

Kent County Ducks Unlimited | Molly's Place Sporting Goods 2021 Annual Chester River Catfish Tournament

Tournament Rules

I. General Tournament Rules

A. Entry Guidelines

1. Entry fee is per angler.
 - a) \$100 Boat Captain before Aug. 15th. **\$125 August 15th-August 31st**
 - (1) Boat Captains must attend mandatory Captain's Meeting on Friday 9/3/21 (evening). Location and details TBD.
 - (2) Boat Captains will also be required to provide their boat registration number.
 - b) \$100 Adult Angler before Aug. 15th. **\$125 August 15th-August 31st**
 - c) \$30 Junior Angler (Aged 15 and Under) before August 15th. **\$50 August 15th-August 31st.**
2. Each fishing participant will receive a tournament shirt. Boat captains will receive a YETI Tournament Bucket containing gifts and swag from DU and our sponsors. Junior Anglers will receive a youth oriented swag bag and shirt. **MUST REGISTER BY AUGUST 15th** to guarantee shirts, buckets, and swag bags.
3. Every angler must list 1 registered boat captain as their captain.
4. Every boat must have a registered boat captain.
5. There is no minimum or maximum boat size.
6. An unlimited number of anglers are allowed per boat captain but all must be registered with the tournament.
7. All persons aboard a tournament boat must be registered for the tournament.
8. Boat Captains must be 18 years of age or older.
9. No professional anglers can enter this tournament. We define professional fisherman as those who are paid by sponsorships to fish in tournaments.
10. By registering with the Chester River Catfish Tournament and paying the entry fee, participants acknowledge that they have read these Rules and agree to be bound by all rules of this tournament.
11. The Tournament will be held Sunday, September 5, 2021. Lines in at 5:30 a.m. and Lines out at 12:30 p.m. Anyone fishing before 5:30 a.m. or after 12:30 p.m. will be disqualified.
12. In the event of severe weather where tournament officials feel that it will

be unsafe to fish, the Rain Date is Sunday, September 12, 2021. There will be no refunds if you cannot make the Rain Date.

13. Registration is only accepted online via www.kentdu.com
14. Registration cutoff for tournament shirts and YETI buckets is AUGUST 15th. After this date there will be no guarantee of either.
15. Online Registration closes August 31st, 2021 11:59pm EST - **NO EXCEPTIONS will be made for late registration of boats. Boat captains can pay for additional anglers at the Captain's Meeting.**
16. NO refunds will be given.

B. Fishing Procedures

1. All fish must be caught by Hook and Line on the day of the Tournament.
2. While fishing, all anglers must comply with all Federal and State regulations concerning fishing.
3. Any legal, commercial, or natural bait will be allowed.
4. Fishing is only allowed from a boat in the Chester River, Queenstown Creek, Langford Creek (East & West Forks), Lower Corsica River, Grays Inn Creek, SouthEast Creek, Grove Creek, Reed Creek, Tilghman Creek, Morgnec Creek. (see attached map)
5. No fishing allowed within 100 yards of any pound nets or fish holding areas.
6. Tournament staff will be monitoring VHF channel 68 for updates/instructions.
7. Any qualifying catfish currently placed on the leaderboard in an individual category **cannot** be included in a 3 fish stringer entry.
8. Any fish that is weighed in and placed on the individual category fish leaderboard becomes the property of the Kent DU committee at that time. Those fish will be returned (if so desired) to the angler after the weigh-in concludes.
9. The 3-fish stringer may consist of a mixture of any qualifying species I.E. Blue/Flathead Catfish, Channel Catfish, or Snakehead

C. Weigh-In Procedures

1. The official Weigh station will be the Kent School Dock (Same as 2020) in the Chester River. See map for coordinates.
2. Only fish brought by boat will be accepted at the Kent School Weigh-in site. (see #12 for exception)
3. There are NO on-land spectator sites for weigh-ins. Weigh-ins will be broadcast on the radio and live streamed via Kent County Ducks Unlimited's website: kentdu.com
4. Fish may be brought to weigh-in starting at 10:30am. All participants must be in line by 1:30 p.m. to have their fish weighed. Anyone not in line by 1:30 p.m. will not have their fish weighed or be eligible for any prizes/trophies.
5. Qualifying fish are considered to be 10lbs or OVER and are subject to examination by a Maryland DNR biologist on-site.
6. Any and all ties will be broken by the time of the earliest weighed fish.

7. Anyone wishing to weigh in a fish must be wearing an official tournament wristband (given at Captain's Meeting).
8. Weigh-Master's rulings are final.
9. Absolutely no beaching of vessels at the weigh-in site.
10. Weigh-In staff will be monitoring VHF channel 68 for updates/instructions.
11. Captains, anglers, and spectators are encouraged to anchor out or raft up outside of the weigh-in site. A loud speaker will be making tournament announcements. We will also broadcast on 87.9FM and live video streaming on www.kentdu.com
12. A satellite weigh-in station will be set up at ShoreRivers for SNAKEHEADS only from 12pm-2pm. This weigh-in site can be accessed by land or vessel. ONLY SNAKEHEADS can be weighed at this station. NO EXCEPTIONS. Snakeheads can also be weighed at the primary weigh station (Kent School Dock).

D. Added Entry Rules

1. Added Entry must be paid in CASH only at the official tournament Captain's Meeting.
2. Added Entry is by BOAT not by individual angler.
3. The Boat Captain is responsible for entering the added entry categories and will be the one paid out if an added entry is won for that boat.
4. Any qualifying catfish currently placed on the leaderboard in an individual category **cannot** be included in a 3 fish stringer entry.
5. Any fish that is weighed in and placed on the individual category fish leaderboard becomes the property of the Kent DU committee at that time. Those fish will be returned (if so desired) to the angler after the weigh-in concludes.
6. The 3-fish stringer may consist of a mixture of any qualifying species I.E. Blue/Flathead Catfish, Channel Catfish, or Snakehead
7. Any side betting outside of the tournament's official added entry, is not the responsibility of Kent County Ducks Unlimited.

E. Additional Rules

1. Kent County Ducks Unlimited Committee members are not permitted to enter the Tournament.
2. We will **NOT** tolerate any drunken, disorderly conduct! If you are exhibiting these behaviors, you will be immediately disqualified.
3. We are **NOT** responsible for any accidents or boating violations. Please practice safe boating and follow all Maryland State boating laws and regulations.
4. Arguing and fighting between participants before, during, or after the tournament will result in immediate disqualification.
5. There will be a **mandatory** Captain's Meeting on the evening of Friday, September 3rd. Additional details will be released prior to the tournament via email. All Captains must attend for their boat to be eligible to fish in the Tournament.
6. If a captain cannot attend the Captain's Meeting they must send an

- authorized representative with a signed captain's log and captain's acknowledgement form (these will be sent to Captains prior to meeting).
7. We ask that all boats make every effort to fly the tournament flag given to them in Captain's Bucket so we can better identify tournament boats.
 8. The tournament will be held rain or shine. Cancellation will only be made if the conditions are considered dangerous by the National Weather Service.
 9. Anyone wishing to protest any fish will have to deposit a protest fee of \$100 with the tournament committee. If the protest is validated, the fee will be returned to the individual making the protest. If, however, the protest is deemed to be invalid, the individual will forfeit the fee. Any protest must be done on the day of the tournament, prior to 2pm EST.
 10. Kent County Ducks Unlimited reserves the right to request a polygraph of any registered adult angler or boat captain within 60 days of the tournament. Any angler who does not comply will forfeit any prize money and be permanently banned from the tournament.

II. Prizes and Awards

A. Prizes

1. Prizes will be awarded based on the weight of the single heaviest fish. In the event of a tie, the first weighed fish will win.
2. The largest qualifying fish are as follows: bluecat/flathead catfish, channel catfish and snakehead.
3. Junior division will be determined by the largest fish of any of the qualifying categories.
4. There is a guaranteed tournament purse of \$10,000.
 - a) Bluecat/Flathead Catfish: 1st Place \$2,500, 2nd Place \$1,000, 3rd Place \$500
 - b) Channel Catfish: 1st Place \$2,500, 2nd Place \$1,000, 3rd Place \$500
 - c) Snakehead: \$1000 (winner take all)
5. Junior Class (Age 15 & under) will have trophies in addition to Molly's Place Gift Cards for 1st (\$500) 2nd (\$250) 3rd (\$150) and 4th (\$100) place finishers.
6. There will be multiple Calcutta's offered at the Captain's Meeting. Buy in will be cash only. Details to follow sharing divisions and levels. Any fish on the adult division leaderboard **cannot be** included in a Calcutta stringer entry.
7. Winners will be issued a 1099 and are responsible for said taxes.

B. Awards

1. The first place Junior Angler will receive the A.D. Burt Memorial Cup.

2. This cup trophy is to be returned to Kent County Ducks Unlimited by July of 2022 to be passed on to the next winner.
3. Prizes and awards will be given immediately following the closing of the official weigh-in site.

Any questions should be directed to The Kent County Ducks Unlimited Committee via email at kentcodu@gmail.com. All tournament information can be found on our website at www.kentdu.com.