

The Outpost Lodge Official Rules – Friendly Version

Section I: Participants & Eligibility

Welcome to The Outpost Lodge! Our goal is to create a fun, fair, and respectful tournament experience for everyone.

To help maintain that standard, The Outpost Lodge reserves the right to refuse participation to anyone whose past actions—such as unsportsmanlike conduct, rule violations, or other concerns—could negatively impact the integrity of the event.

All contestants must:

- Hold a valid fishing license and present it if requested
- Follow all state and federal fishing regulations

Rules Meeting

The rules meeting is an important part of the tournament. At least one team member must attend so everyone is prepared and informed.

You'll receive meeting details ahead of time. If you don't, please reach out—we're happy to help.

- Arriving **under 15 minutes late**: Category One penalty (15-minute delayed start)
- Arriving **15+ minutes late without approval**: Disqualification

Age Requirements

- Boat captains must be **16 or older**
- Anyone under **18 must have a parent/guardian signature**

Entry & Insurance

- Entry forms must be completed and paid by the deadline
- Boat captains must carry liability insurance and provide proof if requested
- Random checks may occur

Failure to provide insurance results in disqualification.

Once your entry is confirmed, it is **non-refundable**. This helps us plan and run a successful event.

Participants are responsible for any applicable taxes on winnings.

Section II: Safety

Safety is our top priority—on and off the water.

Each boat must carry all required Coast Guard safety equipment, including:

- Life jackets (PFDs)
- Throw cushion
- Fire extinguisher
- Sound signaling device
- Tournament marker

Boats must also have:

- A working bilge pump
- Emergency shutoff device attached to the driver
- Proper steering (wheel or tiller)
- Minimum length of 16 feet

Life Jackets

Life jackets must be worn and fastened anytime the boat is on plane.

Failure to do so results in a **Category One** penalty.

Weather & Conditions

Tournament officials may delay, shorten, or cancel events due to unsafe conditions. If conditions become dangerous, participants should prioritize safety and seek shelter.

AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species)

All boats must be:

Cleaned, Drained, and Dried

Section III: Fishing Rules & Equipment

- All fish must be caught using a **hook and line**
- Fishing must be done from a tournament-approved boat
- Walleye tournaments: **2 lines max per contestant**
- Bass Cup: **1 line per contestant**

Communication

Communication devices may only be used for emergencies.

Sharing fishing information during the tournament = **Disqualification**

Fishing Areas

You may fish anywhere accessible unless marked restricted.

Respect other anglers:

- Stay at least **20 yards apart**
- Do not crowd or interfere with other boats

Section IV: Fishing Hours

Fishing hours will be announced at the rules meeting.

Launch Procedure

Boats launch in flights, spaced 15–20 seconds apart.

Timing Matters

- Returning late = **No weight for the day**
- Leaving early = **Disqualification for the day**

Please plan accordingly—there are no exceptions.

Participants must stay off tournament waters outside of official hours unless approved.

Section V: Scoring

Scoring is based on the **total weight of eligible fish**.

Size Limits

- Minimum: **15 inches**
- Max: **2 fish over 20 inches per day (per boat)**

Fish under or over limits will not count and may result in penalties.

Fish Condition

Fish must be healthy and unaltered.

Tampered or damaged fish = **Disqualification**

No Culling Rule

Once a fish is placed in storage, it cannot be replaced.

Ties

Ties are broken with the longest fish.

Awards

Participants must be present to receive awards.

Section VI: Tagging

- All fish must be properly tagged when stored
- Tags must be turned in at weigh-in

Failure to account for tags = **Disqualification**

Section VII: Inspections

All teams are subject to inspection at any time.

Each day includes:

- Safety inspection
- Live well inspection
- Boat marker verification

You must check in—even if you have no fish.

Missing check-in = **Disqualification**

Section VIII: Sportsmanship & Conduct

We expect all participants to:

- Act respectfully and professionally
- Promote conservation and clean waters
- Treat others with courtesy

Unsportsmanlike behavior may result in disqualification.

General Expectations

- No leaving the boat except emergencies
- No modifying the environment (cutting trees, moving barriers, etc.)
- No assisting or receiving fishing help

Emergencies

If needed, teams may:

- Be towed
- Transfer fish to another boat (with rules followed)

Safety comes first—always.

Media

Participants agree to cooperate with event media coverage.

Section IX: Protests

If you believe a rule has been violated:

- Submit a written protest within **1 hour**
- Include a **\$100 fee**

A committee will review the case. Their decision is final.

Valid protest → fee returned

Invalid protest → fee goes to the accused

Final Note

Spirit of Fishing – We try to explain every rule and question, but no one is perfect. Respect the spirit.

We're here to create a fair, competitive, and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Fish hard, stay safe, and have a great time out there!