



BAY AREA FISHING TOURNAMENT 2023 INFORMATION AND RULES

FIVE CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS:

- Largest length YELLOW PERCH (*Perca flavescens*) pays \$1,000.00;
- Largest length WALLEYE (*Sander vitreus*) pays \$1,000.00;
- Largest length NORTHERN PIKE (*Esox lucius*) pays \$1,000.00;
- Largest length SMALLMOUTH OR LARGEMOUTH BASS (*Micropterus dolomieu* or *Micropterus salmoides*) pays \$1,000.00;
- Largest combined length for 3 FISH OF 3 SPECIES (Maximum of 1 per species listed above) pays \$1,000.00. Note: Muskellunge or Tiger Muskellunge are NOT valid entries for this event.

YOUTH ANGLER AWARDS – 1 Trophy for each age group will be awarded for the single largest length fish (must be one of the 4 species listed above) –

- Under 10 years old;
- 10-14 years old
- 15-17 years old

REGISTRATION: All boats will register with New Baltimore Parks and Recreation Office at 586-725-0291. Registration fee is \$200.00 and can be paid by phone with the Parks and Recreation Office; 30 boats maximum, and registration ends when slots are filled OR at 6:00pm on July 19th. Registration fees will be non-refundable. ALL boats will check-in, depart, and return to William and Mary Burke Park Boat Harbor in New Baltimore. There will NOT be boat launching at Burke Park, so participants will have to launch at another site and travel by water to Burke Park. No more than 4 people will be allowed on any boats fishing in this event.

There will be a MANDATORY boat representative meeting on Thursday, July 20 at 7:00pm at Little Camille's By The Bay. Check-in starts at 6:30pm. Event will include a pizza and salad buffet and a cash bar. First team representative / Captain eats for free. Additional team members and family members are invited to attend for \$15 per additional person. MAX 4 people may attend per team, including team members and family members. Please RSVP no later than July 10th to Blair@nolimitsfishing.org. At the meeting, team members will receive their team shirts and boat bags with flags and tags. There will be a presentation starting promptly at 7:00pm to go over rules, procedure and answer any questions you may have.

Boats must arrive at Burke Park between 6:30am and 7:45am on Saturday July 22nd to check-in for the 8:00am tournament blast-off. Tournament fishing time runs from 8:00am to 3:00pm. All properly checked-in boats will depart from Burke Park for fishing at 8:00am. Any boat arriving late (after 7:45am) will be able to check-in and depart for fishing beginning at 8:15am and return to the harbor before the 3:00pm deadline. Any boat failing to return to the Burke Park Harbor prior to the 3:00pm ending time will be disqualified. A regulator boat will be on site to ensure smooth check-in for both the depart and return.

BOUNDARIES: Fishing will be limited to the American waters of Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River (including the channels). All fishing and boating safety regulations of the Michigan DNR and United States Coast Guard must be followed. All fish must meet the minimum size regulations of the Michigan DNR.

All participating boats in this event will be provided a numbered boat board which must be displayed where visible from a distance. Boats competing in this event are prohibited from direct contact with any other vessel during the fishing hours of the tournament. Boats competing in this event are prohibited from entering canals or marinas or approaching and contacting private docks or mooring sites.

FISH TAGGING – EACH BOAT WILL RECEIVE:

- 4 GREEN TAGS: Green tags will identify the Longest Fish for each of the 4 species. The three longest tagged fish will then be automatically entered into the combined length 3 Fish of 3 Species category for that team. Each tag must be labeled with the boat number when the fish is presented to the judges. **Fish must be tagged prior to arriving at the concrete pier for weigh-in. Untagged fish will be disqualified.**
- 4 YELLOW TAGS: Yellow tags will be used to identify the fish (1 fish of 4 valid species) entered in the youth competition. When delivered to the judges, the boat number AND the name and age of the youth angler must be printed on the yellow tags. **Fish must be tagged prior to arriving at the concrete pier for weigh-in. Untagged fish will be disqualified.**

Fish must be caught during the tournament hours and tagged as described above to qualify as a valid entry. Tagged fish must be ALIVE when presented to the judges to qualify as a valid entry in this event.

Upon returning, a team's fish weigh bag containing their tagged fish (maximum of 8 tagged fish) will be handed to tournament representatives on the concrete pier at the Burke Park Boat Harbor. The representative will take the fish weigh bag directly to the judges' station. Tagged fish will be inspected, measured, and recorded by the tournament judges at the tournament headquarters. The results will be announced at the beer tent during the award presentation. Prize winning fish will be on display at the tournament headquarters during the award presentation.

In the event of a tie by length, the heaviest fish by weight will win.

Tournament judges reserve the right to disqualify any fish(es) that don't meet their expectation of anatomical appearance. Judges may disqualify any fish(es) that doesn't meet their definition of "ALIVE". Judges may disqualify teams for any rule violations, e.g, fishing outside of the boundary waters. Anyone disqualified will forfeit their registration fees. All decisions of the judges are final.