



## Lund Virtual Fishing League Rules

Effective July 9, 2020 (Updated for Virtual Events)

### 1. INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF RULES

Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.

- A. Reporting Rule Violations** – Each contestant, coach, and boat captain agree to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation. **Failure to report violations may be cause for disqualification.**
- B. Penalties** – The violation of any tournament rule may result in, but is not limited to, weight loss, the loss of weight up to a particular time in the tournament day, the loss of weight for the entire day, the loss of the heaviest one-day catch, the loss of the heaviest fish for the day, disqualification from the entire tournament, or ineligibility to participate in future tournaments.
- C. Protests** – Protests are to be made by contacting the Tournament Director, or a SATT Board Member within 1 hour of the end time of the event, Director will require a written complaint.

### 2. Permitted Methods

- A. Anglers will be allowed to fish from a boat, kayak, canoe, or shore fish.
- B. When fishing from a boat, students must have an adult boat captain 19 years of age or older.
- C. Boat captains will be allowed to fish and contribute to the 7 fish limit only when one student is in the boat
- D. With two students in a boat, only the students can count fish towards the limit. Boat captain may still fish but none of their fish may be counted towards the limit.
- E. Teams can be made up of the following combinations
  - 1) Student and adult boat captain from same household, where boat captain fishes and contributes to the limit
  - 2) Two students, and adult boat captain from same household, where only students fish count towards limit
  - 3) Any combination of two students from a boat, kayak, canoe or shore fishing. If in a boat, there must be an adult boat captain.

### 3. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

Participation is open to anglers 10 years old, and older at the time of the event.

- A. Team Designation** – Each team will consist of at least one student and can include an adult. Teams can consist of one or two anglers, if you wish to sign up alone that will be allowed if fishing from a kayak, canoe or shore fishing. All student contestants must have the signature of a parent or legal guardian before participating, this signature will only be required once for the year.
- B. Laws and Regulations** – Contestants must have in their possession a valid fishing license for the waters they fish if required by law. Random checks may be conducted at each tournament. Failure to provide proof of a valid fishing license within a reasonable amount of time when requested by the tournament director will result in disqualification for that day and any preceding days in which the

license was required for the tournament. Contestants are required to follow all applicable federal, state and local regulations and laws. Any violation of such regulations and laws may result in disqualification from the tournament.

- C. Number of Teams** – Each tournament may have a maximum number of teams resulting from applicable federal, state and local regulations and laws, or by designation of the tournament director. Tournament entries will be determined on a first-come, first-serve basis based on receipt of tournament applications.
- 1) Accepted teams will be confirmed and notified via email prior to each tournament.
  - 2) Tournament officials reserve the right to reject any application to compete for any reason whatsoever.

#### **4. PURCHASING OF INFORMATION**

The purchasing of, or bartering for, information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including but not limited to GPS waypoints (other than through commercially available sources) and the hiring of fishing guide services is not permitted by contestants, coaches, boat captains, or anyone working on a team's behalf within 10 days of the start of any tournament. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.

#### **5. OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE, AND COMPETITION**

- A. Competition Time Period** – Each virtual tournament will start at 7am and end at 2pm Central Time. Teams will have until 2:30pm Central Time to have their fish entered and showing up in the app, or they must contact a tournament official if they are having issues before 2:30pm.
- B. Coaches and Boat Captains** – During practice and competition, the contestants in a motor-powered boat must be accompanied by a boat captain. A boat captain must be at least 19 years old. The tournament director may provide additional rules to coaches and boat captains. All the rules in this document and coach/boat captain rules must be followed.
- C. Soliciting and/or Receiving Information** – During practice or competition, contestants, coaches and boat captains may not purchase information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters. During competition contestants may consult with each other on the water, but may not use electronic devices such as phones, tablets, marine band radios... to do so.
- D. Placing of Fish Attractors** – During practice and competition, contestants, coaches and boat captains may not place brush or other physical fish attractors, including chum of any kind, in tournament waters.
- E. Flying over Tournament Waters** – During practice and competition, flights over tournament waters (other than a ticketed commercial airline), including drones, are not permitted.
- F. Withdrawing from Competition** – If a special circumstance arises that inhibits a contestant's ability to compete, the tournament director may allow the contestant to withdraw from competition and maintain the weight caught to that point.
- G. Equipment Failure or Emergency During Competition** – In the event of equipment failure or emergency during competition, the tournament director must be notified as soon as it is safe to do so.
- 1) **Check-in** – If arrangements can be made for backup equipment the team may be allowed to continue if the tournament Director is notified and agrees. If they are unable to continue their current weight registered with the tournament App will be counted at that time.
- H. Underwater Cameras and Viewing Devices** – During competition, no underwater cameras, viewing devices, cones, or homemade devices may be used to locate or observe fish during the tournament.

#### **6. PRE-TOURNAMENT MANDATORY MEETING**

For each contestant team, it is **mandatory** that at least one of the contestants on a team attend the **entire** pre-tournament online meeting at the time, unless prior approval is received from the tournament director.

## 7. Start and Finish of Event

- A. **Start** - Motor boats, kayaks, canoes or shore fisherman will be allowed to launch from any ramp, or shore location on the designated waters and proceed to their fishing location before the 7am start time. Teams must register in the morning before 7am with the tournament App, this notifies the tournament staff you are on the water. At 7am the app will be turned on and competition will begin.
- B. **Finish** – Contestants must stop fishing at 2pm. Teams must check in with the tournament App within 30 minutes of the time designated at the end of the tournament. If this is not feasible, they must call the tournament director or designated numbers provided at the rules meeting.

## 8. SAFETY

Safe boating and safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by contestants, coaches and boat captains. Teams must follow all DNR and State guidance for Covid-19.

- A. **Personal Flotation Devices (PFD)** – Each contestant, coach and boat captain on the water is required to wear a fastened, U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is running from morning boat launch until check-in each day of the tournament. If fishing from a kayak or canoe a fastened, U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device must be worn at all times. Inflatable PFD's **will not** be allowed as an acceptable flotation device for Student Anglers participating in **any** of the Student Angler Tournament Trail events. Students are only allowed to wear a US Coast Guard-approved chest type flotation device. Boat captains will be allowed to wear either an inflatable, or chest type PFD.
- B. **Ignition Shutoff** – All motorboats must be equipped with an emergency ignition-shutoff device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is running.
- C. **Seating** – All persons in a tournament boat shall remain seated in a manufacturer-recommended on-plane seating location with a driver behind the steering wheel or at the tiller in full control of the boat whenever it is on plane or the combustion engine is running and in gear. Sitting on pedestal seats while the combustion engine is in operation and in gear is not permitted.
- D. **Driving** – Only coaches and boat captains are permitted to drive the boat when the combustion engine is running. The contestants may not drive the boat when the combustion engine is running, except for loading and unloading or in case of emergency.
- C. **Unsafe Weather or Water Conditions** – At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Contestants, coaches and boat captains may leave their boat and seek shelter in bad weather or when danger is imminent.
- D. **Boating Safety Course** – It is recommended, but not required, that each contestant successfully complete a boating safety course.
- E. **Speed Limits** – The tournament director may impose boat speed limits during a tournament to account for weather conditions, comply with federal, state, or local limits, or as otherwise deemed necessary. Speed limit restrictions and areas covered by the speed limit are at the discretion of the tournament director.

## 9. SPORTSMANSHIP AND CODE OF CONDUCT

All contestants, coaches and boat captains are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, tournament affiliates, tournament sponsors, the school the team is representing, and the sport of fishing. Conduct not complying with these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the rules for the Student Angler Tournament Trail.

- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during registration, the pre-tournament meeting, or during tournament hours extending through the check-in procedure.
- Abuse of, or addiction to, mind-altering substances.
- Conviction of a felony within the past 36 months.
- Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament or fishing organization.
- Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards and rules defined by the Student Angler Tournament Trail.
- In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, tournament officials have the right to refuse an application to compete, to deny a confirmed application to compete, to disqualify a contestant, or impose any penalty outlined in rule 1.

## 10. BOAT OPERATION

Coaches will supply and drive boats for their teams or arrange boat captains to supply and drive boats for their teams.

- A. Trolling Motor Operation** – Contestants, coaches, and boat captains may operate the trolling motor during qualifying or open tournaments. Coaches and boat captains have the right to take control of the trolling motor at any time if safety or equipment is at risk.
- B. Assistance from Coaches and Boat Captains** – Coaches and boat captains may provide assistance, including information about locating and catching fish, but are not permitted to fish during competition.
- C. Mobile Communication Devices** – Contestants, coaches and boat captains may not use mobile communication devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, tablets, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., to communicate with anyone about locating or catching fish on tournament waters during tournament hours. Mobile communication devices may be used during tournament hours to communicate with lockmasters about locking, to communicate with the tournament director or officials, or to communicate with tournament media staff. Contestants, coaches and boat captains may use smart phones and/or tablets during tournament hours for GPS, mapping, weather, power generation, tidal charts, personal fishing notes and related data.

Smart phones and/or tablets may also be used by the boat captain, or coach, to publish social media updates. We encourage coaches or boat captains to publish updates and photos on social media. We discourage coaches and boat captains from using any information they may see on social media to the advantage of the student anglers.

- D. Abandoning Boat** – Abandoning a boat and leaving it adrift without proper tie-off or anchoring may result in disqualification of that day's weight.

## 11. BOAT AND HORSEPOWER REGULATION

All boats must be propeller-driven and a minimum of 14 feet in length. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment.

- A. Maximum Capacities** – Each boat must have a clearly legible "Maximum Capacities" (or comparably titled) placard that includes a maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the maximum horsepower capacity specified on this placard. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating placard will be cause for disqualification from the tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future Student Angler Tournament Trail tournaments.
- B. Platforms** – Fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment. No portable platforms may be used in tournament competition.

- C. **Fuel and Fuel Tanks** – Fuel may be carried only in factory-installed (built-in) fuel tanks or auxiliary fuel tanks that are securely strapped or otherwise fastened to the boat. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public and pumped through a hose with a nozzle.
- D. **Inspection** – By submitting or signing a tournament entry form, contestants, coaches and boat captains agree to submit their boat and/or motor to an inspection by tournament officials at any time during practice or competition.

## 12. PERMITTED AND NON-PERMITTED FISHING METHODS

Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line and a rod and reel with the rod in hand. Only ONE fishing rod may be used at a time.

- A. **Catching of Fish** – All fish must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. All fish caught while sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth and immediately shown to the coach or boat captain for verification.
- B. **Lures** – All lures must adhere to state regulations. Only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits. **No live bait is permitted.**
- C. **Umbrella Rigs** – Alabama rigs and similar umbrella-type rigs are limited to a maximum of five wires with a maximum of five hookless spinners/plastic trailers and one artificial lure/bait containing one (single or treble) hook. If state regulations are more restrictive, then the state regulations prevail.
- D. **Trolling** – Trolling as a method of fishing is strictly prohibited. Trolling is defined as operating any combustion engine to extend a cast or lengthen a retrieve or using any mechanical propulsion device to move the boat as the sole means of imparting action to the lure.
- E. **Fishing Under Power** – Contestants are not allowed to fish at anytime when the combustion engine is running. Power fishing from dock to dock, through no wake zones or channels are prohibited.

## 13. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS AND BOUNDARIES

- A. **Boundaries** – Teams may fish any lake or river that has public access available to all anglers. Anglers must abide by all stay out, and no fishing areas signs and areas.
- B. **Removal of Barriers** – The cutting of trees, bushes and/or logs after the start of a tournament and/or the removal of official local, state or federal barricades at any time to make an area more accessible by boat is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification from the tournament. The use of cables, ropes, chains or any type of block and tackle system to maneuver a boat into fishing waters is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification from the tournament.

## 14. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

Tournament format is Catch-Record-Release (CRR). No fish will be brought to the check-in location or weigh-in stage.

- A. **Approved Tournament-Rulers** - Pictures of fish must be on one of these approved rulers. Lund Aluminum, Scheels Aluminum, Hog Trough (with black lines), Ketch aluminum, or Judge aluminum
- B. **CRR Procedures** – The CRR procedures will be reviewed at the pre-tournament meeting. The general procedures are as follows:
  - Catch the fish in accordance with the tournament rules.
  - Measure the fish using a tournament-approved ruler.
  - Take a photo of the fish using the TimeStamp App that captures the complete fish on the tournament-approved ruler, with the mouth of the fish (open or closed) touching the bump board and hand, or hands, in the middle of the fish.

- Hands cannot be in the mouth, under the gill, covering the eye, or covering the mouth or tail.
- Minimum length is 12" and fish are rounded up, if fish touches the 12" line, but does not make the 12 ¼", it would be registered as 12 ¼"
- Record the fish using the Reel Livewell App.
- Record the fish on a piece of paper for records.
- Release the fish alive in proximity to where it was caught.

**C. Mobile Device Capabilities** – CRR format requires the use of a mobile device like a smartphone. Tournament officials will not provide mobile devices. It is recommended, but not required, to have multiple smartphones available for backup purposes. Contestants, coaches and boat captains must supply their own mobile device that is capable of the following:

- Installing the Reel LiveWell App.
- Taking pictures.
- Maintaining battery life for the duration of the tournament.

**D. Tournament-Approved Rulers** – Please make sure to get one of these approved rulers. The Hog Trough with the black lines was easy to see the tail, and cradles the fish a bit, you just need to take a fine tip black marker and put a line where the base of the bump board and ruler are. This makes it easier to see that the mouth is touching the bump board.

There is some rebranding of the Hog Trough ruler like Yeti, which is fine but we recommend that all the marks are in black so we can see them. It is the angler's responsibility to have a ruler and photo that we can see 1/4 marks, if we can't read anything it will be tossed. All fish will have to be measured on approved rulers listed below, Get them now!

- Hog Trough reasonably priced, easiest to see with pictures (Make sure to get the one with the black lines), Scheels Aluminum Board reasonably priced, good markings, Scheels Plastic Board reasonably priced, (If you use this board please color all the lines in with a black fine tip permanent marker), Ketch Board expensive, easy to see with pictures I like the candy apple red to see better, Lund Aluminum Ruler, easy to see comes with many of the Lund boats, Judge Ruler, medium price is what AIM Walleye circuit uses for CRR, available at Thorne Bros. If you have an older Judge Ruler I would recommend coloring lines black or white to make them easier to see.

**E. Photographs** – All fish entries **must** be accompanied by a photograph taken with the Time Stamp App. The photo must capture the ruler, along with the mouth (open or closed) and tail of the fish on the tournament-approved ruler with lines visible in the picture. If the measurement of the fish cannot be determined from the picture, for any reason, if the photo is not with an approved ruler, or if it not taken with the Time Stamp App, then the entry will be disqualified and not counted toward the team's catch. It is the responsibility of the contestants to ensure the fish is photographed properly. If you cannot read the measurement to the 1/4 inch, with head and tail visible in one photo, we certainly cannot either.

- Tournament Judges will make all calls, if there is a formal protest filed on a fish that was rejected/approved the Tournament Director will be brought in for the final say.
- Tournament officials reserve the right to examine the metadata of any photo image to confirm the validity of the photo. Photos with edited or missing/altered metadata may be disallowed at the discretion of tournament officials, and penalties may be assessed.
- All photos must be entered into the Reel LiveWell app before 2:30. If a contestant cannot get the photos into the App they must contact a tournament official before 2:30 to assist.

**F. Recording Fish** – Contestants, coaches and boat captains will record fish via the tournament-supplied custom mobile application. They should also record the fish on a backup paper weigh slips. Contestants, coaches and boat captains must install the tournament-supplied custom mobile application prior to tournament start.

- **Recording Time Periods** – Contestants can record fish only during the designated tournament starting and ending times. Contestants cannot record fish before tournament start time, during specified break periods, or after tournament end time.

- **Delayed Recording Prohibited** – Fish must be recorded at a time reasonably near when it was caught. Delaying the CRR process or fish recording for purposes of catching more fish is strictly prohibited.
  - **Alternate Recording Method** – Tournament officials may, at their discretion, specify an alternate recording method that best supports the tournament format.
- G. Same Fish Caught Multiple Times** – In the instance when the same fish is caught multiple times, only the first CRR recording of that fish will count toward the team’s weight. Intentional weighing and recording of the same fish is prohibited.
- H. Multiple Fish at Same Time** – In the instance when two or more fish are caught at the same time, the CRR process requires that one fish must be weighed, photographed, recorded, and released as quickly as possible before next fish can be processed.
- I. LiveWell Usage** –Using a LiveWell for **any reason** is strictly prohibited, unless prior consent is obtained from the tournament director. If there is proof of a fish being put in the LiveWell without tournament director’s consent, a penalty will be assessed.
- **Holding Fish at Side of Boat** – A contestant may hold a fish at the side of the boat, or in a net to prepare for the CRR process or to revive a fish. During this time the contestant whose fish is retained must cease fishing immediately and cannot resume fishing until the fish is returned to tournament waters.
  - **If Consent is Given** – If the tournament director is contacted and consent is given, the contestant whose fish is retained in a livewell, or a net, must cease fishing immediately and cannot resume fishing until the fish is returned to tournament waters.

## 15. SCORING

Scoring is determined by the inches and rounded up to nearest ¼”. All fish are converted from inches to pounds by the Reel LiveWell App.

- A. Species** – Largemouth and Smallmouth bass will be allowed.
- B. Minimum Size** – A scorable bass is any bass caught that hits the 12” line of the ruler. Any bass caught that is less than 12” shall be deemed “un-scorable.”
- C. Tournament Limit** – The top 7 fish entered into the Classic Bass Reel CRR app in inches, and converted to weight will be counted.
- D. Tournament Places** – Tournament places will be determined by the cumulative weight of each team’s tournament limit.

## 16. TIES

In the event of a tie in any tournament place, the tied teams’ individual tournament limit fish lengths are compared, and the tie breaks in favor of the team with the heaviest single fish. If the heaviest single fish are the same across teams, then the second single fish weights are compared, and so on. In the unlikely event that all single fish weights are identical across the tied teams, then the tournament director will flip a coin to break the tie.

## 17. LOGO DISPLAY AND MEDIA COVERAGE

Contestants, coaches and boat captains may wear their own apparel. Tournament officials reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to prohibit any contestant, coach or boat captain’s apparel that is determined to be offensive.

## 18. ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

During all days of competition, all alcohol and tobacco logos are prohibited and may not be worn or displayed. Contestants are never permitted to consume alcohol. Coaches and boat captains, regardless of age, cannot consume or possess alcohol during tournament hours, including check-in, at any event. Contestants, coaches and boat captains may not smoke or use tobacco products during tournament hours, including check-in, at any event.

**19. TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST**

Contestants, coaches and boat captains agree to submit, by entry into the tournament or signature on the tournament entry form, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification from the tournament. Truth verification tests will be used at the sole discretion of tournament officials, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by tournament officials.

**20. BOAT CAPTAIN INSURANCE**

Liability insurance with coverage in reasonable amounts is required on all motor boats used in Student Angler Tournament Trail tournaments. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover all passengers in the boat. Random checks will be conducted. Failure to provide proof of insurance when requested by the tournament director may result in disqualification.