

# 16th Annual Chesapeake Bay Fall Tournament Official Rules

- 1. **ENTRY FEE:** \$175 per Boat
- 2. **TOURNAMENT DATE and LOCATION:** Saturday and Sunday, November 15 and 16, 2008. Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.
- 3. **ELIGIBLE FISH SPECIES:** Rockfish and bluefish
- 4. **REGISTRATION MEETINGS:** November 11th, 2008 - Solomons Boater's World, November 12th, 2008 -Annapolis Boater's World, November 13th, 2008 - White Marsh Boater's World. Registration from 5 to 7 PM.
- 5. **AWARDS CEREMONY:** Prize money will be mailed within 2 weeks.
- 6. **WEATHER:** Participants enter the Tournament at their own risk and discretion and accept full responsibility for boat, crew and anglers. There is NO "WEATHER COMMITTEE." Captain and crew must decide on each individual boat as to their participation and their boat capabilities to fish the day of the Tournament.
- 7. **REFUNDS:** In the event that there is no available fishing the day of the tournament due to an Act of God or natural disaster, 70% of all entry fees and 100% of all skill level fees will be returned. In the event that you are unable to fish, a written request for a tournament refund must be received at the MSSA Office and must be postmarked, faxed or e-mailed no later than November 11th, 2008.
- 8. **WEIGH-IN: FISH MUST BE BROUGHT TO OFFICIAL WEIGH-IN STATION BY BOAT DIRECTLY FROM FISHING BY WATER. Participants checking in fish will be issued a receipt, and the Captain agrees with weighmaster's recording when accepting receipt.**
- 9. **PROTEST:** Any protest must surface verbally at the time of incident at an Official Weigh-In Station and followed up in writing within 48 hours of the Tournament at the MSSA Office.
- 10. **FISHING HOURS:** No lines in the water before 6:00 AM. All lines must be out of the water by 3:30 PM. There is no check-in.
- 11. The Official Scales will be open from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM. You may bring your fish to the Official Scales during this time.
- 12. All fish must be at an Official Weigh-In Station Scale by 4:30 PM. No fish can be weighed in after the deadline. It is the responsibility of each captain to have his catch at the scales by this deadline. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- 13. In case of an emergency breakdown of a participating boat, a contestant may board another boat with their fish and boat number to bring to the Official Weigh-In Scales by the 4:30 PM deadline.
- 14. Only three (3) fish of each species can be entered in per boat per day. Largest fish is determined by weight only. Boat captain must decide which fish are to be weighed. Boat can win only one prize in each segment.
- 15. In the event of a tie in any segment of the tournament, the prize money will go to the fish entered in the earliest. All fish entered must comply with all State regulations.
- 16. All fish will be subject to such examinations, externally and internally, as the Committee deems necessary. All fish weighed will be prominently marked.
- 17. Rockfish must be 22 inch minimum to be weighed-in. Bluefish must be 14 inch minimum to be weighed-in. Fish will be measured from tip of nose to tip of tail to qualify for weigh-in.
- 18. All fish must be caught on hook and line in the Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries.
- 19. Wire line is allowed as line or leader, dummy lines are permitted.
- 20. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to disqualify any boat at any time for a misrepresentation made on any application or registration form by any member of the boat. Any suspicious activity

- or unsportsmanlike conduct are reasons for disqualification. Any boat disqualifications are for the entire tournament and will cause the forfeiture of all tournament fees and prize money.
- 21. The captain (tournament applicant) of a participating boat must be a current member of the MSSA.
- 22. Each boat must prominently display the boat number issued by the MSSA. This number must be visibly displayed at all times during the tournament.
- 23. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to board any boat at any time for inspection. Refusal will result in disqualification. No uncleaned fish (tournament species) can be on the boat at the start of the tournament.
- 24. At no time is any tournament boat permitted to approach another boat, structure or land. If this rule is broken the entrants will be disqualified. Verified emergencies are accepted.
- 25. The final day to enter the Fall Tournament will be Friday, November 14th, 2008 at the MSSA Office by 5:00 PM.
- 26. The tournament is open to everyone - charterboat captains, professional fishermen and recreational anglers.
- 27. Any and all prize winners must be prepared to submit and pass a polygraph test at the discretion of the Tournament Committee prior to receiving their prize.
- 28. Participants entering the tournament agree that all decisions made by the Tournament Committee shall be final and binding in any matter requiring their action.
- 29. Captains participating in the tournament should attend one of the Registration Meetings. Crew is also invited. Any additional rules or regulations shall be clarified at this meeting.
- 30. As participants in the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's 16th Annual Chesapeake Bay Fall Tournament to be held in the Chesapeake Bay, knowing the risks and dangers involved in such activities and that any unanticipated or, unexpected dangers may develop, agree to hold harmless, namely the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association, their assigns, lessees, agents, employees and directors and all claims, damages, demands, actions, costs and/or expenses by or on our behalf arising out of personal injury, property damage, and/or accidents incurred by use while engaged in the MSSA's 2008 16th Annual Chesapeake Bay Fall Tournament.

### PRIZE CATEGORIES

Prize money is divided as follows:  
 First ..... 50%  
 Second ..... 30%  
 Third ..... 20%

### FIRST PLACE ROCKFISH PRIZE - \$2,500 GUARANTEED

#### SKILL LEVELS

Prize money: \$50, \$100, \$150 and \$200 skill level fees for rockfish.  
 First ..... 50%  
 Second ..... 30%  
 Third ..... 20%  
 \$300 Winner Take All

### SPECIAL CATEGORY- BLUEFISH

One prize: Winner take all per species.

### WEIGH-IN STATIONS

- Sandy Point State Park      Solomons - Calvert Marina
- Taylor's Island Family Campground
- Knapp's Narrows Marina      Breezy Point Marina