

Epping Rural Fire Ice Fishing Tournament Rules

Saturday, January 10th, 2026

1. Entry Fee for the Tournament is \$300.00. A minimum of 75% of any entry or participation will be returned to the contestants as cash prizes. The remaining 25% will be split as follows: 10% to the Lewis and Clark State Park Dock and Ramp Improvement Project (Conservation Project) and 15% to Epping Fire to administrate the tournament.
2. You must fish in our designated area and always have your Team # in your possession. Ice Fish at your own risk. Waiver of Liability will be required from all contestants. Teams must always fish from the same house. Distance from house for outside fishing will follow State Laws. Should a team have another house on the ice and they decide to move to that house, they must move as a team and both fish out of that house. Teams are to always be together during fishing hours.
3. Site of the contest will be as marked on the Site map provided.
4. The operating hours of the Tournament will be from 8am CST to 6pm CST. **Both** Members of the team must be present Saturday morning to receive tournament tags. No exceptions. At end of day all contestants must be checked in at Fire Hall by 6pm CST to be eligible to weigh their fish. Any teams not in line by 6pm CST will be disqualified from awards and door prizes. Any unused tags must be turned in at weigh time. Such as: caught 6 fish, turn in 4 remaining tags to make 10. If you catch zero fish, all tags must be turned in for team accountability purposes. We will have a zero-catch line to turn in tags.
5. One Team member from each team registered in the Tournament must attend the Rules Meeting on January 9th, 2026 and be checked in by 7pm CST. An event meal will serve at 6pm CST at the Epping Fire Long Creek Hall to be followed by the Rules Meeting.
6. Weigh-ins will be held at the Epping Long Creek Fire Hall. When Leaving a body of water, fish MAY NOT be transported in water. Transportation of fish in or on ice is allowed.
7. All teams may catch a legal limit. Each Team can weigh up to ten (10) Walleye and/or Sauger. Fish must be a minimum of 15 inches in length to be weighed. There will be absolutely NO CULLING of Fish. If fish are dead or frozen, they will be weighed at the discretion of the weigh master. Following recorded weights of the fish, tails will be clipped. The Top 12 teams will automatically donate fish to be cut and inspected. Any mountable fish will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis if caught by a Top 12 team member.
8. All contestants must have a current North Dakota Fishing License and will abide by all State Laws.
9. Patrol Teams will be present during the Fishing Tournament. All personal articles are subject to search prior and during fishing hours. No Lines or electronics are allowed to be in water between the end of the rules and the tournament start time. Any lines or electronics found in water following rules meeting and prior to tournament start time will result in immediate team disqualification.
10. Participants must act and behave in an orderly manner and be responsible for their actions.
11. All garbage or debris are to be removed by participants. Pack it In – Pack it Out.
12. In the event of a tie, the biggest fish weighed will be awarded the higher position.
13. Decisions by our Tournament Officials will be binding and final.
14. All participants are responsible for license fees. Any winning participants will be responsible for their own taxes and fees if applicable. If a minor participant wins any prize, the parent or guardian will be responsible for all fees and taxes.
15. Failure to comply with all posted rules as printed or announced at meetings will result in disqualification and participation in contest. Any registration fees paid will be forfeited.
16. All participants will be responsible for their fish or may donate fish at the tournament to the approved organization present and accepting the donation of your fish, with the exception of the top 12 teams as noted above.
17. In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Officials will have the authority to Postpone or cancel the event. If event is cancelled, the winners will be drawn at random by Team number for event prize payouts.
18. We appreciate your participation and look forward to good fun sportsman conduct at all times.