

27TH CHAMPIONSHIP ON THE CHESAPEAKE AMATEUR DIVISION - RULES AND REGULATIONS

ENTRY FEE: \$200.00 – Before April 1st, 2010 \$225.00 – After March 31st, 2010.
TWT entry fees are additional. Applications paid with a dishonored check or credit card shall automatically void the registration.

CAPTAINS and MEMBERSHIP: Captain (tournament applicant) must be a current member of the MSSA and MUST be onboard the boat during tournament fishing hours. If the Captain cannot be aboard the boat all tournament fishing hours they must register an "Alternate Captain" prior to start of tournament (see application). Alternate Captain must be a member of the MSSA and must be onboard the boat at all times during fishing hours if Captain cannot. The MSSA strongly encourages all participants and crew to be members of the MSSA. Only current members of the MSSA aged 18 years or older may Captain or be an Alternate Captain of a tournament vessel. By registering as a member of the MSSA or participant in a MSSA Tournament, the individual agrees to abide by MSSA's Tournament Rules. The Tournament Committee in its sole discretion may refuse entry of any registrant.

TOURNAMENT DATES: April 30th - May 2nd, 2010

REGISTRATION: You may register at any of the Captain's Meetings; by phone 410-255-5535; fax 410-255-1552; or online at www.mssa.net

CAPTAIN'S MEETINGS: All 6:00 - 8:00 PM

April 22nd - Chesapeake Outdoors - 1707 Main Street, Chester, MD

April 26th - Commodore Hall - 1909 Old Eastern Avenue, Essex, MD

April 27th - Alltackle - 2062 Somerville Road, Annapolis, MD

April 28th - Solomons Pier - 14575 Solomons Island Road, Solomons, MD

April 29th - Rod 'N' Reel Docks - 4165 Mears Avenue, Chesapeake Beach, MD

Captains participating in the tournament should attend one of the Captain's Meetings. Crew is also invited and encouraged to attend. Any additional rules or regulations shall be clarified at this meeting

FISHING LOCATIONS: Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay as allowed by Maryland Department of Natural Resources. POTOMAC RIVER IS NOT ALLOWED (West of a line drawn from Point Lookout, MD to Smith Point, VA)

ELIGIBLE FISH & FISHING METHODS: Striped bass only – All fish must be caught by hook and line as described by MD DNR recreational standards. Wire line is allowed as line or leader; dummy lines are permitted; chumming and live-lining will be permitted.

FISHING HOURS: 6:00 AM – 3:30 PM on each day of the tournament.

AWARDS CEREMONY: May 13, 2010 @ 7:00 PM – Columbia Center – 335 Ritchie Highway - Severna Park, MD.

WEATHER AND RISK OF LOSS: There is no Weather Committee. Captains and crews enter and participate in this tournament at their own risk. Captains and their crews must make their own judgments whether to fish under the prevailing weather conditions based on the size and seaworthiness of their boat, their seamanship skills and any other relevant factors.

REFUNDS: Only one day of fishing is necessary to make the tournament official. In the event that there are no available days for fishing the tournament due to an Act of God or natural disaster, 50% of all entry fees and skill level fees will be refunded. In the event that you are unable to participate, a written request stating the reasons therefore for a tournament refund must be received at MSSA's main office no later than 5:00 PM on April 25, 2010. All requests must be in writing and may be delivered via mail, email, hand, or facsimile transmission to the Tournament Committee for its consideration.

SELECTION OF FISH FOR WEIGH-IN: Captains are limited to weigh-in two (2) striped bass per day. Striped bass must be at least 36 inches to qualify for weigh-in. Fish will be measured from tip of nose to squeezed tip of tail to qualify for weigh-in. You can weigh fish any or all three (3) days of the tournament. It is prohibited to sort, cull, high grade, or replace any fish already in possession. Any fish taken into possession by holding in a live well or on a stringer or in any other fish holding devices shall be deemed as part of the daily bag limit. Once the daily bag limit of a particular species is reached, fishing is NO LONGER permitted. The Captain must choose which fish he wants to be weighed. Captains may not use an official Weigh-Station scale to determine which fish to weigh-in.

WEIGH-IN: FISH MUST BE BROUGHT TO OFFICIAL CHECK-IN STATION BY BOAT DIRECTLY FROM FISHING BY WATER. Fish must be brought to an official Weigh-Station by water in the same boat that they were landed (unless authorized by MSSA Weigh-Master under Disabled Vessel Rule). Captains or their designee must be present during weigh-in and must have tear-off boat ticket in hand. All fish weighed in will be issued an official weigh-in receipt bearing the catch weight. Captains must object to the catch weight before the weigh-in receipt is issued. Upon receipt of the weigh-in receipt, the catch weight shall be deemed accurate, final and agreed upon by the Captain. Captains may weigh-in at any time the Weigh-Stations are open. All fish are subject to examination, internally and externally, as the Weigh-Master deems necessary. All fish weighed in will be prominently marked by the Weigh-Master. Weigh-Masters may confiscate or report suspect fish to the Tournament Committee without protest. Weigh-Masters are authorized to require Proof of Tournament registration and a photo identification at time of weigh-in. The MSSA reserves the right to mark the weigh ticket of any suspect fish, or to require the Tournament Captain to sign a weigh ticket

TOURNAMENT COMMUNICATIONS: VHF Channel 78 is the official tournament channel. Tournament updates will be broadcast throughout the tournament. TEXT MESSAGE alerts will also be used during tournament hours. If you wish to receive text alerts please leave your cell number on the tournament application. By leaving your cell number you will agree to allow the MSSA to send text updates to your phone.

WEIGH-STATION HOURS: Friday: 12:00 PM – 4:30 PM; Saturday: 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM; Sunday: 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. No fish will be weighed in after 4:30 PM unless the Captain is in line and have been recognized by the Weigh-Master at time of closing.

PROTEST: Protests are strongly encouraged to be placed immediately upon knowledge of a Rules infraction. Initial Protests may be made verbally to any MSSA Weigh-Master. Verbal protests must be followed up in writing on an official MSSA Protest Form. Protests Forms must be received within ten (10) days from the close of a tournament with the \$150.00 protest fee to be eligible for consideration by the Tournament Committee. Protest fees will be refunded in the event a protest is upheld. MSSA reserves the right to withhold payment of tournament prizes until protest is resolved.

BOARDING AND OFFICIATING: The Tournament Committee reserves the right to: [1] board any boat at any time for inspection; [2] place an "Onboard Observer" on any boat. Refusals will result in an automatic disqualification of captain and crew.

FISH ONBOARD: No uncleaned tournament fish can be on the boat before the start of the day, unless marked by Weigh-Master. Transient boats must keep with them at all times, captain number, marina receipt, and any other documentation explaining their situation to avoid law enforcement

violations. The MSSA shall not be responsible for any citations or other law enforcement violations during tournament hours.

SEPARATION OF VESSELS: At no time during tournament fishing hours is a vessel permitted to approach another boat or structure unless authorized by an MSSA Weigh-Master or in emergency situations. Participants may not return with fish for weigh-in after landing or leaving their vessels without Weigh Master approval. Refusal or error may result in disqualification.

DISABLED VESSEL: At no time during Tournament Fishing Hours is a vessel permitted to approach another boat or structure unless permitted by MSSA Weigh Master or in emergency situations. In the event a vessel becomes disabled during the Tournament, the Captain must notify a Tournament Weigh-Master as soon as possible that their vessel is disabled. Boats being towed into port must notify a MSSA Tournament Weigh-Master that their vessel is under tow to remain registered. Only registered tournament participants may be on board a disabled vessel under tow. Upon returning to port, the Captain must first check-in with the Weigh-Master to affirm to the Weigh-Master that their vessel was towed to port and that no one boarded their vessel during the tow. Captain must notify an official MSSA Weigh-Master prior to transferring to another vessel or call 410-255-5535 and leave your name, captain#, time, date and reason.

AMATEUR DIVISION ELIGIBILITY: No Captain registered to fish in the Amateur Division may have on board during tournament hours as: captain, crew, angler, consultant or observer ("Professionals"). Professionals include, but are not limited to: persons who are or have been (either bay or ocean) professional or paid captain, charter boat captain, mate on a charter boat, a current holder of a commercial fin-fishing license issued by any governmental entity within the past two (2) years; professional angler; persons who get paid to fish; persons who have either won \$20,000 or more (excluding MSSA TWT's) in fishing tournament money or won three (3) or more major tournaments in the past two (2) years; persons holding a license as a fishing guide; any captain or crew of a "For-Hire Fishing Boat;" self-professed professionals; and, persons whom are publicly known as professionals. All such persons are encouraged to enter the Professional Division. If you are unsure call the MSSA main office for further instruction and clarification 410-255-5535.

RULES and RULE CHANGES: Tournament rule changes may be made by the Tournament Committee at any time up to the first Captain's Meeting. It is the responsibility of all participants to familiarize themselves with all the rules and regulations of this Tournament and to abide by these rules and regulations.

DISQUALIFICATION: The Tournament Committee reserves the sole and absolute discretion to disqualify any angler, crew, captain, registrant or vessel at any time. Persons may be disqualified from the tournament because of a rule violation, regardless of the severity of the violation. All participants agree to abide by tournament rules and decisions of the Tournament Committee. Decisions as to the disqualification or eligibility of any vessel, crew, or fish weighed in shall be made solely by the Tournament Committee and its decisions shall be final and incontestable. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to disqualify any Captain and crew at any time for misrepresentation made on any application or registration form by any member of the crew, any suspicious activity or unsportsmanlike conduct. Any boat disqualified shall be for the entire tournament, and shall result in the forfeiture of all tournament fees and prize money even if the disqualification was made after the prize money was awarded.

RISKS and WAIVERS: Tournament participants accept the risks and dangers involved in such activity, and they acknowledge that unanticipated or unexpected dangers may occur. Participants agree to indemnify and hold harmless: the MSSA, its officers, directors, members, committee members, its assigns, sponsors, lessees, agents, and employees from any and all liability for any: claim, loss, injury, damage, demands, actions, choses in action, costs, accidents, libel, slander, negligence and/or death suffered by any member, family, crew boat and/or other persons which may occur during their term of membership or participation in a Tournament or MSSA Sponsored activity. The member further releases the MSSA, its officers, directors, committee members and sponsors from any liability for libel, slander, loss, damage, negligence, injury and / or death suffered by any member, family, crew, boat and/or other person which may occur during any term of membership.

FUTURE PROMOTION: Tournament participants consent to the MSSA's use without payment or restrictions of any photographs taken during an MSSA event, the angler's name, boat name, crews names, or vessel for any purpose whatsoever. All photographs submitted to the MSSA shall be the sole property of the MSSA after submission and maybe used without compensation

CAPTAIN NUMBER: Each Captain MUST have in their possession and display at all times, the captain number issued by the MSSA. This captain number should be included in your Captain's Package and must be presented to the Weigh-Master before weighing fish.

POLYGRAPH: In consideration for the MSSA's acceptance of an entry form for a Tournament, each registered Captain and angler specifically agrees and consents to voluntarily submit to a polygraph examination or examinations. The MSSA reserves the right to polygraph tournament winners as well as random tournament participants in any tournament. Each registered Captain or angler agrees to obtain the agreement and consent of each and every occupant of the boat from which he or she fishes during the tournament (including but not limited to the captain and crew) to submit to a polygraph examination or examinations as described above. The method and conduct of all polygraph examinations, and the interpretation of the results thereof, shall be in the sole judgment of the polygraph examiner appointed by the MSSA, whose opinion shall be final. If any registered captain, angler or occupant of a vessel refuses to submit to a polygraph examination, or if any registered Captain, occupant, or angler gives a response which, in the sole opinion of the polygraph examiner, is untruthful, then all registered persons on the boat shall be immediately disqualified without further notice from the MSSA. Any registered Vessel, Captain or angler so disqualified shall not be entitled to any prize, award, or entry fee refund.

SPORTSMANSHIP: The MSSA may disqualify any Vessel, Captain, crew, participant, angler or member who is involved in unsportsmanlike conduct; a knowing violation of the Rules, or for any reason that the MSSA believes the acts warrant disqualification. Members are also subject to termination of their membership for similar violations. At no time shall any boat captain or crew make verbal or written contracts that in anyway involve the splitting of prize money with another vessel. Any team caught culling or discarding fish immediately following weigh-in will be automatically disqualified.

MEASURE: Striped bass will be measured by WEIGHT ONLY. They must be at least 36 inches in length to be entered into the tournament. Ties in weight will be determined by time weighed-in.

PRIZE ELIGIBILITY: ONE FISH CAN ONLY WIN ONE PRIZE (EXCLUDING THE TOURNAMENT WITHIN A TOURNAMENT (TWT'S)). NO CAPTAIN SHALL WIN MORE THAN TWO (2) PRIZES (EXCLUDING THE TWT'S AND KIDS DIVISION). EACH FISH WILL BE AWARDED THE HIGHEST PRIZE VALUE.

KIDS DIVISION: Eligibility in the Kids Division is any child 16 years of age or under as of April 31st, 2010. Only one prize per individual in the Kid's Division. FISH ENTERED IN THE KIDS DIVISION WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE MAIN TOURNAMENT OR TWT'S.

ALL PRIZES ARE BASED UPON A FULL FIELD OF 650 BOATS, EXCEPT 1ST PLACE OVERALL PRIZE WHICH WILL BE \$10,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE.