

# Michigan Ontario Muskie Club

## Rules and Regulations

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Effective as Revised March, 2016

THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS PROMULGATED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MICHIGAN ONTARIO MUSKIE CLUB, AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 4.1 OF THE BY LAWS, PROVIDE THE REQUIREMENTS MET BY MOMC MEMBERS IN THE CATCHING OF MUSKIE AND PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IN REGISTERING MUSKIE IN MOMC ACTIVITIES

### SECTION I – CATCHING OF MUSKIE

- 1.1 Muskie shall be caught on hook and line, better known as angler fishing.
- 1.2 Muskie must have obtained a minimum length of fifty (52) inches **OR** obtained a minimum weight of thirty (30) pounds, to be eligible for registration.
- 1.3 Muskies must be caught within the boundaries of the following area: St. Clair River from Blue Water Bridge, Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River to the mouth of Lake Erie.
- 1.4 The MOMC season for the catching and registering of Muskie shall begin each year on the opening day of the legal Muskie season set by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for Lake St. Clair and will end on the last day of October in that same year.

### SECTION II – REGISTERING OF MUSKIE

- 2.1 A MOMC member shall not register and harvest, more than one (1) Muskie per day.
  - 2.1.1 In the event a registered Muskie(s) is successfully released, the MOMC member who registered said Muskie(s) is permitted to register additional Muskie(s) that day.
- 2.2 During a monthly MOMC tournament, all Muskie being registered shall have been caught only on the days scheduled for that MOMC tournament, and registered at MOMC Tournament Headquarters between the hours scheduled for each event. Muskie entered shall be weighed and registered by the Weighmaster, duly appointed by the MOMC Board of Directors.  
**MOMC monthly tournament Muskies shall not be registered by another MOMC Weigh-in-Station for any purpose.**
  - 2.2.1 IF a Muskie is caught during scheduled fishing hours, while MOMC Tournament Headquarters are closed, it is the members' responsibility to contact a MOMC Board of Director, the Weighmaster or a Derby committee member, regarding the Muskie they wish to register. It is their responsibility to have the Muskie present during the next opening HOUR at Tournament Headquarters, for official measurements.
  - 2.2.2 When MOMC Tournament Headquarters are closed, during scheduled tournament fishing hours, a current MOMC Board of Director or Derby Committee member **IS** permitted to perform Weighmaster duties for a MOMC member in good standing, at their discretion. This is done as a courtesy, in an effort to help those releasing their Muskie for another day. A Board of Director is **NOT** allowed to register his/her own Muskie, without another MOMC Board of Director present, who is **NOT** fishing on their team.
- 2.3 Except during MOMC monthly tournaments, Muskie may be submitted for registration at any MOMC Authorized Weigh-In Station. Any Muskie which exceeds thirty (30) pounds must **either** be weighed at two and **ONLY** two weigh stations, **-OR-** at one weigh station, in the presence of a current MOMC Board of Director. When weighed at two MOMC weigh-in stations, the average of the two weights shall be recognized as the true weight of the Muskie.
  - 2.3.1 The MOMC Tournament Scale **IS** an official MOMC Authorized Weigh-In Station, and is recognized as such, at the discretion of any MOMC Board of Director, for the entire MOMC fishing season.
- 2.4 Except during MOMC monthly tournaments, any Muskie caught by a Weigh-in Station owner, employee, or any member of their families, may not be registered at that Weigh-in Station, unless a current Board of Director is present as a witness.
- 2.5 All Muskie submitted for registration must be held freely in such manner that the mouth faces the ground, while the tail is pointed skyward prior to the weighing and measuring.
- 2.6 Current MOMC Directors reserve the right to scrutinize a Muskie for potential violations in any manner deemed necessary to authenticate the true weight, length, or girth of the Muskie.

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- 2.7 A Muskie must **NOT** have been frozen prior to registration.
- 2.8 It is the responsibility of the MOMC member to submit MOMC weigh slips, for Muskie registered on MOMC non-tournament days. MOMC weigh slips must be received by the MOMC Board of Directors, no later than fourteen (**14**) days after being caught, to be eligible for any recognition.
- 2.9 In an effort to promote sportsmanship & conservation, Muskie transfer from boat to boat is permitted, as long as a MOMC Board of Director is contacted prior to the pending Muskie transfer. (Due to breakdown, grounding or other mechanical failure.)
- 2.10 The principal angler of said Muskie, must accompany, the fish during the transfer from boat to weigh station.
- 2.11 The boat used for the transfer **MUST** also be a participating boat in the tournament being fished. (i.e.: NO ringer boats are permitted, to expedite fish transfer due to time constraints)

### **SECTION III – CONDUCT OF MOMC MEMBERS**

- 3.1 MOMC members shall not fish for Muskie for any reason when out of legal season, within the recognized MOMC boundaries.
- 3.2 During MOMC monthly tournaments, participating boats must be identified by an official MOMC flag prominently displayed so as to be visible from either side of the boat. Non-participating boats will **NOT** display the MOMC flag during the MOMC tournament weekends.
  - 3.2.1 In the event a MOMC flag is lost during a tournament, by a MOMC participating boat (i.e.: wind blew it off), the captain must notify a MOMC Board of Director, of your situation. Otherwise, you will be considered a non-participating boat and could be disqualified from the tournament. A “makeshift” flag or MOMC sign is permitted, such that it is prominently displayed and visible. (i.e.: Paper plate, cardboard, vinyl graphics, etc)
- 3.3 During the five (**5**) monthly MOMC tournaments, **EACH PARTICIPATING MOMC BOAT IS RESTRICTED TO A MAXIMUM OF EIGHT (8) RODS. ALL OF WHICH, MUST BE ALLOTTED TO AND TENDED BY MOMC MEMBERS AND GUEST MEMBERS, IN GOOD STANDING.**
  - 3.3.1 During MOMC tournament weekends, **ALL** participating MOMC boats are restricted to a maximum of eight (**8**) rods showing, **WHILE FISHING**, during tournament hours. All spare rods shall be stowed in a **NON VISIBLE** manor. (**NOTE:** More than 8 rods can be visible, when trailering or once the vessel has been docked)
  - 3.3.2 MOMC members who do NOT possess a U.S. Coast Guard, MNR or Canadian Coast Guard captains' license are **NOT permitted to conduct Muskie fishing charters “for hire.” This is a violation of both Michigan and Ontario fishing laws.**
  - 3.3.3 During MOMC monthly tournament weekends, all participating MOMC members and guest members must abide by MOMC tournament rules and regulations. **IMPORTANT** – Each angler is restricted to a maximum of two (**2**) rods in Ontario waters of Lake St. Clair, and three (**3**) rods in Michigan waters, consistent with rod limits set forth by the OMNR & MDNR, respective. (i.e.: 2 members in Ontario = 4 rods, 2 members in Michigan = 6 rods)
- 3.4 A Muskie which has been fraudulently enhanced by any method shall be disqualified.
- 3.5 Violation of MOMC rules must be witnessed by MOMC members in good standing or the official Weighmaster and be witnessed by a current MOMC Board of Director.
- 3.6 Protests must be written, signed and presented, in person, to a tournament director at MOMC Tournament Headquarters no later than 15 minutes after the closing of the scales on the final day of the MOMC monthly tournament. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
  - 3.6.1 Final decisions will be made by the Monthly Tournament Committee at the MOMC Tournament Headquarters when possible. The acting Monthly Tournament Committee reserves the right to suspend all allocation of prizes, recognition and purse until the MOMC Board of Directors has reviewed the protest(s) in question. A final decision(s) will be provided to those involved in a timely manner as possible.
- 3.7 Any MOMC member found guilty of violating MOMC rules and regulations during a MOMC monthly tournament shall be disqualified from the MOMC tournament. Any MOMC member found guilty of violating MOMC rules and regulations twice within the same year shall be disqualified from all club activities for a period of twelve (12) months.

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- 3.8 Any MOMC member Muskie fishing during the weekend of a MOMC monthly tournament, that elects not to participate in that MOMC monthly tournament, **MUST** notify a MOMC Board of Director prior to the start of the tournament that the MOMC member Muskie fishes. Non-participating members will **NOT** display the MOMC flag during the MOMC tournament weekend. Muskie's caught by non-participating members, during this period, are eligible for yearend prizes only.
- 3.9 During any MOMC function, all members shall conduct themselves in an appropriate sportsman like manner, so as to bring a favorable impression on the MOMC. Failure to do so may result in penalties determined by the MOMC Board of Directors.

### **SECTION IV – ELIGIBILITY FOR PRIZES**

- 4.1 To be eligible for prizes, a person **MUST** be a MOMC member, in good standing, prior to the catching of the Muskie. To verify the effective date of membership, a MOMC membership card must be presented at the time the Muskie is submitted for weigh-in.
- 4.1.1 To be eligible for prizes, **ALL** people onboard the boat, must be members in good standing or approved guests of the MOMC during tournaments. All people onboard will be required to show their membership card or be on the guest list when they arrive at the weigh station during a tournament. It is the individual angler's responsibility to make sure that their fishing partners are either members in good standing or approved guests of the MOMC.
- 4.1.2 Banned members of MOMC may not be on a MOMC member's boat, during any MOMC function. Or during fun fishing when the member plans to register a fish.
- 4.1.3 During fun fishing the MOMC angler registering a fish must have and present a current membership card to register a fish. Non club members may be aboard the boat during fun fishing.
- 4.2 Active professional Muskie fishing guides, charter captains, and their immediate family members, are eligible for top five recognition and prize money, assuming they met the following criteria. Said Muskie was caught during one of the five sanctioned MOMC monthly tournament weekends, while "NOT FOR HIRE" and met all the requirements in order to be eligible during that tournament. No Muskie registered by an active professional guide or charter captain or their immediate family, are eligible for cash prizes in the MOMC year end "SIDE BET.
- 4.3 **Active Professional Muskie Fishing Guide** is defined as an individual whom possesses a current U.S. Coast Guard captains' license and/or is an MNR Licensed Guide / Canadian Coast Guard Licensed Captain, and operates a vessel for hire on the Great Lakes water ways.
- 4.3.1 **Active** is defined as running one or more **Muskie** charters and/or advertises his/her charter business (i.e.: Business Cards, Brochures, Web Site, soliciting charters @ fishing / hunting shows, etc).
- 4.3.2 **Immediate Family Member** is defined as a family member, living in the same household with **OR** is a dependant of the professional Muskie fishing guide.
- 4.4 Winning Muskie shall be determined by weight. In the event of a tie, first fish entered will take precedence in ranking.  
**Exception: SHOULD MUSKIE OF EQUAL WEIGHT BE ENTERED, MUSKIE RELEASED ALIVE TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER A HARVESTED MUSKIE, REGARDLESS.**
- 4.4.1 MOMC member's Muskie fishing with a professional Muskie fishing captain aboard members boat during monthly MOMC tournaments **ARE REQUIRED** to notify a current MOMC Board of Director that they are fishing with a professional Muskie fishing captain aboard members boat. This **MUST** be done no later than (1) day prior to the Muskie tournament the MOMC member plans to fish with the professional Muskie fishing guide. The member's boat will be recognized in the same manner as all other MOMC participants, and must abide by the same rules as other MOMC participants. Rule 4.1, 4.1.1 & 4.2 will still apply to professional Muskie fishing captain.
- 4.4.2 During fun fishing a MOMC member aboard a professional Muskie fishing captain's boat may register a fish for Top five recognition and prize money plus the year end side bet. Fish must be angled by MOMC Member registering the fish. Rule 4.1, 4.1.1 & 4.2 will still apply to professional Muskie fishing captains.
- 4.4.3 Fun fishing is defined as fishing any time other than the Five MOMC monthly tournaments. Fishing aboard a Professional Muskie Guides boat while boat is for hire will not be defined as fun fishing.

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- 4.5 Any MOMC member found guilty of violating MOMC rules twice within the same season or is dismissed from the MOMC, shall forfeit any awards, recognition and prizes which have not already been received.
- 4.6 Guest memberships **MUST** be obtained prior to each MOMC tournament fished, and the guest member must fish with a MOMC member in good standing. Guest memberships are valid for **ONLY** those tournaments specified. Guest members must abide by the same rules as annual MOMC members. Any MOMC guest member found guilty of violating MOMC rules and regulations during a MOMC tournament, shall be disqualified from that MOMC tournament, and all other MOMC tournaments for a period of twelve (12) months. Guest members are eligible for prizes and recognition during the specified MOMC tournament dates, but **NOT** eligible for the MOMC Year-End "Side Bet", Year End "Captain / Open" or Top (5) Contests.
- 4.6.1 Guest memberships not required for fun fishing.
- 4.6.2 Guest memberships are available for anglers over the age of 18 at a cost of \$20.00 per guest, for each monthly MOMC tournament. There is **NO CHARGE** for guest members under the age of eighteen (18). We encourage all MOMC members to take out and teach our future Muskie anglers. Please refer to Rule 4.1.1 for guest member list requirements.

### **SECTION V – MOMC SPECIAL EVENTS**

- 5.0 MOMC Special events will be defined as the Special Olympics Charity Derby and the Operation Musk-E-Meet.
- 5.1 Participants of the special events that are not members of the MOMC will be considered a guest of MOMC for these events only.
- 5.2 During the two MOMC Special events (SOM / Musk-E-Meet) only. If a fish is caught that is eligible for Year-End recognition and angle by a MOMC guest during the event hours. That fish may be registered in the Captains name and will be eligible for Year-end, Top 5 contest, LRR or Captains Open. Rule 4.1, 4.1.1, 4.2 and 4.3 will still apply.

### **SECTION VI – AMENDMENTS & GENERAL NOTES**

- 6.0 These rules and regulations may be amended or supplemented by the MOMC Board of Directors at any time.
- 6.1 **Rule and Regulations specific to MOMC Side bet contests and release events are posted with the specific event flyer.**

### **MONTHLY CLUB DERBY SIDE BET RULES**

Eligibility for prizes is on a per boat basis, by MOMC members in good standing. **Not by individual eligibility.**

- Eligibility is determined by an MOMC member, paying \$50.00 (for each monthly Derby) per boat, to the MOMC, Not to be later than the Friday of the tournament weekend. Additional rules are on the event page. (The October "Big Dog" Derby is a separate derby event that requires attendance at the captain's meeting.)
- The top three (3) eligible fish, determined by weight, for each MOMC contest, will receive cash prizes. The prizes will be presented at each monthly tournament weigh in.
- Prizes are based on the number of entrants received, and the official entrants list will be provided to the weighmaster Friday night, prior to the tournament.
- Muskie registered during the tournaments will be announced during the MOMC hourly tournament reports on channel 80.
- Eligible Muskie must be registered per Section II.
- Top three, Largest Registered Release, and Captain's Open Side bet rules are on separate bulletins. CPR has separate rules.