



2ND ANNUAL PIKE-A-PALOOZA NORTHERN PIKE TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2020

TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION:

1. Each participant must complete, sign and submit a Pike-a-Palooza registration forms, along with the correct entry fee. Registration can be completed online at <https://www.ruttgersretail.com/product-page/pike-a-palooza-may-18>. If you are unable to register online, contact Dave McMillan at 218-678-4632 or via email at dave.mcmillan@ruttgers.com.
2. Tournament entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable regardless of the date of cancellation. The tournament will be capped at 75 boats. A waiting list for participants will be maintained by Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge. In the event of a cancellation, the next person on the waiting list will be notified.
3. All participants must possess valid Minnesota fishing license.
4. Participants must have proper liability insurance for the boat being used in the Pike-a-Palooza Northern Pike Tournament.
5. As a condition of participation in the tournament, each competitor must sign a Publicity Release. This release allows the use of the participant's likeness in all marketing.
6. A team must have two (2) persons and must fish in the same boat. One (1) team per boat.
7. Contestants under 18 years of age must have the signature of his/her parent or legal guardian on the entry form, as well as the contestant's signature.

CATCH-RECORD-RELEASE FORMAT/SCORING:

1. The Pike-a-Palooza Northern Pike Tournament is designed for “weigh-in” through a photo and scorecard process, referred to as the “CRR”: Catch-Record-Release. No fish will be brought to the “weigh-in stage”.
2. CRR requires the use of a digital camera or phone.
3. Participants agree to use the provided required official tournament ruler and Official Tournament Scorecard. Team members agree to work together to measure, photograph, and record their catch.
4. Only northern pike over 22 inches should be measured, photographed and recorded. There is no need to photograph the northern pike measuring less than 22 inches.
5. Any angler bringing in a limit (10) of pike under 22 inches will receive a prize. Pike over 22” can count toward your 3 bag CRR limit but must be released after your information is recorded.
6. The Catch, Record, Release procedures will be reviewed at the Rules meeting. The general procedures are as follows:
 - Team participant #1 holds the fish on the official the Pike-a-Palooza Northern Pike Tournament ruler, or “The Judge”. The belly of the fish must face the person measuring the fish. The mouth of the fish MUST touch the bump plate on the ruler to the LEFT (Head to Left), and the tail is extended back to its maximum length on the RIGHT end of the ruler (Tail to the Right).
 - Both team participants must agree on the length of the fish to 1/4th inch accuracy. If the tail fin crosses a graduation on the ruler, the official length may be rounded up to the nearest one quarter (1/4) of an inch.
 - While the fish is being held on the ruler, a “scoring” photo must be taken of the fish which clearly shows the overall length of the fish. The HEAD and TAIL of the fish must be included and show clearly. The photograph must be taken of the LEFT side of the fish ONLY (belly towards the angler holding the fish, head to the left). A photo that does not clearly show the overall length of the fish, including head and tail, and the left side of the fish on the ruler WILL NOT BE SCORED. More than one attempt to get a valid scoring photo is allowed.
 - Another photo MUST be taken of the fish being held up by a partner. This “hero shot” photo MUST show the entire RIGHT side of the fish. These photos will be used for technical evaluation and may be used on stage during the awards ceremony or posted to Ruttger’s media outlets (web, Facebook, etc.).
 - The length of the fish is recorded on the Official Tournament Scorecard by team participant #1 and they initial the entry. If an error is made, the line should be crossed out and the next open line should be used to record the fish’s length.

- The fish is then immediately released by the participant holding the fish
- Record the length of the fish on the Official Scorecard and both partners should validate the length recorded for accuracy.
- In the instance when two or more fish are caught at the same time, the CRR process requires that one fish must be measured, photographed, and released as quickly as possible before next fish can be processed.
- In order to speed up the CPR process, while a fish is in the boat, anglers will Not be allowed to reset or place any fishing lines in the water. After all Fish are processed and released, normal angling may resume.

SCORING:

- At the completion of the tournament day, each Team will select up to THREE (3) fish to be counted towards their daily weight and designate these fish on the Pike-a-Palooza Northern Pike Tournament Official Scorecard. These are the only fish that will be scored. Then each Team will convert the lengths of each of the THREE designated fish to weight using a standardized Length-to-Weight Conversion Chart. The SUM of these THREE fish will be the Teams unofficial total weight for the day.
- BOTH partners are REQUIRED to sign the Pike-a-Palooza Northern Pike Tournament Official Scorecard to certify their catch.
- At the daily check-in, the Pike-a-Palooza Northern Pike Tournament provided equipment including the ruler, and Pike-a-Palooza Northern Pike Tournament Official Scorecard, as well as the digital camera or phone will be turned in to a tournament official. The photos of each fish will be used for confirmation of length and to validate the Pike-a-Palooza Northern Pike Tournament Official Scorecard. NO validating PHOTOS or LOSS of the Pike-a-Palooza Northern Pike Tournament Official Scorecard will result in forfeiture of ALL WEIGHT that day.
- In the event a photo that designates a fish to be scored is judged as failing to meet scoring requirements, a replacement fish will not be allowed.
- In the event that TWO (or more) photos that designate fish to be scored are judged as failing to meet scoring requirements, the team will lose all weight for the day.
- Tournament standings and final results shall be determined by the converted weight of each Teams daily "limit".
- The official minimum length will be 22 inches; the tail MUST touch at least the 22-inch mark on the ruler.

- Two scorecards will be provided. If the first Scorecard should become damaged, it is permissible to transfer the data to the second Scorecard. BOTH Scorecards must be turned in at the check-in dock. Loss of the Official Scorecard will result in disqualification.
- Tournament standings, contingency awards and final winners shall be determined by the total converted weight of each team.
- Any fish that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered will be credited only at the discretion of Pike-a-Palooza Northern Pike Tournament Officials and Tournament Director. Any fish that are deemed altered by an angler may result in Team disqualification for the event.

TIES:

In the case of a TIE or TIES between Teams in converted weights, all ties will be broken in the following manner:

- First Tiebreaker by the heaviest converted weight individual fish on the Pike-a-Palooza Northern Pike Tournament scorecard.
- Second Tiebreaker (if necessary) by the second heaviest converted weight fish on the Pike-a-Palooza Northern Pike Tournament scorecard.
- Third Tiebreaker (if necessary) by the third heaviest converted weight fish on the Pike-a-Palooza Northern Pike Tournament scorecard.

RULES MEETING:

1. A rules meeting will take place on Friday, June 12, 2020 at 6 p.m. in Echo Bay Room at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge. Registration and social hour starting at 5 p.m. One angler from each team must attend the rules meeting. All anglers are responsible for knowing the tournament rules.

COMPETITION:

1. The Pike-a-Palooza Northern Pike Tournament is open to Bay Lake only.
2. All boats will be required to use the main public boat access. Dock space is available at Ruttger's on a first-come, first-served basis.
3. Boat numbers will be randomly drawn at the rules meeting. Each team will receive a "boat number board" which will remain with the boat for the duration of the event. This boat number board must be displayed at the take-off and check-in and upon the request of a tournament official. Participants must have their assigned boat number board with them at check-in on the day of the tournament to participate.
4. All boats must be checked in by a Tournament Committee Official before the start of the tournament. All live wells and storage compartments must be accessible to a tournament committee official. During inspection, each boat will receive two official scorecards and an official ruler. It is also acceptable for boats to use "The Judge" ruler as an official ruler.

5. There will be only one official point for take-off in the morning, which shall be designated at the Rules meeting. All boats will depart from the anchored start/finish boat at the designated start time (8 a.m.) in numerical order. Boats will trickle start one by one and will receive the "go ahead" from the start/finish boat. At the time of take-off, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by the tournament committee.

6. No marine radio, or other electronic communication is allowed during tournament hours except for an emergency. Official Marine Channel is Channel #1.

7. No binoculars are permitted in boats during competition hours.

8. At no time during the tournament hours shall a contestant leave their boat unless granted permission from a Tournament Committee Official. Use safe judgment during inclement weather. If there is a need to clear the lake, the fishing tournament will resume when the Tournament Committee Officials deem the lake safe. Tournament Committee Officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of tournament due to dangerous weather conditions. Tournament boundaries may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. The tournament may be cancelled (even after the tournament has started) because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of competitors.

9. When returning, each boat must check in with the Start/Finish boat BEFORE the 3 p.m. After being recognized as "checked in" by the Start/Finish boat, you will proceed to the check-in docks (same docks as used in the morning) and turn in your pack sacks, official score cards (both of them) and official rulers. CHECK IN AT THE START/FINISH BOAT AND AT THE CHECK-IN DOCKS IS MANDATORY-FISH OR NO FISH.

10. Teams not returning at the specified check-in time, will be immediately disqualified.

11. A protest of any kind must be filed with the Tournament Committee Officials before the awards ceremony begins. A \$100 fee is required: refunded if found to be valid. The protest committee will consist of two (2) tournament officials and three (3) randomly selected contestants. The committee findings are final.

12. Promoters, tournament committee officials, organizations and sponsors are not responsible for death, injury, damage, liability, theft, fire or loss of any kind to participants.

ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT:

1. No alcohol beverages may be consumed during tournament hours.
2. All contestants competing in this event are expected to act in a sportsmanlike manner at all times towards noncompetitors and competitors alike. Violators of this rule will be disqualified.
3. The violation of any rule, as determined by the tournament committee officials, shall result in automatic disqualification from the tournament and ineligibility of prizes or awards. The Tournament Committee officials' decision will be final and may not be challenged.

4. Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant must wear a Coast Guard approved personal floatation device at all times when the combustion engine is operating above trolling speed. The floatation device must be fastened securely and the safety-stop switch attached.
5. All boats must meet Coast Guard and State requirements. Motors may not exceed BIA rating established by the manufacturer. Boats are limited to 1 auxiliary fuel tank (capacity not to exceed 7 gallons). Fuel tank must also meet Coast Guard standards and be securely fastened to the boat.

MECHANICAL BREAKDOWNS:

1. In the event of a mechanical breakdown, the participants should attempt to make contact with a Tournament Committee Official.
2. In the event of a mechanical breakdown, it is permissible for the participants to transfer to another competitor's boat for transportation to the check-in with their Official Scorecard, and official ruler. Teams must still arrive at the check-in on time.
3. Any boat that comes to the aid of a competitor OR another boat may be exempted from late penalties at the discretion of the Tournament Committee Officials. The assisting team must note the time and GPS position where assistance was given.
4. Running out of gas is NOT considered a mechanical breakdown, and the boat will NOT be exempted from late penalties.

AWARDS:

1. The Awards Ceremony will be held on the West Lawn at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge. In the case of inclement weather, the Awards Ceremony will be moved inside the Lodge. The Awards Ceremony will begin with a 5 p.m.
2. Anglers are responsible for all applicable taxes on both cash and merchandise awards.
3. Participants who receive cash awards will be required to provide Pike-a-Palooza Northern Pike Tournament with a W-9 prior to receiving their cash award when required.
4. The Tournament Committee Officials reserve the right to adjust cash/prize payouts.
5. Payout amounts will be determined based on number of boats entered.

Rules subject to change