

# 2023

## DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS

### Boat Trolling Tournament Rules

#### I. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- A. Tournaments will be held to create a spirit of healthy competition.
- B. Tournaments will be held to help member skippers and their crews become familiar with the fishing and facilities at different ports.
- C. Tournaments will be held to help all of our members become better fishermen.
- D. Tournaments will be held as a positive program for having fun.

#### II. ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

- A. Captain must be a member of the Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.
- B. Anyone that meets the requirements of the State of Michigan to operate a powerboat may be Captain.
- C. New members may turn in membership applications prior to the tournament or at the weigh-in.
- D. Entry fee is \$15 per person.
- E. Entry Forms will be available via e-mail & on our website. There will be NO skipper meeting prior to the start of each tournament. Entry forms will be accepted via e-mail to the e-mail address on the entry forms. Alternately, the Tournament Director may be contacted by phone or text message. The following information must be provided: captain's name, captain's cell phone number, boat name, names of crew members, and whether the captain wants to participate in the Big Fish pool. Preferred deadline for entry acceptance, out of courtesy, will be 9:00pm on the Thursday prior to any given tournament. However, registrations will continue to be accepted up to the start of the tournament.
- F. A roll call of Skippers participating will be conducted approximately 1 hour after start time on Marine VHF (Channel 72). Cell phone calls to the Tournament Port Captain or Tournament Director will be permitted. Any Skipper failing to reply to the roll call or by cell phone will receive a 5-point deduction from their scoring.
- G. Minimum registered boat length must be 16 feet. Exceptions to this rule may be made by the Tournament Director.

#### III. AWARDS

- A. Awards will be presented as follows:
- B. 1st place through 3rd place will receive (1) skipper's plaque for 1st event. Name plates will be issued thereafter.
- C. Plaques will still be available for purchase for crew people. Skipper of the Year points will be given based on the order of finish in each tournament. Example: one (1) point for first place, two (2) points for second place, etc.
- D. To earn Skipper of the Year points, the skipper must participate in any or all of the scheduled tournaments and he/she must participate using his/her boat unless advance permission is issued by the Tournament Director.
- E. Best 4 tournaments will determine positions for Skipper of the Year.
- F. Any tie in Skipper of the Year results will be determined by position in subsequent tournaments.  
Example: Best of 5, Best of 6, etc. If still tied, winner will then be determined by total points in like tournaments.

The final tie breaker will be the total weight, including points allowed for each fish, of 5 fish weighed in like tournaments in accordance with tournament rules.

**G.** The skipper who, at the end of the season, has accumulated the least number of points will receive the Skipper of the Year award.

**H.** There will be awards for the top 3 Skippers of the Year.

**I.** Award for Skipper of the Year will be presented at the Annual Awards Banquet or Christmas membership meeting. An individual award will be presented for the largest trout and salmon species caught and weighed in during the year's river, surf, and boat trolling tournaments. Weight of fish only will be used to determine winners. Deadline will be the annual Christmas meeting.

**J.** All tournament results are final at the distribution of plaques at the membership meeting.

**K.** No. of tournaments counted for Skipper of the Year:

**5 of 8, 4 of 7, 4 of 6, 3 of 5, 3 of 4, 2 of 3, 1 of 2, 1 of 1**

#### **IV. SCORING**

**A.** Maximum of **five (5)** fish to be scored per day, (see rule VII.-D).

**B.** Points:

1. By weight 1/100 point per 100th of a pound - 1 point per pound.
2. 5 points per fish.

**C.** Total points per boat will be used to determine order of finish.

**D.** In case of a tie, winner to be determined by heaviest 4 fish catch, then, if still tied, by single biggest fish, then second biggest fish and so on.

**E.** Any boat which does not check in at the weigh-in or doesn't weigh-in a fish in a particular tournament will receive fifty (50) points or one (1) point more than the last place boat, whichever is greater towards Skipper of the Year. All boats represented at the Skippers meeting of a canceled tournament will receive 50 points.

**F.** Any boat not participating in a tournament will receive 75 points towards Skipper of the Year.

**G.** Winner will be determined by the Tournament Director, and his/her decision will be final. All protests must be filed with the Tournament Director or Port Captain before the unofficial weigh-in results are announced. The decision on the protest will be announced by the Tournament Director after conferring with available Board Directors and before the weigh-in results are announced.

#### **V. ELIGIBILITY**

**A.** All trout and salmon. Minimum size of fish: 19 inches overall measured from the front of head to the tip of the tail. All fish three pounds and over qualify regardless of length. All fish under 3 lbs. will be measured.

#### **VI. TOURNAMENT DAYS**

**A.** Tournaments will be scheduled for Saturday and/or Sunday.

**B.** Saturday will be the tournament day with Sunday in reserve in case Saturday is canceled due to bad weather on Saturday.

**C.** If a tournament cannot be completed, it will not be rescheduled.

#### **VII. TOURNAMENT TIMES**

**A.** Starting and ending time along with location and date will be announced by the Port Captain with Tournament Director as back up.

**B.** The starting time for all tournaments will be announced at least (30) minutes in advance by the Tournament Director or Port Captain. If the original start is delayed, the scheduled ending time will be maintained. The tournament ending time will only be changed to meet the five hour fishing minimum. In the event that a morning start is not possible, an afternoon start time may be announced at the discretion of the tournament director. The official end time of an afternoon tournament will be announced by the tournament director at the start of the tournament.

**C.** Any late changes will be announced at the skippers meeting or, if necessary, by the Tournament Director or Port Captain on channel 72.

**D.** The tournament will be official if there is a minimum of five (5) fishing hours over (2) days (Saturday & Sunday). If the tournament fishing is shortened or delayed all fish will be weighed and maximum of **(5)** heaviest fish will be eligible per tournament day scheduled.

**E.** All boats must leave and return from the port(s) at which the tournament is being held.

**F.** All boats must remain within a 20-mile radius of the pier heads of the port from which they were launched, or other designated boundaries set by the tournament director prior to the start of the tournament day.

**G.** There will be no fishing within pier heads of any ports unless designated by the Port Captain or Tournament Director.

**H.** All catches accompanied by skipper or crew member must be in the weigh-in line within (1) hour or within the pre-designated time limit after the ending of the tournament unless the Tournament Director or Port Captain has been notified previously with a valid reason. Failure to do so will result in (1) point deduction for every minute late, up to 15 minutes. If not in the weigh-in line within 15 minutes of the weigh-in deadline, no weigh-in will be allowed.

**I.** No fishing is permitted prior to the start of any tournament-on-tournament day. Violations will result in disqualification from that tournament.

#### **VIII. FISHING LAWS**

**A.** All Michigan Department of Natural Resources and/or other applicable governing bodies rules will be followed except there will be a maximum of nine (9) lines down per boat with the maximum of two (2) lures per line.

#### **IX. CANCELLATION**

**A.** If a tournament must be canceled on Saturday for any reason, the schedule for Sunday will be announced at the time of the cancellation and at the weigh-in on Saturday.

**B.** If a tournament is canceled for any reason, there will be a roll call on channel 72 to each boat for acknowledgement of the cancellation notice.

**C.** All lines must be pulled. Boats must return to port when a cancellation notice is given. Any boat who elects to not return to port or fails to respond to roll call will forfeit the right to weigh fish on that day.

**D.** All Skippers must report that they are in port safely by radio or in person to the Port Captain or Tournament Director immediately after arriving at the pier heads. Failure to notify will result in a possible suspension from further tournaments.

**E.** Three boats will be designated weather boats. These boats will be polled by radio for a cancellation decision should the weather deteriorate prior to or after the tournament has started.

**ALL FINAL DECISIONS WILL BE MADE BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR(S).**

**F. There must be a minimum of three boats to constitute a tournament.**

**G.** Entry fees from a cancelled tournament will be refunded.

## X. SPORTSMANSHIP AND SAFETY

- A. Courtesy and safety must be practiced at all times.
- B. Any boats/coolers may be inspected by the Tournament Officials.
- C. All Coast Guard required safety equipment must be in working order and on board.
- D. All boats must be equipped with an FM marine band radio in working order at the start of the tournament.
- E. For safety purposes, all boats must have at least (2) people on board.
- F. All boats must report to the Tournament Director or Port Captain by radio or in person upon clearing the pier heads at the end of the tournament. Failure to do so could result in disqualification and/or suspension from future tournaments.
- G. For safety reasons, any changes to a crew must be reported to the Tournament Director or Port Captain within an hour of the tournament start. Any change to a crew during the tournament must be reported when checking back in to the tournament. Failure to do so will result in a 10 (ten) point penalty.
- H. Any boat participating in a DAS tournament which, for any reason, returns to port during that tournament, must contact the Port Captain or Tournament Director when doing so. Upon returning to the tournament the returning boat must again inform the Port Captain or Tournament Director. Any failure to do so may result in disqualification.

## XI. FINAL DECISIONS

- A. ANY VIOLATION OF THE ABOVE RULES MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.**
- B. THE DECISION OF THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR REGARDING THESE RULES AND THEIR INTERPRETATION SHALL BE FINAL.**

