

2008 SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN STEELHEADERS SUMMER CHALLENGE LADIES & KIDS TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Dates and Times

- a. Tournament date is Sunday, May 11.
- b. Registration deadline is 6:00 PM on Saturday, May 10.
- c. The awards ceremony will commence immediately following the weigh-in on Sunday, May 11 at the weigh-in area.
- d. Time limits are as follows: Lines in 6:45 AM - lines out 11:30 AM (NO RUN TIME ALLOWED).
- e. The contest is considered official if a minimum of two (2) hours are fished. Prizes will be awarded based on points accumulated during the official fishing period.

2. Eligibility

- a. Licensed charter captains must fish in the Pro Division even when participating as crew. All non-charter captains and crews may register in either division.
- b. Kids must be age 16 and under as of the tournament date.
- c. All boats must be equipped with a VHF marine radio in working order.

3. Entry Fees

- a. Entry fee is \$100 per Pro boat or \$100 per Amateur boat.
- b. All entries fees must be received NO LATER than 6:00 PM on Saturday, May 10.
- c. There are no provisions for the return of entry fees, unless a written request for such a fee is received by the Tournament Director at least 7 days prior to the kick off of the tournament. If tournament is cancelled due to weather conditions all entries minus 10% will be refunded.

4. 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 (1) point per pound (nearest hundredth pound) total weight
- b. The team accumulating the highest number of points will be the winner, followed by the team with the next highest accumulation, and so on.
- c. The following species shall be eligible: Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, Atlantic Salmon, Pink Salmon, Lake Trout, Brown Trout and Steelhead Trout.

5. Fishing Rules

- a. All boats must depart and return to the Port of St. Joseph, MI.
- b. All Michigan DNR rules apply.

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- c. Maximum number of rods fishing at any time is nine (9). Fishing means "line in the water". One slider per rod will be allowed; however, sliders may not exceed 72 inches. Maximum 2 baits per rod.
- d. Weigh your best 5 fish. Catch as many fish as DNR rules will permit based on the number of licensed fishermen on the boat.
- e. Ladies or kids must reel all fish into the net. Men may drive the boat, set the rods, retrieve the rod once a fish is hooked and net the fish. If a man does retrieve the rod once a fish is hooked, he must immediately hand it off to one of the ladies or kids.

6. Start and Finish

- a. The tournament committee will use FM-78 to start and end each fishing period. No lines in the water until the start is announced.
- b. You must not depart a ½ mile radius from the pier heads until the announcement of the start of the fishing period.
- c. Your boat must be in the St. Joseph pierheads by 11:30 AM or you will be disqualified ... NO EXCEPTIONS!
- d. All boats must radio-in to tournament control on FM-78 upon return to the pier heads 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. All boats must proceed directly to the weigh-in station.

7. Weigh-in

- a. At the close of the fishing period all boat must go directly to the Pier 33 designated docks (just above 1st drawbridge) for weigh-in. No stops may be made prior to dropping off at the weigh-in. Failure to comply will result in disqualification from the tournament.
- b. At least 1 crewmember and the catch and signed log sheet must disembark. The crew member must stay with the catch until it is officially scored.
- c. You can only weigh 5 fish and your cooler must only have 5 fish at the weigh-in station. If you have more than 5 fish in your cooler at the weigh-in station, you will be disqualified ... NO EXCEPTIONS!
- d. No water or loose ice will be allowed in the coolers at weigh-in. Bagged ice only may be used in the coolers at all times.
- e. All fish may be tested for time in possession. The tournament committee may retain any fish for any reason.
- f. Fish may not be left at the weigh-in station. Disposition of fish must be in compliance with state and local laws.

8. Communications

- a. There are no communication restrictions in this tournament.

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- b. All participants should monitor FM-78 at all times. Important tournament information will be broadcast on FM-78. Please restrict communication on FM-78 to vital tournament communication only, no idle chatter will be allowed on FM-78. Participants who miss these announcements for any reason will still be held accountable.

9. Boat Inspections

The Tournament Committee may board any vessel prior to the fishing period to search for any uncleaned fish. The presence of any uncleaned fish on a tournament boat prior to the fishing period will result in disqualification.

10. 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 the fishing period.
- b. After a fishing period has begun, an announcement will be made on FM-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.
- c. If a fishing period is shortened, all boats must proceed directly to the weigh-in.

11. Polygraph Testing

By entering this tournament, all captains, crew and observers agree to subject themselves to a polygraph examination performed by an examiner provided by the tournament committee. All participants may be tested for any reason at any time (up to 30 days after the tournament is completed) at the sole discretion of the tournament committee. In addition, all participants agree to abide by the results of the polygraph examination. Any participant fails or refuses to take this examination, by so doing, may disqualify his/her team from winning any division or event in this tournament. The official results, including the distribution of all prize money, may be delayed up to 30 days after the tournament pending the results of a polygraph examination.

12. Disqualification and Penalties

- a. Disqualification for any reason will result in the forfeiture of all entry fees for the tournament and official side pots.
- b. Failure to comply with any of the rules listed in Section 5 will result in disqualification.
- c. Failure to proceed directly to weigh-in will result in disqualification.
- d. If you arrive at the weigh-in point with more than 5 fish in your cooler you will be disqualified.
- e. Any fish taken in violation of DNR regulations will result in disqualification.
- f. Failure to dispose of fish per state and local laws will result in disqualification.
- g. 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 the tournament committee gives prior authorization via marine radio on FM-78.

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- h. If a tournament boat breaks down after the start of the fishing period and requires assistance from another vessel, that boat will be disqualified for that day's fishing.
- i. Failure to submit to a polygraph examination will result in disqualification.

13. 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 Southwest Michigan Steelheaders, 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 contestants property.
- b. 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.

14. Rule Changes

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to change any of these rules and post changes up to 45 minutes prior to the start of the tournament.

15. Tournament Committee and Rules Committee

The Tournament Committee and the Rules Committee will be appointed prior to the Captain's Meeting. These committees shall act as prescribed in accordance with these Official Rules.