



Destination Nackawic Smallmouth Open

2024 Youth Fishing Derby Rules

Sunday, May 19, 2024

- RULE # 1 – HAVE FUN!
- Check-in will begin at 12:00pm (Noon). When you arrive on site, notify the volunteers at the check-in table (Big Axe Marina) that you have arrived.
- The three (3) age divisions are as follows: Fry Division (2-6 years old), Juvenile Division (7-12 years old), and Smolt Division (12-15 years old).
- Registrations will be limited to a maximum of 100 participants across all age divisions.
- Fishing starts when the horn blows at 12:30 pm and stops when the horn blows at 2:30 pm.
- Children under age 16 are not required to have a fishing license.
- One parent or guardian must accompany their child at all times during the competition.
- The assistance of young anglers by parents or adults is allowed, however, parents cannot “fish” for their children. Children must be actively involved in the catching of all fish.
- Adults are allowed to provide assistance only with baiting, casting, and removing from the hook.
- Children must compete within their appropriate age groups.
- We ask that you practice catch and release for the derby.
- There will be several volunteer judges in the marked fishing area. Live fish must be taken to one of the judges to be measured for length. Once the length is recorded, the fish must be returned to the river.
- Registrant can turn in up to three (3) fish to be measured. But only the largest of the three (3) fish can be used for ranking. It is the registrant’s responsibility to decide which three (3) fish they want judges to measure.
- Keep fish to be measured alive in a bucket or cooler of water.
- All fishing must be done from the shore. No wading. The dock is off-limits.
- Each registrant is limited to the use of one (1) fishing pole with the maximum of one (1) artificial bait per line.
- Registrants must supply their own artificial bait or lures.
- No live bait is allowed.
- All fish must be caught during hours of competition per each age group.
- Snagging or net fishing is NOT allowed.
- Landing nets are allowed for landing caught fish.
- All judges’ decisions will be final. Any argument or disagreement will be immediate grounds for disqualification.

- Please be respectful and courteous to other anglers and give as much room between yourself and others as possible. Remember there will be plenty of fish and we are all here to have fun.
- The boundaries of the derby will be marked. Anyone caught fishing outside of the marked boundaries will be disqualified.

Youth Fishing Derby FAQs

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

Participants should bring a fishing pole, lures and/or artificial bait, snacks, bug spray, sunscreen, lawn chair.... Bring a bucket or cooler to fill with water to keep fish alive and make transport to the judges easier.

DOES MY CHILD NEED A FISHING LICENSE?

No, children under the age of 16 do not require a fishing license.

HOW WILL A WINNER BE DETERMINED?

Winners in each division will be decided by the largest fish by length. The length will be rounded to the nearest ¼ inch. Tiebreaker, if required, will be determined by random draw. The top (3) fish in each age division will be awarded prizes.

CAN I HELP MY CHILD CATCH A FISH?

No, adults cannot assist in catching fish. You may assist them in baiting the hook, casting, and removing a fish once caught, but children must be actively involved in the catching of all fish or they are subject to the judges' discretion to not measure the fish.

HOW MANY FISH CAN I SUBMIT FOR PRIZES?

Registrants can turn in up to three (3) fish to be measured. Their longest fish will be the one used to determine a winner.

CAN WE KEEP THE FISH WE CATCH?

We ask that you please practice catch and release. All fish must be released back into the water.

CAN MY CHILD USE MORE THAN ONE POLE?

No, there will be a one (1) pole limit per child to ensure fairness of competition.

WHAT CAN MY CHILD USE FOR BAIT?

Only artificial bait can be used. There will be a limited amount of complimentary bait available for participants (on first come, first served basis). Please plan accordingly, as we cannot guarantee there will be enough bait available for everyone.

CAN I DROP MY CHILD OFF WHILE THEY FISH?

We ask that one adult accompany the participants at all times during the event.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS INCLEMENT WEATHER?

The derby will be held rain or shine.

ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM



SCAN QR CODE – OR GO TO:

<https://forms.office.com/r/FqEtHABMqg?origin=lprLink>