes prior to the start of the weigh in unless it involves the weigh-in itself.
4. Tournament officials can choose to use a lie detector test to help decide protests.

Liability

1. All vessels fishing in this event must carry liability insurance.
2. All contestants 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 up to the time of the Captain's meeting, as necessary to maintain the integrity of the event.
2. By agreeing to fish the Wilson Harbor Invitational, Trout and Salmon Slam and 1K A Day, you understand and agree to abide by all tournament rules, NY State DEC rules and all Ontario OMNR rules.
3. By agreeing to fish the Wilson Harbor Invitational, Trout and Salmon Slam and 1K A Day, you also agree to allow the WHI/GLSE to use your team's boat and team member's pictures/videos for future advertisements.