

Kent County Ducks Unlimited
2022 Annual Chester River Catfish Tournament

Tournament Rules

I. General Tournament Rules

A. Entry Guidelines

1. Entry fee is per angler.
 - a) \$150 Boat Captain before Aug. 15th. **\$175 August 15th-August 31st.**
 - (1) Boat Captains must attend mandatory Captain's Meeting on Friday, September 2, 2022 (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, 2022. **\$125 August 15th-August 31st**
 - c) \$30 Junior Angler (Aged 15 and Under) before August 15th. **\$50 August 15th-August 31st, 2022.**
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. The Tournament will be held Sunday, September 4, 2022. 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. Fishing is defined as catching any fish by any means.
11. In the event of severe weather where tournament officials feel that it will

be unsafe to fish, the Rain Date is Sunday, September 11, 2022. There will be no refunds if you cannot make the Rain Date.

12. Registration is only accepted online via www.kentdu.com
13. Registration cutoff for tournament shirts and YETI buckets is AUGUST 15th. After this date there will be no guarantee of either.
14. Online Registration closes August 31st, 2022 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.**
15. NO refunds will be given.
16. It is expressly understood that all registered anglers, crew members and observers (the "Participants") participate in the Annual Chester River Catfish Tournament (the "Tournament") at their own risk. The Participants hereby indemnify and agree to save harmless the Tournament, Kent County Ducks Unlimited, Molly's Place Sporting Goods, and its respective officers, directors, employees, volunteers, agents, partners, members, and/or attorneys (collectively the "Tournament Indemnified Parties") from and against any and all claims that arise from or in connection with any negligent act or omission of the Tournament Indemnified Parties. All persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of the Annual Chester River Catfish Tournament whether an individual, a corporation or other type of entity, shall have no liability whatsoever for any special, incidental, consequential, punitive, exemplary and/or any other damage including, without limitation, any damages arising from libel, slander, loss, damage, negligence, harm, injury or death. The Tournament Directors reserve the right to refuse entry to any boat, team or person. Participants specifically agree and consent to the use of any photograph or video in which they appear, and/or audio recordings of such participants, by the Tournament for any purpose whatsoever including, but not limited to, resale, advertising and promotional material without compensation or restriction of any kind. This liability Release shall be binding upon the Participants and their respective heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns.
17. By registering in the Annual Chester River Catfish Tournament and paying the entry fee, Participants acknowledge that they have read these Rules and the Liability Release. As a condition for the entry into the Annual Chester River Catfish Tournament, all Participants hereby agree to be bound by all the Rules, and by the Liability Release.

B. Tournament Rules

1. While fishing and boating, all anglers must comply with all Federal and State regulations.
2. It is up to each Captain and anglers to know MD DNR and Coast Guard 2022 Rules and Regulations. Do not ask committee members for legal advice regarding any applicable rule, statute, law or ordinance. Committee is not responsible for any legal infraction committed by any anglers, guest and/or captain.
3. All fish must be caught by Hook and Line on the day of the Tournament. 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. The official Weigh station will be the Kent School Dock in the Chester River. See map for coordinates.
6. Only fish brought by boat will be accepted.
7. Qualifying fish are considered to be 5lbs or OVER for adults and are subject to examination by a Maryland DNR biologist on-site. There is no qualifying weight for the junior division.
8. Any fish entered in the tournament is subject to disqualification if judges decide it bears suspicious marks or characteristics.
9. 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.
10. Any and all ties will be broken by the time of the earliest weighed fish.
11. Anyone wishing to weigh in a fish must be wearing an official tournament wristband (given at Captain's Meeting).
12. All boats must fly the tournament flag given to them in Captain's Bucket so we can better identify tournament boats.

13. The judges reserve the right to disqualify any boat at any time for suspicious or unsportsmanlike activity for the remainder of the tournament.
14. Weigh-Master's rulings are final.
15. Any disqualification could result in a ban from all future Kent County Ducks Unlimited events without the right of appeal.
16. Absolutely no beaching of vessels at the weigh-in site.
17. 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 have live video streaming on www.facebook.com/kentcountyducksunlimited

C. 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 and potential ban from future tournaments.
5. There will be a **mandatory** Captain's Meeting on the evening of Friday, September 2nd, 2022. 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).

D. Polygraph Examination

1. Kent County Ducks Unlimited mandates that any angler whose fish places in 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place must submit to a polygraph examination.
 - a) All anglers who are obligated to undergo polygraph examinations are encouraged to provide the polygraph examiner(s) and/or the judges with any information the angler may consider relevant to the issues that are the subject of the polygraph examination(s).
 - b) Unless otherwise specified by the Tournament Directors, Polygraph examinations will take place on **Tuesday, September 6, 2022**. The anglers will be notified of the time and location after the weigh-in is complete on Sunday, September 4, 2022. By entering into the tournament, all anglers agree to make themselves available on September 6, 2022 for purposes of a polygraph examination.
 - c) If any angler fails to take a polygraph examination at the time requested by the Kent County Ducks Unlimited Committee Members, that angler and boat will be disqualified unless the Kent County Ducks Unlimited Committee Members agree to reschedule the examination. If any angler is, in the opinion of the polygraph examiner, not in a condition suitable to take the polygraph examination at the time requested by Kent County Ducks Unlimited Committee Members, that angler will be disqualified at the discretion of the Kent County Ducks Unlimited Committee Members.
 - d) Any angler who undergoes a polygraph examination must receive a “pass” on the examination. Anything less than passing, i.e., fail or inconclusive, will result in a disqualification. The Kent County Ducks Unlimited Committee Members will decide, based on the polygraph examination (s), whether the angler is eligible for the prize money. The decision of the Kent County Ducks Unlimited Committee Members is final.

E. Kent County Ducks Unlimited Committee Members' Decisions Are Final.

1. Any Participant in violation of any Tournament Rule may be disqualified. By participating in the Tournament, all Participants acknowledge that all Tournament Rules are material and that disqualification is permitted and appropriate sanction for any violation of any Tournament Rule(s).
2. The Annual Chester River Catfish Tournament Rules have been established for the best interest of all concerned. In the event of necessity or extraordinary circumstances, any rule may be altered at the discretion of the Kent County Ducks Unlimited Committee Members.
3. Decisions regarding the interpretation of Rules, violation of Rules, penalties, the suspension of any Rules or penalties, the alteration of any Rules, and the calculation of prize money will be made by the Kent County Ducks Unlimited Committee Members in their sole and absolute discretion. All decisions by the Kent County Ducks Unlimited Committee Members are final.
4. Any litigation relating to the tournament shall be filed and resolved (1) in the Circuit Court for Kent County, Maryland, or (2) in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland (if that court has jurisdiction). All disputes involving the tournament shall be governed by the laws of the State of Maryland, without regard to choice of law rules.

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. All fish that are weighed are responsible or property of Kent County Ducks Unlimited.
3. The largest qualifying fish are as follows: bluecat/flathead catfish, and channel catfish.
4. 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.
5. Junior division will be determined by the largest fish of any of the qualifying categories.
6. There is a guaranteed tournament purse of \$10,000.
 - a) Bluecat/Flathead Catfish: 1st Place \$2,500, 2nd Place \$1,500, 3rd Place \$500
 - b) Channel Catfish: 1st Place \$2,500, 2nd Place \$1,500, 3rd Place \$500
7. 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 entered in the adult division for weight **cannot be** included in a Calcutta stringer entry.
8. 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 2023 to be passed on to the next winner.

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.