

**Tournament Trail / 333 - Manistee Splash, Onekama Shakedown,
Manistee Monster Mania, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Sturgeon Bay and Bay Harbor
GENERAL RULES - 2010**

General Rules apply unless otherwise stated for each Specific Tournament
See specific tournament info for further rules clarification- www.tournamenttrail.net

CAPTAINS MEETING - Rules amendments or changes may be done at Captains Meeting prior to each tournament. We would suggest entire team attend. One person from each team is required at Captains Meeting. See local tournament information for location and times.

FINAL PAYOUTS - Posted at the Captains Meeting for each specific tournament is based on registration and will supersede **ALL** previously posted possible payouts. Once final payouts are posted there can be no refund of registration fees.

GENERAL RULES - May apply when appropriate to all Tournament Trail and 333 events.

BAD WEATHER - 3 hours of fishing is a completed day. If only 3 hours of a 2-day tournament can be fished it will be considered complete. If we cannot fish the 1st day of a 2-day tournament because of weather, tournament will be canceled for the day. Fishing will be allowed for the rest of the day. After fishing min of 3 hours the 1st day of any 2-day event, no fishing will be allowed for the remainder of that day. Committee is the final authority on weather decisions. If Tournament is called because of bad weather, you will have 1 hour to return to the Harbor. Boats who return more than 1 hour after tournament has been called off will not be allowed to weigh for that day. Monitor channel 9 for safety and emergency information. If tournament is called off before a minimum of 3 hours is fished, the whole day will be canceled. Min 3 hours fishing required to weigh-in. If due to unforeseen circumstances, any event is canceled in its entirety, a refund check for 90% of the registration fee will be mailed within 14 days. 10% of the registration fee will be retained to cover Tournament expenses.

PIERHEAD FISHING - No fishing inside a line between the North & South Pierheads. This rule applies to all Lake Michigan Harbors.

NUMBER OF RODS - Maximum number of lines fishing is 9. Fishing means "in the water." 10 or more lines in the water at any one time disqualifies the team. One slider per rod may be allowed, however, sliders may not exceed 72 inches. Maximum 2 baits per rod. **CHECK SPECIFIC RULES FOR EACH TOURNAMENT.**

RADIO - Marine radio required. Check specific tournament info for restrictions on communications. Monitor Channel 9 for communications. Tournament Control will monitor Channel 9 throughout the day in case of an emergency or situation that requires immediate attention. All tournaments will start and end on Channel 68. **CHECK SPECIFIC RULES FOR EACH TOURNAMENT.**

DNR LAWS - All state DNR fishing laws must be observed. Any DNR written violation on tournament days disqualifies team with no refund regardless of outcome. DNR written violation on tournament day may result in being banned from all future Tournament Trail events.

LIMITS & SCORING - See specific tournament info for catch limit, length specifications and scoring methods.

GAFFING FISH - NO!

WEIGH-IN - SEE SPECIFIC TOURNAMENT INFORMATION FOR LOCATION. Captain's Meeting will decide final weigh-in procedures for all levels. Blocked or bagged ice only. No loose cubes or crushed ice, drain water from coolers before weigh-in. 5-LB deduction for loose ice or excess water. Substances, including ice packed into the fish's mouth or body cavities is cheating and will disqualify the entire team.

CAPTAIN & CREW - A Captain for each team must be designated and identified on registration form. Where observers are required, however, it is your team's responsibility to ensure the observer put on your boat has a fishing license if necessary, to complete your rod allotment. Short-handed crews are allowed, however, sufficient legal fishermen are required to comply with maximum 9 lines. Same fishermen do not have to fish both days. Extra crew will be allowed, however, tournament rod limit must be adhered to.

IDENTIFICATION - Failure to display the identification flag (when provided) at all times during the tournament can result in DQ

DISABLED BOATS - Boats must return under their own power. No boat may come in direct physical contact with another boat for any reason unless authorized by Tournament Control. Physical contact will result in disqualification for both teams. Boats in distress, dangerous or life threatening situations must be dealt with accordingly. Disabled boats that arrive late will not be able to weigh. Once tournament begins you cannot change boats for any reason. Tournament Committee will monitor Channel 9.

BOAT SAFETY - **Boat safety remains your responsibility.** Weather conditions vary and the Tournament Rules & Weather Committee will advise when conditions become questionable and may cancel the tournament if deemed necessary. Due to the size variance of boats and varied experience of each captain, the ultimate responsibility for safety belongs to you. If you feel it is becoming unsafe or you are uncomfortable with conditions, your safety and the safety of your crew is **absolutely your responsibility.** If you feel it is not safe for your boat size or experience level proceed to safe harbor immediately.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE - A committee will be selected at each Captains Meeting from tournament participants. This committee will preside over the tournament and handle judgement on weather conditions, disputes, disagreements, or violation of rules. Your participation in this tournament indicates your acceptance of this procedure and your agreement that the decision of the tournament committee will be final. Immediate action for non-compliance of tournament rules will be the jurisdiction of the tournament committee regarding the event in question. **When you elect to fish in any Tournament Trail event you agree by your signature to abide by the policies, rules and decisions set forth by the tournament coordinator and selected tournament committee.**

POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS - All participants who weigh fish and are eligible for cash and prizes may be required to submit to a polygraph examination. Failure to comply will result in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of any and all cash and prizes.

CHEATING - **Cheating will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating will be banned for life from all Tournament Trail events and all their names sent to all Great Lakes Tournament Officials. A reward of up to \$1000.00 is offered for information that results in any team being disqualified for obvious cheating.**

PROTESTS - All protests must be submitted within 1 hour after posted tournament fishing time ends each day.

PRO TEAMS DEFINED - Designated Pro Teams are required to fish Pro Division. Pro Division is open to all.

1. Teams or individuals who represent a MAJOR fishing related product or are sponsored or promote a MAJOR fishing related product where sales may be increased because of tournament participation must fish in Pro Division. Field testers are generally not considered Pro Teams.
2. All licensed charter boats and/or charter captains who worked **as captain** on any licensed charter boat in the last two years must fish in Pro Division.
3. Pro Teams (for example) Big Jon, Dreamweaver, Stinger, etc. must fish in Pro Division. If you have questions about your ProAm status call Fred MacDonald at (231) 723-7975 or (231)645-8366 for clarification before you register. Failure to fully disclose all pertinent information may result in disqualification with absolutely NO refund and NO prizes awarded. **It is your responsibility to comply with the Pro/Am Rule.**

OBSERVERS - You are a guest! Swearing, drinking, sleeping is not acceptable. You have an important job to do. Carry out your duties as unobtrusively as possible.

QUESTIONS? - Contact Capt. Fred at (231) 723-7975 or (231) 645-8366.