**2023 Perch Assault Tournament Rules**

***TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ENTRY TO ANY PERSONS/TEAMS FOR ANY REASON AT ANY TIME.***

*To avoid compromising this tournament, the following statement must be made clear:*

***Cheating will not be tolerated. If you are caught in a violation that could have a direct impact on your weight, therefore impacting the tournament results, then you have willfully violated the rules and are attempting to steal. If you attempt to steal from this tournament, you are stealing from every person entered. Anyone caught in any willful violation of these rules will be dealt with harshly and publicly. We will prosecute to the fullest extent of the law!!!***

***(Simple mistakes will be judged on their intentionality and the potential impact on the results)***

***ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL!!!***

**TEAMS**

**A:** Will consist of two members. (At least one member must be18 or over.)

**B:** Must not fish with anyone other than teammate during tournament hours. (PLEASE do not arrange to fish with friends, family members, etc. during this event. Don’t hang around non-tournament anglers while fishing the event. Don’t invite people to “meet me on the ice” during the event. *This is NOT a social event, it is a COMPETITION and as such, these rules will be enforced aggressively.)*

*“In the event of a disqualification, for any reason, absolutely no refunds will be given. Any refunds for any reason MUST be requested prior to the close of registration for the event, which is 6:00 PM the* ***Thursday*** *before the event, and will be for a maximum of 75%, or full credit towards a future event.”*

**C:** Teammates must remain within 30 paces of each other while fishing. Teams may not fish any closer than 10 paces from another angler.

**D:** Teams must display their team number or id at all times during the tournament.

**E:** Team members may pre-fish until 12:00pm Friday before the event.

**F: *Substitutions-ALL substitutions must be submitted to tournament director no later than 6 PM Thursday night before event. Otherwise, other teammate must fish solo.***

**G: *Teams are limited to one substitution or one solo per year to remain eligible for Championship.***

 **TOURNAMENT RULES**

TEAMS MAY ONLY USE ATV’S, UTV’S, SNOWMOBILES ETC. NO PASSENGER CARS, TRUCKS, SUV’S ETC. TOURNAMENT STAFF DECISION WILL BE FINAL. ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST MAKE THEIR OWN DECISION AS TO ICE SAFETY. **If using motorized equipment, a speed limit of 30MPH while on the ice will be in effect…If you are operating unsafely, (too fast, too close to others, etc.) you will receive a warning, then a fine or DQ, then a season suspension. The SAFETY of all participants is #1. Helmets are strongly advised!**

**A**: At each event, every team must check in and pass thru inspection. ALL equipment brought onto the ice will be inspected. Please have trailers, ice houses, coolers, buckets etc. open and ready as you pass thru inspection. *NO PREPOSITIONED EQUIPMENT ON LAKE!!!!!*

**B:** After inspection, teams will be directed to a “pre-start” area and will wait for the Directors final instructions. The Director will then signal the shotgun start, at which time you may proceed to your fishing area and begin. Teams must enter and exit the lake together, and assist no other teams in ANY way (except in emergency/life or death situations.) NO towing another team member or their equipment, on, off or around the ice via snowmobiles, quads, UTV’s etc. EACH team is expected to get on, off and around on the ice under their own power, motorized or not. NO sharing of bait, lures, equipment, etc. once the tournament has begun. No inter team cell phone/two way radio use during the tournament.

**C:** At least one team member must maintain personal control over their tournament fish at all times, and when exiting the ice that person/persons MUST report directly to an official and proceed directly to the weigh in area. At **NO TIME** may any team’s tournament fish be within 10 paces of another team’s fish until those teams are in the official weigh in line. You must be in line with your team’s fish by the announced time or you will not be allowed to weigh in.

**D:** Tournament HQ’s are: Smith Lake FAS,, Upper Thompson FAS, Mountain Meadows Resort-Lake Mary Ronan

**START TIMES: Smith and Thompson events-Inspection at 7AM, Shotgun Start at 8AM, weigh in 2PM**

**Lake Mary Ronan-Inspection at 630AM, Shotgun start at 730AM, weigh in at 2PM**

**E**: Each team will be allowed to weigh up to 10 perch at the end of the tournament. ***(FIVE PERCH AT SMITH)*** If a team chooses to weigh their catch prior to the official end of the tournament, then they are done fishing for the day. The total weight of the perch will be the team’s official score. Heaviest perch is the tiebreaker. Total weight for three events will determine season championship; weight of all three heaviest perch is tiebreaker.

**F**: Fish must be kept CLEAN and alive in a bucket or other container prior to weigh in. NO ICE/SLUSH ON FISH. It is your choice what fish you will weigh, but you may not turn in more than 10 fish in your container. **If you hand in 11 fish, we will not weigh your entry. Count them as many times as you must to be certain!** Your weight will be recorded and a receipt given. In the event of a discrepancy, you MUST have this receipt.

**G**: All contestants must abide by all MONTANA FWP rules and all applicable local, state and federal laws. Anyone cited by law enforcement for any reason will immediately be disqualified from the tournament.

**H**: During tournament hours, you may only leave and re-enter the lake by the official entry area. (Bathroom breaks are excluded but you may not carry anything off the ice with you, nor bring anything back. *Violation will be grounds for immediate disqualification)*

**I: Rules violations will be evaluated by a tournament board following basic criteria.**

**Minor Infraction:** Unauthorized telephone usage, 1st time distance violation, etc.

**Major Infraction:** Conduct (fighting, poor sportsmanship) pre-fish violation, safety, law enforcement, etc.

**Outright Cheating:** Modifying fish, entering fish not caught that day, illegal bait, etc.

**Penalties may include a weight reduction, a DQ for that event, or a total suspension. Any suspension or DQ will require a full board review before either member is allowed entry to any further tournaments.**

**J**: Tournament directors may update/amend these rules as need to ensure fair and equal opportunities for all participants. ***ANY attempts to blatantly circumvent or avoid direct compliance with any rule will be considered grounds for disqualification from SERIES.***

 Teams total weight will be combined for the three events to crown the Team Series Champion. Tie breaker is total of three heaviest fish. $25 dollars per event will be taken out from each event to go towards Champion.