

2019



Coho Classic

May 4 & 5, 2019

Official Tournament Rules

Dates and Times

- a. Tournament dates are Saturday May 4 and Sunday May 5, 2019.
- b. Registration will be held at the Michigan City Yacht Club Pavilion on May 3, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (CDT). The Captain's meeting will follow immediately at 7:00 p.m. **ALL CAPTAINS AND OBSERVERS MUST ATTEND. NO EXEPTIONS!**
- c. The awards ceremony will commence following the weigh-in on Sunday May 5 at the Michigan City Yacht Club Pavilion.
- d. Time limits for both days are 6 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (CDT) (NO RUN TIME).
- e. The contest is considered official if a minimum of three (3) hours are fished between Saturday and Sunday. Prizes will be awarded based on points accumulated during the official fishing periods.
- f. One crew member and observer (if applicable) and fish must be in line for weigh in no later than 2:30 p.m. (CDT) each day.

Eligibility

- a. All captains must be a member of the Hoosier Coho Club and be a minimum of 18 years of age. Proof of membership is required at registration. All non-members may join the club for \$25 annual dues.
- b. All boats must be equipped with a VHF marine radio in working order.
- c. Teams designated as "pro" must fish in the Pro Division. If one crew member is designated as "pro" then the entire team shall be designated as "pro." "Pro" shall be defined as follows: All licensed charter captains or anyone who has worked as a captain in the two (2) years prior to the event.
- d. Amateur teams that win the Coho Classic two times in a three-year time frame will be required to fish pro the following year.
- e. 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, financial performance and community relationships with sponsors, participants and supporting groups.

Entry Fees

- a. Pro Division: The basic entry fee is \$600; after April 28, the fee is \$625.
- b. Amateur Division: The basic entry fee is \$200; after April 28, the fee is \$225. Amateur Boats that pre-register for the Coho Classic will gain free entry into the Pro Am tournament.
- c. All entries fees must be received **NO LATER THAN 7:00 p.m.** on May 3, 2019.
- d. If the tournament is cancelled due to weather conditions, all entry fees minus 10% will be refunded. In the 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. The decision to refund shall be made by the committee.

Scoring

- a. Winners will be determined by a total accumulation of points based on:
 - i. Ten (10) points per legal fish weighed, plus:
 - ii. One point per pound (nearest hundredth pound) total weight.
- b. The team accumulating the highest number of points during the tournament period will be the winner, followed by the team with the next highest accumulation, and so on.
- c. The following fish shall be eligible: Salmon and Trout greater than 14" in length, except Lake Trout that must be 15" minimum in length. **Indiana DNR rules will apply.**

Prizes

- a. 1st place Pro Division pays out \$12,000 (based on 30 boats participating). Additional prizes may be awarded.
- b. 1st place Amateur pays \$2500 (based on 30 boats participating). Additional prizes may be awarded.
- c. Winnings will be paid down 7 places Pro, 10 places Amateur.
- d. All prizes will be issued to winners at the tournament.

Big Fish Contest

- a. Entry fee is \$50. All entries must be received by 7:00 p.m. on May 3.
- b. One fish may be weighed in each day. The captain designates the first fish to be weighed as the big fish. **No test weighing. No exceptions will be made.**
- c. There will be a sponsored payout paying down 10 places—all one division.

Fishing Rules

- a. All boats must depart and return to the port of Michigan City, IN.
- b. There shall be no fishing by tournament contestants except during tournament hours either day of the tournament. Nor shall a boat registered in the tournament leave the harbor for any reason on Saturday and Sunday except during the official periods
- c. All DNR state laws and regulations apply while fishing within that states jurisdiction.
- d. Maximum number of rods fishing at any time is nine (9). Fishing means "line in the water". One slider per rod will be allowed. Maximum 2 baits per rod. Maximum of 6-foot slider.
- e. Pro Division—Weigh the best 10 of the first 20 legal sized Salmon / Trout boated each day (no cull). A maximum of five (5) Lake Trout may be included each fishing period.
- f. Amateur Division— Weigh the best 5 of the first 20 legal sized Salmon / Trout boated each day (no cull). A maximum of three (3) Lake Trout may be included each fishing period.
- g. Minimum size for Lake Trout is 15 inches and all other species is 14 inches. Certified boards will be used at the weigh-in station. **Indiana DNR rules will apply.**
- h. Any fish within one half (1/2) inch of regulation size may be released.
- i. Once you have attained your 20 fish limit, you shall cease fishing, retrieve all equipment and return immediately to the weigh-in station. No further fishing will be allowed during the day's fishing period.
- j. You must make every attempt to reel every fish hooked to the net and into the boat. No intentional dragging or shaking will be permitted.
- k. No fishing inside a line between the North and South pier heads.

Start and Finish

- a. The tournament committee will use Channel 78 to start and end each fishing period. No lines in the water until the start is announced.
- b. You must not depart a one-half mile radius from the pier heads until the announcement of the start of the fishing period.
- c. Your boat must enter the Michigan City Harbor break wall by 1:30 p.m. or you will be disqualified for that particular day. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- d. All boats must radio in to tournament control on Channel 78 once inside the break wall to notify that your boat is in at the end of each fishing period.
- e. Once a fishing period is declared closed by the tournament committee no more fish may be boated.

Weigh-in

- a. At the close of the fishing period the fish must be taken directly to the weigh-in station at the Michigan City Yacht Club Pavilion. One crew member and observer (if applicable) and fish must be in line for weigh in no later than 2:30 p.m. (CDT) each day. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.
- b. Pro Division can weigh 10 fish (5 Lake Trout Max) and Amateur Division can weigh 5 fish (3 Lake Trout Max). If you have more than the specified limit in your cooler at weigh-in, you will be disqualified for that day's catch. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- c. ALL coolers will be opened and inspected at the weigh station. No water or loose ice will be allowed in the coolers at the weigh station. Water or loose ice in the cooler at the weigh station will result in disqualification for that day's catch. Bagged ice may be used in the coolers at all times.
- d. All fish may be tested for time in possession. The tournament committee may retain any fish for any reason.
- e. Fish may not be left at the weigh-in station. Disposition of fish must be in compliance with state and local laws.

Communications

- a. All participants must monitor Channel 78 at all times. Important tournament information will be broadcast on this channel. Please restrict communication to vital tournament communication only. Participants who miss these announcements will still be held liable.
- b. Pro Division - Boat to boat communications will not be allowed including radio and cellular phones. All cell phones, smart phones and portable electronic devices with the ability to communicate must be powered down and placed in the observer's quarantine bag during official tournament fishing periods. Failure to comply will result in disqualification from the tournament. The tournament director is exempt from this restriction for emergencies or weather decisions. In this case, all communication will be made in the presence of the observer.
- c. Amateur Division – Boat to boat communications will be allowed with no restrictions.

Observers

- a. Observers are required for the Pro Division. Observers will be placed on the second day of tournament on the top three Amateur boats or on any boat at the discretion of the tournament committee.
- b. Pro Division Captains are responsible for providing their own observer. The observer exchange will take place on Friday night after the Captain's meeting. Captains and observers must be present for the exchange. If you do not have an observer, you must give up a crew member to the observer pool. Observers must be on board 30 minutes prior to the start of each fishing period.
- c. An "Official Observer Log Sheet" will be provided for each fishing period. Only the observer shall enter data into the log sheet. The observer shall enter the time of each "hook-up" and the corresponding result. For each fish landed, the observer shall record the species and approximate weight. For each fish lost, the observer shall record a description of the event. At the conclusion of each fishing period, the log sheet must be signed by both the observer and the Captain prior to presenting the log sheet and the day's catch at the official weigh-in station. Failure to submit a log sheet with all signatures will result in a disqualification for that fishing period.

- d. Observers are not allowed to use any electronic devices with the ability to communicate including a GPS, cell phone, and smart phone during the official fishing period. All devices must be powered down and placed in the quarantine bag provided. Violation will result in disqualification of the team that the observer represents.

Boat Identification

- a. The tournament committee will furnish a boat identification number at registration.
- b. The ID number shall be prominently displayed on the port side from the start of the fishing period through the conclusion of the weigh-in.

Protests

- a. Tournament judges will resolve disputes. Their decision will be final.
- b. Protests must be presented to the Tournament judges in writing on the day of the infraction by within 60 minutes of the end of the fishing period with \$500. If the protest is upheld, you will get \$500 back, otherwise the tournament will retain the \$500.

Cancellations

- a. The Tournament Committee may cancel the tournament, when in their opinion, conditions could be dangerous to persons or property. The committee will announce their determination of a delayed start or cancellation 45 minutes before each fishing period. b. After a fishing period has begun, an announcement will be made on Channel 78 if cancellation or postponement is imminent. A minimum of 15 minutes notice will be given prior to the early termination of a fishing period.
- b. If a fishing period is shortened, all boats must proceed as described in **Start and Finish**, and **Weigh-in**.

Disqualifications

- a. Disqualification for any reason will result in the forfeiture of all entry fees.
- b. Failure to comply with any of the rules listed in **Fishing Rules** will result in disqualification.
- c. Failure to proceed directly to the weigh-in station will result in disqualification.
- d. If you arrive at the weigh-in station area with more than the allotted number of fish for your division you will be disqualified for that day's catch.
- e. Water or loose ice in the cooler at the weigh station will result in disqualification for that day's catch.
- f. Any fish taken in violation of DNR regulations will disqualify that day's catch.
- g. Failure to dispose of fish per state and local laws will result in disqualification.
- h. Running gunnel to gunnel or passing any item from boat to boat will result in disqualification. However, a tournament boat may stop to assist a vessel in distress. If assistance is needed, it must be called in to the tournament committee over the radio on channel 78 to notify them that you are assisting a vessel in distress.

Liability

- a. All reasonable precautions will be taken by the Tournament Committee to protect persons and property during the tournament. Neither the Tournament Committee, Rules Committee, officers and directors of the Hoosier Coho Club, or sponsors can or will be responsible for the safety of persons for accident, theft, damage by fire, vandalism, or any other cause for loss to a contestant's property.

Participants understand and agree to hold harmless the aforementioned groups and individuals from liability or damage as may be incurred from participation in the tournament.

Rule Changes

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to modify any rules and announce changes up to 45 minutes prior to the start of the tournament.