



Muskies Inc. Central New York Chapter 70 Open Tournament Rules & Regulations Effective: May 6, 2022

Open tournament means everyone is welcome, Muskies, Inc. members and non-members.

The Tournament Committee has the right to modify the Tournament Rules & Regulations as they see fit prior to the start of the Tournament, either generally or for a particular event. Where a conflict exists between any of these terms and those on an individual tournament flyer, the tournament flyer shall govern.

1. General Regulations and Responsibilities

- a. All contestants must possess a valid state freshwater fishing license for the body of water fished.
- b. State Angling Regulations apply with the following exceptions:
 - i. 100% Catch and Release Tournament.
 - ii. Artificial lures & flies only (no live or dead bait can be used).
- c. Points will be awarded per boat.
- d. Each person in a boat must be registered for the tournament.
- e. A maximum of 6 lines are allowed to be in the water at a time.
- f. All contestants must sign a Release of Liability form prior to fishing.
- g. Entrants are responsible for any and all parking and boat launch fees.
- h. All boats **must** have the following equipment on board:
 - i. All Coast Guard and State required safety equipment.
- i. Navigation lights are required prior to sunrise and after sunset.
- j. Where applicable, tournament boundaries are as shown on the tournament maps.
 - i. Any boat caught fishing outside the boundaries will be disqualified and will forfeit all tournament fees and voluntary money options.
- k. To ensure a fair competition for all, no fishing on the tournament waters is permitted:
 - i. On the day of the tournament, prior to the start (e.g. after midnight)

- ii. After the official end time but before release form submission cut off time.
- iii. If a boat is determined to have fished prior to the start of the tournament, all contestants in that boat will be disqualified and will forfeit all tournament fees and voluntary money options.
- l. All boats must have the following fishing equipment on board:
 - i. Landing gear:
 - 1. Quality net or cradle fully capable of safely landing and holding a muskie until measured and released; homemade cradles are acceptable.
 - ii. Release tools:
 - 1. Jaw spreaders, pliers, and hook cutters.
 - iii. Measuring device:
 - 1. Bump board (preferred), measuring stick, or soft measuring tape.
 - iv. Camera:
 - 1. Digital camera or cell phone camera to capture full length of fish.
- m. Coordinate personal photos with measurement photos as much as possible. When fish is removed from the water for measurement and personal photo purposes please hold the fish out of the water no longer than you can hold your breath underwater.
- n. The tournament committee is final judge of all tournament rules.
- o. Only fish released alive will qualify for a tournament.
 - i. Any intentional mishandling of fish can result in disqualification and the possibility of forfeiture of rights to participate in future events
- p. In case a contestant's position is challenged, a written protest must be provided to the Tournament Committee immediately.
- q. PLEASE respect all Homeowners property.
- r. Unless there is mutual consent, no two contestant boats will be allowed within 100 feet of each other.
- s. Contestants will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. Your honesty and integrity are expected and appreciated within these events.
- t. Any unsportsmanlike conduct can result in disqualification and the possibility of forfeiture of rights to participate in future events.

2. Tournament Schedule

- a. Fishing hours for the tournament will be announced on the tournament flyer.
- b. Start times are subject to change based on weather and light conditions and the readiness of the teams.
- c. Check-in and submission of fish-entry forms must be submitted within one half hour after the conclusion of the tournament. **NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
- d. Awards ceremony will be held shortly after submission cut off time.

3. Registration

- a. Pre-registration, if available for an event, will be located on our website: www.cnymuskies.org.
 - i. Pre-registration availability will be announced on the event flyer.
 - ii. The only method of payment for pre-registration will be PayPal.
 - iii. The pre-registration payment shall be made so that Muskies Inc. Chapter 70 does not incur any fee from PayPal.
 1. The contestant pre-registering is responsible for any and all applicable PayPal fees.
 - iv. Once the pre-registration payment is made, the contestant will receive a confirmation email.
 - v. Partial payment will not be accepted.
 1. All partial payments will be considered a donation into the tournament prize pool.
 - vi. There are no refunds for pre-registration.
 1. If a contestant pre-registers for a tournament and cannot attend, the pre-registration entry fees will be considered a donation into the tournament prize pool.
 - vii. Contestants that pre-register are still required to sign the Release of Liability form and cannot fish until submission of the form is complete.
- b. If an event requires pre-registration, participants that are unable to register online can make arrangements by contacting cnymuskies@gmail.com.
 - i. These arrangements must be in place prior to the start of the event.

4. Scoring

- a. The minimum size to enter a fish will be 30" regardless of local, state, or provincial laws.
 - i. A fish smaller than 30" will **not** be permitted to be rounded up to qualify.
- b. Two pictures are required for a fish to qualify:
 - i. Measurement picture and
 - ii. Picture of contestant holding the fish
- c. Picture must be clear enough to make out the measurements.
- d. Picture must show entire fish; nose to tail.
- e. All fractions of inches will be rounded to the nearest inch for awarding points.
 - i. A fraction that is 1/2 inch or more will be rounded up to the next inch.
 1. Ex. A fish measuring 35-1/2" will be rounded up to receive points as a 36" fish
 - ii. Any fraction less than 1/2 inch will be dropped.
 1. Ex. A fish measuring 35-1/4" will be rounded down to receive points as a 35" fish
- f. Points are awarded as follows: 4 points per muskie plus 1 point for every inch

over 30 inches (see chart below).

Length	Points	Length	Points	Length	Points
30"	4	40"	14	50"	24
31"	5	41"	15	51"	25
32"	6	42"	16	52"	26
33"	7	43"	17	53"	27
34"	8	44"	18	54"	28
35"	9	45"	19	55"	29
36"	10	46"	20	56"	30
37"	11	47"	21	57"	31
38"	12	48"	22	58"	32
39"	13	49"	23	59"	33

- g. The winning team will be determined by adding all points accumulated by a boats entrants during the event. The team with the most points is deemed the winner.
- h. In the case of a tie:
 - i. A tie breaker will go to the biggest fish by actual length (no rounding).
 - 1. Ex. Team A and Team B have tied with 10 points each.
 - 2. Team A caught a 35 – ¾" muskie which rounds up to 10 points.
 - 3. Team B caught a 36 – ¼" muskie which also results in 10 points.
 - 4. Team B wins the tie because their fish was actually ½" longer.
 - ii. If there is still a tie, the team's next longest fish will be taken into consideration in the same manner as described above.
 - iii. If after all fish are accounted for and there is still a tie, then the end result is a tie and the teams will split the combined prizes for the affected positions.
 - iv. The time of catch has no relevancy in determining a tie.
 - v. A true tie between a tiger muskie and a northern pike will always go to the tiger muskie.

5. Prizes & Awards

- a. Unless otherwise stated on the tournament flyer, payout shall be as follows:
 - i. First place – 50% of tournament entry fees
 - ii. Second place – 30% of tournament entry fees
 - iii. Third place – 20% of tournament entry fees
 - iv. Big fish – 100% big fish pool entry fees (typically \$5 per registered angler)
- b. The difference between non-member and member entry fees will go to the

Chapter for administration of the tournament.

- i. All remaining tournament entry fees will be added up and will go to the tournament prize pool.
- c. The contestant with the longest fish entered into the tournament will receive the Big Fish prize.
- d. If no measurable fish are entered into the tournament, each paid contestant **PRESENT** at the awards ceremony will receive one raffle ticket. All prize monies will be combined and drawn as follows:
 - i. One ticket will be drawn for Third Place and that ticket holder will receive the Third Place prize.
 - ii. One ticket will be drawn for Second Place and that ticket holder will receive the Second Place prize.
 - iii. One ticket will be drawn for First Place and that ticket holder will receive the First Place prize.
- e. Any prize or award with a value of \$600 or more will require Muskies Inc. to issue tax documents:
 - i. Tournament prize of \$600 or more: 1099-MISC
 - ii. Raffle prize of \$600 or more: Form W-2G