



Destination Nackawic Smallmouth Open 2025 Tournament Rules

The Destination Nackawic Smallmouth Open is a team-based event consisting of 2 anglers registered as a team. There shall be no swapping of team members once the tournament commences. If one member of a team is unable to participate during one of the two tournament days, then the other team member is authorized to fish solo.

Legal Age

At least one competitor of the team must be 18 years of age or older.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Absolutely zero tolerance for unsportsmanlike conduct. All competitors 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, the tournament organizers, sponsors and to fellow competitors.

Team Registration

Registration can be completed online at www.destinationnackawic.ca/smallmouth-bass-open/registration.

Early Bird Registration – Of the teams whose registrations are completed and paid in full by March 31, 2025, one team will be drawn to win back their registration fee at the opening ceremony. **Entry Fee - \$400 / team.** Each team must declare a Team Captain at registration.

Safety Equipment

Each contestant is required to have a lawfully approved personal flotation device (PFD) which must be worn and fastened when the main motor is running above trolling speed. However, if any participant on a boat is under 18 years of age, personal flotation devices must be always worn by both participants. Kill switch must be operational and hooked to the driver of the boat any time the gas engine is operating above trolling speed.

Boat Inspection

All boats must be inspected by tournament officials each morning prior to take-off. After boat checks, nothing shall be added to the boat unless checked by a tournament official.

Leaving the Boat

All fishing must be done from a tournament inspected boat. Leaving the boat to catch fish is prohibited. You may only leave the boat in case of an emergency (lightning, storm, sinking), a nature call, or to obtain fuel.

Electronics

Marine radios and cellular phones are permitted for emergency use only during tournament hours. Transmitting information concerning the aspect of taking fish during a tournament is prohibited. Use of an underwater video camera during a tournament is prohibited. Underwater cameras are permitted during pre-fish hours only.

Rods

Each participant will be allowed a maximum of one line in the water at any time.

Baits

Only artificial lures and baits are permissible during a tournament. No live bait is allowed. Umbrella type rigs with multiple hooks are prohibited.

Live Wells

All fish must be kept in aerated live-wells or an aerated cooler system. The use of fish stringers, wire baskets, or non-aerated containers of any kind is prohibited. Only non-piercing tags are to be used to mark fish in live-wells and weigh-in.

Culling

The limit is 6 fish. (Weigh-in of 5 fish.) Culling must take place immediately after a limit is reached. Any team caught with more than six smallmouth bass in their possession will be disqualified. At the close of tournament timings or prior to weighing in fish, all teams shall have culled their sixth fish. You must only have 5 fish once leaving the boat for weigh-in.

Dead Fish Penalty - A 0.50 lb. penalty per dead fish. A dead fish cannot be weighed for 'Heaviest Fish' (Lunker).

Angling Hours

Tournament hours are 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. (Atlantic Standard Time) or as adjusted by the take-off procedures below.

Take-offs: Take-off position for Day 1 will be determined by a random draw at the opening ceremony on Friday, May 16, 2025, and each team will be given a card that indicates their starting position. Take-off position on Day 2 will be determined by a random draw. Teams will draw their Day 2 starting position number immediately following their weigh-in on Day 1 while they are on the stage. Starting position cards will be handed out during boat inspection on the morning of Day 2.

Morning take-off procedures are as follows:

1. Take-offs will be in a controlled trickle start, beginning at 7:00 am sharp.
2. Teams will line up in the order of the assigned take-off position (based on random draw for day 1, random draw for day 2). The team in the first starting position will start at the marina fueling dock.
3. When teams are lined up in order of starting position, a member of each team will pass their starting position marker to a volunteer as they pass by the marina fueling dock and then proceed to the starter boat position.
4. Once cleared at the fueling dock, each team will proceed at idle speed to the starter boat who will give the signal for take-off.

End of Day Check-in: Teams must all return and be checked in by no later than 4:00 pm. Each returning team must show their team number card to personnel on the check-in boat where they will be checked in and time documented prior to docking for weigh-in. Note: Teams who finished in the top 10 on day 1 will be held back and weighed in last on day 2 (exception may be made for concern for fish health).

Late end of day check-in - A one-pound penalty will be assessed for each minute late. In the event of fog, take-off may be delayed at the discretion of the Tournament Director. If start is delayed, extra time may be added but not to exceed Department of Natural Resources & Energy Development Variance Authorization Timings.

Pre-fishing Hours

Tournament participants must cease practice fishing by 13:00 hours (Atlantic Standard Time) Friday, May 16, 2025.

Laws

All Federal and Provincial fishing, boating and criminal laws must be obeyed at all times. Note: No person shall fish in any manner within 23 m downstream from the lower entrance to any fishway, obstruction or leap (Ex. waterfall)

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/erd/fish-and-wildlife/content/go-fishing.html>

Boundaries

Fishing boundaries are from the Hartland Bridge down to and including the Mactaquac arm. No casting beyond the Hartland Bridge.

Encroachment Rule

Boat and/or lure is not permitted within 75 feet of another boat that was at the location first. (Exception: Community Hole)

Community Holes - The 75-foot encroachment rule is suspended (non-player) for Eel River and the Meduxnekeag River in the Spring.

Breakdown

In the event of breakdown, teams may transfer their fish to another participant's boat for transport to the weigh-in, with the following conditions:

- a. The Tournament Director must be notified immediately before any other action is taken.
- b. Fish must be marked or placed in a segregated live well or aerated bag.
- c. One member of the “broken down” team must accompany their fish at all times to the weigh-in.
- d. The “broken down” team must stop fishing from the time of transfer to the weigh-in.
- e. The transporting team may continue to fish out the rest of the day.
- f. Also, in the event of a breakdown, a team will be allowed to exchange boats, if another boat is available. The team may transfer their catch to the new boat only under the supervision of the Tournament Director.
- g. Under no circumstances shall a team be authorized to transport their fish from an assigned waterway by vehicle (road) to a weigh-in or for any other reason.

Protests

Any team has the right to protest another team if they feel that any of these rules have been broken. The protest must be filed in writing with the tournament director no later than 30 minutes after the close of tournament fishing hours. If possible, provide verification (picture, witness, etc.)

Any team that has been disqualified by the tournament director has the right to file a protest. The protest must be filed in writing no later than 30 minutes after being notified of the disqualification. A three-person protest committee shall be appointed by the tournament director at the tournament. The protest committee will convene to hear all sides of any protest. The decision of the protest committee shall be final in all cases.

Tournament Contact Information

www.destinationnackawic.ca/smallmouth-bass-open

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