

HAYWARD LAKES CHAPTER MUSKIES, INC.

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Tournament waters are the Chippewa Flowage, Round Lakes, Spider Chain, Moose Lake, Callahan Lake, Grindstone Lake, Lost Land-Teal Lakes, Lac Courte Oreilles, Tiger Cat Flowage, Ghost Lake, Lake Hayward, Clear Lake, Eau Claire Chain, Whitefish, Big Sissabagama, Sand Lake, Namakagon and all bays and sloughs accessible without portage are included. **Note these special boundaries:** On Moose Lake, fisherman may go up the West Fork of the Chippewa River 1 mile, as far as the first set of rapids known as Browns Rapids. On the Chippewa Flowage, fisherman may go under the bridge at B for 1/2 mile to the first rapids. On Lake Hayward, fisherman may go up the Namakagon 1/2 mile to the first set of rapids.
2. All occupants of a boat must be registered contestants. Guides may be used as long as they are registered contestants.
3. All fish must be caught on legal sport-fishing tackle using artificial baits only. Also snagging, the use of set lines or spearing of a fish is not allowed. All other Wisconsin fishing and boat regulations apply. Motor trolling is permitted where allowed by law but only one line per person, no more than three lines per boat. **NO LIVE BAIT ALLOWED!**
4. The minimum length of fish to be entered from tournament waters is 34 inches. Note that most lakes now have legal minimum size limits of 40 inches. Fish from these lakes may be entered in the tournament even if they are smaller than the lake's minimum, but are at least 34 inches.
5. Fish entered in the tournament must be measured and released ALIVE in the presence of at least TWO witnesses, of which one person must be **OUTSIDE** the contestant's boat and party. Non-contestants may witness releases to assure quick releases. The witnesses must fill out and sign the release form and fill in the size of the fish. Eight points will be awarded for each 34-inch muskie released plus one point for each additional inch. Fractions will be measured to the nearest 1/2 inch. Example: 34-1/2 inch muskie receives 8-1/2 total points; 41-1/4 inch muskie receives 15 points. Winners will be decided on a cumulative point total.
6. **Fish may be registered using cell phone pictures and GPS location - see tournament flyer for details.**
- ★ 7. **NOTE! You may not move your boat to go to a witness - they must come to you. When you have caught a fish, you can only use your motor to maintain position. Contestants should fish in sight of other people and have an air horn and flag. In addition, please watch for other fisherman who may need a witness. This rule is to comply with DNR tournament and possession regulations. If a contestant moves his boat, the fish cannot be entered in the tournament. Have a large net and keep the fish in the water!**
8. **The use of forward facing "live action" sonar is prohibited and cause for disqualification.**
9. Tournament fishing hours on Friday and Saturday will be from 8:00am until 6:00pm. All fish must be released and witnessed no later than 6:00pm both days. Fishing hours on Sunday will start at 7:00am and all release forms must be turned in **BEFORE 12:00 NOON**. NOTE: State laws allow only 10 consecutive hours of fishing per day.
10. For each fish entered in the tournament, a tournament form must be filled out and turned into an OFFICIAL release station **BEFORE 7:30pm** the day of the catch on Friday and Saturday, and **BEFORE NOON** on Sunday, October 8, 2023 - no faxes or e-mail forms accepted! The official release stations are: Hayward Bait & Tackle, Angler's Haven Resort, Jenk's Bait & Tackle, Mogasheen Resort and Bobber Down Bait and Tackle.
11. All contest winners must be present at awards ceremony at 2:30pm on Sunday, October 8, 2023 - **NO EXCEPTIONS**.
12. Written protests must be presented to Tournament Judges prior to 12:30pm on Sunday at the Flat Creek Inn & Suites. A \$100 protest fee must accompany each written protest. The fee will be refunded if the protest is found to be valid. If the protest is invalid, the disqualified party must pay all investigative costs, including polygraph testing. If the protest is invalid, the fee will be retained and the protesting party must pay all investigative costs including polygraph testing.
13. The Hayward Lakes Chapter of Muskies, Inc. reserves the right to reject any registration.
14. All witnesses on all forms will be verified.
15. At the judges' discretion, a polygraph test may be administered to any contestant and/or witness used on a signed tournament form.
16. All decisions of the judges are final. In the interest of good sportsmanship, all participants are reminded that the "spirit of the rule" will prevail in all judgement cases.
17. Tournament officials will be present on tournament waters during the contest.
18. ANY INFRACTION of these rules may call for immediate disqualification.