

2015 Douglas County Bow Fishing Challenge Rules

Rules will be strictly enforced!

1. Team cancellation request must be received 72 hours in advance of the start of the tournament for refund. Any team that pre-registers and does not show is considered forfeit.
2. Each boat can have up to 3 team members. You **cannot** have a non-team member aid with transportation, driving the boat, shining of the lights or retrieving or transporting fish.
3. **All team members must be present at team registration.** Registration will open at 3pm until 7pm at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.
4. **All boats must be inspected by 7:00pm central time June 13th.**
5. **A mandatory pre tournament meeting will start at 7:00pm central time; all team members must be present.** At 7:30pm central time teams will go to vehicles and prepare for the 8:00pm take off time.
6. Boundaries: any public waters in **Douglas County MN** that have a public boat launch. Public boat launch means any boater can use the launch and it is open to the public. You cannot use a private boat launch or shoot fish in a private pond.
7. You must obey the Minnesota regulations. **Restrictions on motors: From sunset to sunrise, the noise limits for total noise must not exceed 65 decibels on the "A" scale at a distance of 50 feet from the boat or equivalent noise levels at other distances as specified by the commissioner in a pass by test. Structure and campground setback requirements: A person shall not discharge an arrow while bow fishing within 150 feet of an occupied structure or within 300 feet of a campsite from sunset to sunrise.**
8. **Legal Species:** Any Legal Species by Minnesota Regulations. Buffalo Carp, Common Carp, Drum, Bowfin, Longnose Gar, Shortnose Gar, Carp Sucker (Quillback), Suckers and Gold Fish.
9. **A Minnesota fishing license is required.**
10. Winner will be determined by **total number of fish caught** and also a \$100 prize for **largest fish caught**. No culling at weigh in, teams are responsible to have their biggest fish ready to be weighed. Tie breaker for total number will then be decided by biggest fish weighed in.
11. You must finish the tournament with the same marked vehicle and boat that you started with. Boats and vehicles will be marked for identification and license plates & boat registration numbers will be documented and verified by staff at boat inspection before departure and at the check-in station.
12. Proper boat registration numbers and papers.
13. Each boat must have the following safety equipment. Proper running lights, fire extinguisher, horn or whistle, life jackets for each individual in the boat, one throwable, and any fan boats or airboats must have shroud protecting the fan blades. **Each team member must wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket anytime the boat is running faster than no wake.**
14. Trailing will be allowed. 8:00p.m. CENTRAL TIME
15. **Departure from the Douglas County Fairgrounds.** Teams leave according to registration in 10 second intervals and must remain in SINGLE FILE through the parking

lot to the stop sign. Any passing in the parking lot will disqualify your team.

16. Scouting is allowed, however any boat that is on the water with bows, arrows, gaffs, nets, or gigs 24 hrs prior to the start of the tournament will be disqualified and entry fee will not be refunded.

17. Each team will be given two tokens with their team number on it. Team captains must return one token to a staff member at the entrance of Douglas County Fairgrounds by 7:00 a.m. CENTRAL TIME. Any teams that hand in a token after 9:00:00 CENTRAL TIME will be disqualified. The other token will be given to a staff member at weigh-in. All team members must be present at weigh-in to assist.

18. Only single hook gaffs will be allowed in boats the night of the tournament for landing big fish. Nets, snares or gigs are **NOT** allowed.

19. All fish must be shot with bow and arrow and show evidence of such.

20. To prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and disease Minnesota law requires that you drain all water from your boat, motor and all equipment before transporting on a highway. No barrels of fish may return to the Douglas County fairgrounds in water or ice.

Any dumping of boat water, fish water, or fish remains on the grounds are prohibited and will be grounds for disqualification.

21. Teams must respect others on the water. No crowding and no harassing other teams.

22. Absolutely no teaming up, no buddy system and no transferring of fish from one boat or vehicle to another.

23. If your team forfeits and leaves before weigh in they must call the tournament organizer at departure and return team tokens in drop box at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. All teams need to be accounted for after the tournament for safety reasons.

24. Fish disposal available at weigh in. **NO DUMPING OF FISH BACK IN WATER.** It is illegal to return any fish in Minnesota waters that have been shot with bow.

25. No altering fish to add weight or remove weight. Big fish will be gutted. Small fish must be together in one piece. No gills removed, punched with holes or insides missing.

26. Any participant involved in poor sportsmanship, heated arguments or similar behavior will have their team warned or disqualified at DCBFC staff option. We will not allow any altercation, including inappropriate cursing of others before, during or after the tournament. All TEAMS involved will be warned or disqualified regardless of fault. You are guilty by involvement. Zero tolerance.

27. Any physical altercations by participants will result in the team being disqualified and banned from any future DCBFC Bow Fishing events and will be asked to leave immediately.

28. No alcohol or drugs permitted, before, during or after our tournament. All teams will be asked if you have any alcohol during boat inspection, if you do you will be given one chance to remove it before we inspect your boats. Once your boat has passed inspection if you or a team member is caught with alcohol the team will be disqualified. If a team returns to weigh in and alcohol is found the team will be disqualified. If you are perceived under the influence you will not be allowed to enter or will be disqualified. Final determination of a disputed claim will be determined by local on-call law enforcement. Very simple rule, leave the beer and alcohol at home.

29. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is working with us and will notify us of any complaints and incidents on the water. This also applies while driving your vehicle to your destination. You must obey speed limits and traffic laws. Any citation will be called

in to **DCBFC** staff and result in disqualification.

30. **DCBFC** has the right to change and enforce rules as deemed necessary and has the right to deny entry and/or disqualify any team at any time for any reason as they see fit to preserve safety and the integrity of our tournament.

33. Failure to comply with tournament rules will result in disqualification and entry fee will be forfeited.

34. The decision of tournament results will be final.

35. Any accusation of a team cheating must be accompanied by a \$100 protest fee and concrete evidence of such. Photos, videos, proof of citation etc. If tournament staff agrees with your protest, the protest fee will be refunded and the accused team will be disqualified.

36. **DCBFC** Tournament staff will have final decision on all protest claims and complaints.

Boat Inspection Checklist

All boats must pass safety inspection!

Team # _____ Team Name: _____
License Plate # _____
Boat Registration # _____

- | | Yes | No | |
|-----|-----|-----|--|
| 1. | () | () | Proper State Fishing License |
| 2. | () | () | Proper running lights |
| 3. | () | () | Fire Extinguisher |
| 4. | () | () | Life Jackets for EACH Team Member |
| 5. | () | () | Horn or Whistle |
| 6. | () | () | Boat numbers in place, boat registration |
| 7. | () | () | One throwable life preserver |
| 8. | () | () | Single Hook Gaffs Only |
| 9. | () | () | NA () Live wells checked |
| 10. | () | () | Snares, dip nets, gigs |
| 11. | () | () | Alcoholic Beverages |

Yes at Boat Inspection: Allowed to remove. DCBFC will hold.

Yes at Weigh-in: Disqualification

Team member 1 Print Name: _____
Team member 2 Print Name: _____
Team member 3 Print Name: _____
Boat Inspectors Signature: _____