

2025



## May 3 & 4, 2025

# Official Tournament Rules

### Dates and Times

- a. Tournament dates are Saturday May 3 and Sunday May 4.
- b. Registration will be held at the Michigan City Yacht Club Pavilion on May 2, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (CDT). The Captain's meeting will follow immediately at 7:00 p.m. ALL CAPTAINS OR CREW MEMBER AND OBSERVERS MUST ATTEND. NO EXEPTIONS!
- c. The awards ceremony will commence following the weigh-in on Sunday May 4 at the Michigan City Yacht Club Pavilion.
- d. Time limits for both days are 6 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (CDT) (NO RUN TIME).
- e. The contest is considered official if a minimum of three (3) hours are fished between Saturday and Sunday. Prizes will be awarded based on points accumulated during the official fishing periods.
- f. One crew member (and observer if applicable) and fish must be in line for weigh in no later than 2:30 p.m. (CDT) each day.

### Eligibility

- a. All captains must be a member of the Hoosier Coho Club and be a minimum of 18 years of age. Proof of membership is required at registration. All non-members may join the club for \$25 annual dues.
- b. All boats must be equipped with a VHF marine radio in working order.
- c. Teams designated as "pro" must fish in the Pro Division. If one crew member is designated as "pro" then the entire team shall be designated as "pro." "Pro" shall be defined as follows: All licensed charter captains or anyone who has worked as a licensed charter captain in the two (2) years prior to the event.
- d. Amateur teams that win the Coho Classic two times in a three-year time frame will be required to fish pro the following year.
- e. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decline entry or participation by any person, team or boat, as deemed necessary, to ensure such things as integrity, image, reputation, financial performance and community relationships with sponsors, participants and supporting groups.

### Entry Fees

- a. Pro Division: The basic entry fee is \$650.
- b. Amateur Division: The basic entry fee is \$200.
- c. All entries fees must be received **NO LATER THAN 7:00 p.m.** on May 2.
- d. If the tournament is cancelled due to weather conditions, all entry fees minus 10% will be refunded. In the case of a last-minute emergency that prevents an entrant from participating in the tournament, said entrant may apply to the tournament committee for a refund. The decision to refund shall be made by the committee.

## Scoring

- a. Winners will be determined by a total accumulation of points based on:
  - i. Ten (10) points per legal fish weighed, plus:
  - ii. One point per pound (nearest hundredth pound) total weight.
- b. The team accumulating the highest number of points during the tournament period will be the winner, followed by the team with the next highest accumulation, and so on.
- c. The following fish shall be eligible: Salmon and Trout greater than 14" in length. **Indiana DNR rules will apply.**
- d. In the event of a tie score, placement will be determined by each boat's largest big fish weight.

## Prizes

- a. 1st place Pro Division pays out \$15,000 (based on 30 boats participating). Additional prizes may be awarded.
- b. 1st place Amateur pays \$5000 (based on 30 boats participating). Additional prizes may be awarded.
- c. Winnings will be paid down 7 places Pro, 10 places Am, based on 30 boats for both Pro & Am.
- d. All prizes will be issued to winners at the tournament.

## Quake Big Fish Contest – Sponsored by Alco Transportation

- a. Entry fee is \$50. All entries must be received by 7:00 p.m. on May 2.
- b. One fish may be weighed each day. The captain designates the first fish to be weighed as the big fish. **No test weighing. No exceptions will be made.**
- c. There will be a sponsored payout paying down 10 places—all one division.
- d. In the event of a tie score, placement will be determined by the largest main event total score. In the event of a tie between an Amateur boat and a Pro boat, the main event score of the Pro boat will be calculated at 50%.

## Fishing Rules

- a. All boats must depart and return to the port of Michigan City, IN.
- b. There shall be no fishing by tournament contestants except during tournament hours either day of the tournament. Nor shall a boat registered in the tournament leave the harbor for any reason on Saturday and Sunday except during the official periods
- c. All DNR state laws and regulations apply while fishing within that states jurisdiction.
- d. DNR rules will apply for the waters being fished. Fish may be released in accordance with DNR rules. This means that you can release a fish when it is first caught and cannot exchange a fish from your cooler for a larger fish, as returning a dead fish to the water would be on violation of the DNR rules.
- e. Once a boat brings aboard the maximum amount of fish per DNR Rules (5 per person) fishing stops. If you net the fish and bring over the gunnel—it's your fish and cannot be released. In order to be released, you must release it without bringing it into the boat.
- f. Maximum number of rods fishing at any time is nine (9). Fishing means "line in the water". One slider per rod will be allowed. Maximum 2 baits per rod. Maximum of 6-foot slider.
- g. Pro Division - a maximum of 10 Salmon / Trout may be weighed, 5 of which may be Lake Trout, each day. Both days will be added to determine total points.
- h. Amateur Division - a maximum of 5 Salmon / Trout may be weighed, 3 of which may be Lake Trout, each day. Both days will be added to determine total points.
- i. Minimum size for Trout / Salmon is 14 inches. Certified boards will be used at the weigh-in station. **Indiana DNR rules will apply.**
- j. No fishing inside a line between the North and South pier heads.
- k. Captains will allow random boat / cooler checks prior to tournament start.

- I. Random Polygraph examinations may be given at the tournament committee's discretion.

### **Start and Finish**

- a. The tournament committee will use Channel 78 to start and end each fishing period. No lines in the water until the start is announced.
- b. You must not depart a one-half mile radius from the pier heads until the announcement of the start of the fishing period.
- c. Your boat must enter the Michigan City Harbor break wall by 1:30 p.m. or you will be disqualified for that particular day. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- d. All boats must radio in to tournament control on Channel 78 once inside the break wall to notify that your boat is in at the end of each fishing period.
- e. Once a fishing period is declared closed by the tournament committee no more fish may be boated.

### **Weigh-in**

- a. At the close of the fishing period the fish must be taken directly to the weigh-in station at the Michigan City Yacht Club Pavilion. One crew member and observer (if applicable) and fish must be in line for weigh in no later than 2:30 p.m. (CDT) each day. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.
- b. Pro Division can weigh 10 fish (5 Lake Trout Max) and Amateur Division can weigh 5 fish (3 Lake Trout Max). If you have more than the specified limit in your cooler at weigh-in, you will be disqualified for that days catch. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- c. ALL coolers will be opened and inspected at the weigh station. No water or loose ice will be allowed in the coolers at the weigh station. Water or loose ice in the cooler at the weigh station will result in disqualification for that day's catch. Bagged ice may be used in the coolers at all times.
- d. All fish may be tested for time in possession. The tournament committee may retain any fish for any reason.
- e. Fish may not be left at the weigh-in station. Disposition of fish must be in compliance with state and local laws.

### **Communications**

- a. All participants must monitor Channel 78 at all times. Important tournament information will be broadcast on this channel. Please restrict communication to vital tournament communication only. Participants who miss these announcements will still be held liable.

### **Observers**

- a. Observers will be provided by the Hoosier Coho Club and assigned as follows. Day 1: The top 5 Pro Boats and top 3 Amateur boats from the previous year's Classic Tournament standings. Day 2: The top 5 Pro Boats and top 3 Amateur boats from the Day 1 standings. Additional observers will be assigned based upon availability.

### **Boat Identification**

- a. The tournament committee will furnish a boat identification number at registration.
- b. The ID number shall be prominently displayed on the port side from the start of the fishing period through the conclusion of the weigh-in.

### **Protests**

- a. Tournament judges will resolve disputes. Their decision will be final.

- b. Protests must be presented to the Tournament judges in writing on the day of the infraction within 60 minutes of the end of the fishing period with \$500. If the protest is upheld, the \$500 will be refunded, otherwise the tournament will retain the \$500.
- c. Any protest will be subject to a Polygraph examination.

### **Cancellations**

- a. The Tournament Committee may cancel the tournament, when in their opinion, conditions could be dangerous to persons or property. The committee will announce their determination of a delayed start or cancellation 45 minutes before each fishing period.
- b. After a fishing period has begun, an announcement will be made on Channel 78 if cancellation or postponement is imminent. A minimum of 15 minutes notice will be given prior to the early termination of a fishing period.
- c. If a fishing period is shortened, all boats must proceed as described in **Start and Finish**, and **Weigh-in**.

### **Disqualifications**

- a. Disqualification for any reason will result in the forfeiture of all entry fees.
- b. Failure to comply with any of the rules listed in **Fishing Rules** will result in disqualification.
- c. Failure to proceed directly to the weigh-in station will result in disqualification.
- d. If you arrive at the weigh-in station area with more than the allotted number of fish for your division you will be disqualified for that day's catch.
- e. Water or loose ice in the cooler at the weigh station will result in disqualification for that day's catch.
- f. Any fish taken in violation of DNR regulations will disqualify that day's catch.
- g. Failure to dispose of fish per state and local laws will result in disqualification.
- h. Running gunnel to gunnel or passing any item from boat to boat will result in disqualification. However, a tournament boat may stop to assist a vessel in distress. If assistance is needed, it must be called in to the tournament committee over the radio on channel 78 to notify them that you are assisting a vessel in distress.

### **Liability**

- a. All reasonable precautions will be taken by the Tournament Committee to protect persons and property during the tournament. Neither the Tournament Committee, Rules Committee, officers and directors of the Hoosier Coho Club, or sponsors can or will be responsible for the safety of persons for accident, theft, damage by fire, vandalism, or any other cause for loss to a contestant's property.

Participants understand and agree to hold harmless the aforementioned groups and individuals from liability or damage as may be incurred from participation in the tournament.

### **Rule Changes**

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to modify any rules and announce changes up to 45 minutes prior to the start of the tournament.