

# **LTLT Fish Frenzy Rules & Regulations, September 28, 2013**

## **I. Eligibility**

Participation is open to anyone 18 years of age or older. Every Participant (over 16 years of age) must have a valid NC fishing license. Minors are eligible to participate with a parent or legal guardian signature on the release form.

Only paddle or pedal powered boats may be used. This includes; kayaks, canoes, rowboats, inflatable boats, paddle boats. No gasoline or electric motor propelled boats, sail boats, or float tubes may be used. The use of a boat or motorized water vehicle to transport your boat on the water is prohibited.

## **II. Registration**

A completed entry form and waiver (if under 18) must be received by Monday September 23, 2013. An entry fee of \$30. All entry fees are Non-Transferable and Non-Refundable.

## **III. Arrival and Launch**

A brief Captain's Meeting will be held at 6:45 the morning of the event. Competitors are encouraged to arrive early and already have their boats unloaded prior to the Captain's Meeting. All contestants must attend the Captain's Meeting. Tokens will be distributed and exact fishing times will be announced at the Captain's Meeting by the Tournament Director.

ALL competitors must launch from shore at designated launch spot. ALL competitors will launch at the designated launch time (7:30AM).

## **IV. Cancellation and Refunds**

The Tournament Director may delay, reschedule, or cancel the event due to inclement weather (SEE V. Safety). If canceled or rescheduled, entrants can be refunded or have fee applied to next event. No refunds for entrants will be given for non-attendance regardless of the reason.

## **V. Safety**

Safety equipment must be on board and used in accordance with US Coast Guard and NC Wildlife Resources Commission regulations, including PFD, light, and sound emitting devices. All vessels must comply with all State and Federal operation and safety laws and regulations.

Tournament day may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Rain and wind, unless severe, will not shorten or cancel an event, but thunderstorms and other severe weather threats

may shorten or cancel an event. The decision to shorten or to cancel will be left totally to the discretion of the Tournament Director. A 4-hour period shall constitute a day of fishing. In the event of weather preventing fishing we will refund.

## VI. Check-in and late penalties

Check-in (weigh-in) time will be at 1PM. All competitors must check in their scoring sheet, cameras, token and measuring devices by the check in time to be eligible for fishing prizes. When arriving at the check-in, it is important that the angler goes directly to the judges table. The check-in time recorded by the judges is the time at which the angler arrives at the judges table to check-in and is determined from the time on the official tournament computer. For all entries, late or timely, the anglers time of arrival at the judges table is rounded down to the nearest minute. The angler must arrive at the judges table by the end of official check-in hours. Generally, the judges table opens about one hour before check-in hours end.

The following standards for late penalties will be used:

Less than 5 minutes late: 10" penalty on aggregate score

5-14 minutes late: 20" penalty on aggregate score

15-30 minutes late: 30" penalty on aggregate score

Over 30 minutes late: No entries accepted. No exceptions.

## VII. Sportsmanship

Competitors in the LTLT Fishing Frenzy event are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters.

Anglers must stay at least 50' from any participating angler's vessel. Anglers drifting and fishing must give right of way to anchored vessels.

Any act of a competitor, which reflects unfavorably upon LTLT's effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy, shall be reason for disqualification. Any act deemed by the Organizer that gives an angler an unfair advantage not specifically covered under this set of rules shall be grounds for disqualification. Any violation by an angler deemed intentional or preconceived by the Organizer to gain an unfair advantage, would be grounds for permanent disqualification.

### VIII. Alcohol and Drugs

The consuming or transporting of any alcoholic beverages or drugs (other than prescription or over-the-counter drugs) during official tournament hours, on any tournament angler's boat is prohibited, and angler or anglers will be disqualified from this and possibly all future tournaments.

### IX. Permitted Fishing Methods

All fish must be caught, photographed, and released alive in a conventional sporting manner. A cast must be fully retrieved before an angler may pick up another rod. A foul hooked fish will not be scored. A foul hooked fish is defined as a fish that does not have at least one hook in its mouth, and it must be released. Anglers may not catch fish or weigh in fish that have been caged or confined in an area prior to the tournament. All fish must be caught from either the kayak (self-propelled water craft) or wade fishing (provided the kayak/canoe was used to arrive at the location for wade fishing and the kayak/canoe remains in sight of the angler while fishing and the photograph of the fish on the official ruler shows the kayak/canoe in the image). During the hours of competition, contestants may not obtain or receive assistance, including but not limited to the following: a non-competitor's boat, the placing of markers by a non-competitor, being towed by or riding on motorized vessels, or receiving electronic, voice or data communication from a non-competitor.

### X. Tackle and Equipment

Only artificial lures may be used during competition. Commercially sold pork trailers or scents may be added and used. Only ONE casting, spin casting, spinning rod and reel or fly rod may be used at any one time per angler. Trolling lures under paddle/pedal power is allowed but limited to a single rod.

### XI. Communication

The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular telephones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, pagers or any electronic device to communicate fishing information with anyone, including family members, during tournament hours is strictly prohibited. Communication among anglers is allowed on the water only by nonelectronic methods. The only exception is emergency calls. After an emergency call is made (to 911), the angler making such a call should immediately contact the Organizer to relay emergency information. The Organizer will provide important emergency contact phone numbers prior to launch and all participants should retain these numbers in the event of an emergency.

## XII. Permitted fishing locations

All fishing locations must be in waters accessible to the public at all times according to state and federal regulations.

## XIII. Scoring

Your 5 (five) LONGEST verified lengths will be totaled for your score. As an incentive to catch multiple species, a 5" bonus will be awarded for the second and successive species caught in a different category. We acknowledge 12 categories of species (See XVIII for a list of eligible fish species and categories), some categories consist of a single fish (eg. Smallmouth bass), others categories are represented by several species (eg. sunfish, trout). Additional species do not have to be among the 5 longest fish, for example: An angler catches 5 smallmouth bass with lengths (12", 12", 12", 12" 12"), 1 bluegill (6"), 1 crappie (6"), and 1 white bass (10"). The angler's total length is (60" + 15" bonus for 3 additional species) 75". However, multiple species within a category will not count, for example: a creel of a 12" rainbow trout, 12" brook trout, and 12" smallmouth bass would have a total length of 41" with recognition of catching fish from two separate categories (12" + 12" + 12" + 5" bonus). The sum of your longest verified lengths will make your total score. The angler with the highest total score is the winner, next highest score is 2nd place, and so on.

The event uses catch-photo-release scoring determined by the length of each fish. Each angler will be issued a uniform measuring device and unique scoring marker/token. The first photo on the camera must be of your rigged boat as put in at launch with measuring device and scoring marker visible. Fish must be photographed in or on the boat, on the provided measuring device, clearly showing the length of the fish with the scoring marker and boat visible. More than one photo of a fish may be taken, and is indeed encouraged, to aid the judges in determining the precise length of each fish. Fish length will be the last 1/4" mark reached (no rounding up).

Fish of similar sizes must have unique markings on them or only one will be counted. The length is determined by the unpinched tail of the fish. All photographs should show the fish with the nose to the left and dorsal fin up and tail unpinched.

TIES – In the event that one or more anglers have the same total score, final placement will be determined by:

- a) the angler with the greatest diversity of species
- b) the biggest fish between the two anglers,
- c) the 2nd biggest fish between the two anglers,
- d) the 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest fish between the two anglers,
- e) the 4<sup>th</sup> biggest fish between the two anglers
- f) the 5<sup>th</sup> biggest fish between the two anglers
- g) if there is still a tie the entry checked in earliest will be declared the winner.

The Tournament Director will review the photos to verify reported results and determine place winners.  
The Tournament Director is responsible for the final call in all matters.

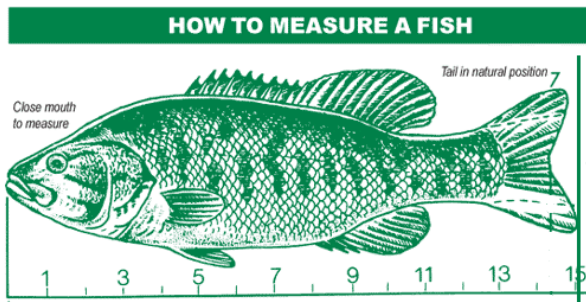
## PHOTOS

A photo **MUST** be taken with the fish laying on the measuring device with the identifier displayed and tail unpinched.

The photo **MUST** include the following criteria:

- \*the whole fish, tip to tail,
- \*facing left and laying with the head towards the start of the ruler,
- \*mouth closed with lip at the beginning of the ruler,
- \*demonstrating visible length marks,
- \*on your measuring device,
- \*with your identifier showing,
- \*in an overhead photo frame (take as many photos as you think necessary, but only *ONE* photo will be judged).

Here is an example:



If the tip of the lip is NOT at the start of the ruler, an appropriate length deduction will be assessed.

For scoring photos that do not meet scoring criteria, the Organizer will make subjective deductions to, in the Organizer's own opinion, estimate the true length of the fish in question. In addition to these subjective deductions, the following objective deductions will be made to scoring entries not meeting scoring criteria as decided by the Organizer and are not subject to protest:

No unique token: image disqualified

Boat not visible: image disqualified

Full fish not visible: image disqualified

Mouth open: 1/2" deduction

Tail pinched: 1/4" deduction

Wrong orientation: 1/4" deduction

If the fish length is greater than the length of the measuring board: lay fish on boat with board and token visible in picture

#### XIV. Digital Photography

Participants may only use digital cameras for recording scoring fish. Participants must bring their own cameras (cameras may not be shared by competitors). Participants should be aware that any photographs taken besides scoring photographs will be seen by the judge and possibly by other competitors and non-competitors and will be downloaded to the tournament computer. Thus, competitors should arrive to the tournament with a blank memory card. Images may not be digitally altered or enhanced in any way. Anglers should shoot images at maximum resolution possible. Entrants must bring the memory card from their camera to check-in and may not in any way transfer images from the camera or edit their contents or file names or metadata prior to weigh-in. The tournament scorekeeper will download memory cards onto the official computer. The tournament scorekeeper will be able to read most standard memory cards, however anglers should bring a USB cable for their camera to ensure that their photos may be downloaded. It is the responsibility of the angler to make sure the tournament scorekeeper can view the angler's images and if the angler or tournament scorekeeper cannot view the angler's images on the official tournament computer, then the angler will not be eligible for any prizes.

#### XV. Photo Release

Scoring photos remain the sole ownership of LTLT to be used at their discretion. Contestants grant LTLT and the sponsors the unconditional right to use their name, voice, photographic likeness and biographical information in connection with LTLT tournaments, production, promotion, and/or articles and press releases, and shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use.

#### XVI. Rule Changes

Rules interpretation is exclusively left to the Tournament Director. The decisions of the Tournament Director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.

#### XVII. Awards and Contingency Prizes

Sponsors may at their discretion award contingency prizes for anglers winning or placing using their products. Winning an award in any one category does not preclude that angler from winning an award in another category.

XVIII. List of Eligible Fish

There is no minimum length.

Smallmouth bass	Rock bass (redeye)
Largemouth/Spotted bass	White, striped, hybrid bass
Muskellunge	Crappie (white & black)
Walleye, perch	Channel catfish
Carp	Flathead catfish
Trout/salmon (rainbow, brook, brown, kokanee)	Sunfish = redbreast, bluegill, warmouth, redear, green

XIX. Tandem

Two contestants are allowed to compete in the same boat if notice is given to the Organizer at check-in. The boat must be the type of boat that is generally recognized as a canoe or kayak, with final discretion left solely to the Organizer. In this situation, all people in said boat must be registered competitors (no non-competitors are allowed in the boat). Competitors competing in tandem must score their fish individually. However, they may share a single measuring device (ruler) and digital camera. Each competitor must use their own unique token when photographing fish caught by said competitor. Two or more people competing in the same boat may not use their unique token when photographing another person's fish. If any competitors competing in tandem are found to be violating these rules, they will all be immediately disqualified and banned from all future events.

XX. Cheating

Cheating is a disgrace to the charitable, fun-spirited purposes for which the Fishing Frenzy Fishing Tournament is organized. Any competitor found cheating will face punishment as determined by the Organizer and likely to include a lifetime ban from LTLT events. The names of cheaters will also be displayed prominently in public (including but not limited to the Internet) and distributed to all motor and non-motor tournament organizers across the world. There is not an appeals process for bans or other punishment and the Organizer has final discretion on these matters. Any angler who sees or suspects another angler of cheating should attempt to photograph said actions with their camera. Whether or not the angler is able to photograph the alleged cheating, it should be reported to the Organizer at weigh-in (or via phone during tournament hours) so that justice may be served.