

The First-Ever Statewide Fishing Tournament in Montana!

Tournament Rules 3-21-24

Please check back occasionally for rules revisions that may happen with the tournament in its first year.

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2. Description and Format

- a.** Catholic Social Services of Montana (CSSM) is hosting the FIRST-EVER statewide fishing tournament in the state of Montana. This has included extensive coordination with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MT FWP). To make this tournament layout manageable in its first year, CSSM and MT FWP agreed to select limited species of fish that could be widely found around the state. Additionally, select bodies of water from each of the 7 Montana fisheries regions were chosen based on the fish species that are available in those lakes, the lakes' access points, and participant opportunity to catch the species in the lakes.
- b.** This is a "catch, photo, and release" style tournament. Participants will catch a fish, promptly measure, photograph it, and return it back to the lake alive-and-well. Any fish that cannot be released back to the body of water in good health will not be accepted and scored.

3. Purpose

Thank you for supporting CSSM and its ministries that serve Montanans.

- a. To joyfully connect families and friends for the purpose of a statewide fishing tournament in the glorious Montana outdoors. While a tournament with prizes, CSSM encourages participants to not take the competition too seriously, enjoy themselves and those they may be participating with, exhibit good sportsmanship, and show good stewardship of the Montana outdoors and its natural resources.
- b. To raise funds and awareness for the ministries performed across the state of Montana by 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization CSSM since 1953. To learn more about CSSM, please visit www.cssmt.org.

4. Eligibility and Angler Requirements

- a. Anyone who can legally fish in the state of Montana. Any applicant under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a participating adult (18+ years old).
- b. Each participant must possess a valid Montana fishing license and other required licenses unless they are 11 years old or younger as required by the state of Montana. All participants must observe the rules and regulations of Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and the US Coast Guard.
- c. Participants are responsible for always having all required documentation on them while fishing in the tournament. This includes personal IDs and fishing licenses.

5. Entry Fees

- a. The entry fees for this tournament can be found by visiting the tournament website at <https://www.cssmt.org/fishing-for-families/>.
- b. Proceeds from this tournament directly benefit the ministries of CSSM. For 2024, CSSM has designated 50% of the proceeds to its general fund and 50% to build the future of its ministries through its endowments.

6. Release of Liability

- a. By signing the tournament entry form, all participants agree to the release of liability included at the end of this rules packet in section 20.

7. Rules Meeting

- a. The tournament rules meeting will take place the evening before the start of the tournament at 6:00pm. You can view the rules meeting by visiting www.facebook.com/CSSMT.

8. Tournament Organizers

- a. This tournament is organized by Catholic Social Services of Montana and is headquartered at 630 N Last Chance Gulch, Ste 2200, Helena, MT 59601. You can contact the tournament organizers by visiting the tournament website at <https://www.cssmt.org/fishing-for-families/>.

9. Tournament Boundaries and Fish Allowed

- a. After discussing the possibility of organizing the FIRST-EVER statewide fishing tournament in Montana, MT FWP and CSSM agreed to:
 - i. Select limited bodies of water from each of the 7 Montana fisheries districts to include in this tournament. As a part of this agreement, participants are asked to limit accessing waterbodies via Fishing Access Sites and Montana State Parks at the locations that follow. Bodies of water chosen were selected based on the available access sites and fish species available in the lake that are also included in the tournament.
 - ii. Fish species allowed to be caught and submitted for this tournament for each body of water are listed below. Any species of fish that is included in this tournament, but is not permitted for a body of water and is submitted for scoring will be denied by tournament officials. For example, although commonly targeted and abundant in population, rainbow

trout caught on Hauser Reservoir cannot be submitted for scoring, as it is not allowed by MT FWP in the permit requirements, although submissions of rainbow trout are allowed in other lakes, and walleye and perch submissions are allowed from Hauser Lake.

- iii.** Fishing Access Sites and State Parks not listed below are not included as access points in the tournament. Sites managed by the Bureau of Reclamation, US Army Corps of Engineers, Federal, State, County, and City Agencies, and private landowners, including private marinas, are not included in this tournament and participants are asked to not access waterbodies by these locations. No fishing should take place upstream (or downstream of outflowing streams/rivers, if applicable) of the confluence of any tributaries that flow into or out of the lakes/reservoirs listed below. Specific waterbody boundaries are listed below each applicable waterbody below.

- 1.** Region 1

- a.** Middle Thompson Lake via Logan State Park

- i.** Upper and Lower Thompson Lakes are considered separate waterbodies and are not included in this tournament.
 - ii.** Fish allowed- Yellow Perch, Kokanee Salmon, Rainbow Trout
 - iii.** Largemouth bass are not allowed per MT FWP permit requirements.

- b.** Lake Mary Ronan via Lake Mary Ronan State Park

- i.** Fish allowed- Rainbow Trout, Kokanee Salmon
 - ii.** Yellow perch are not allowed per MT FWP permit requirements.

- 2.** Region 2

- a.** Salmon Lake via Salmon Lake State Park

- i.** Fish allowed- Yellow Perch, Rainbow Trout, Kokanee Salmon, Largemouth Bass
 - ii.** Participants are encouraged to use only artificial lures.

- b.** Upsata Lake via Upsata Lake Fishing Access Site

- i.** Fish allowed- Yellow Perch, Rainbow Trout, Largemouth Bass
 - ii.** Participants are encouraged to use only artificial lures.

- 3.** Region 3

- a.** Dailey Lake via Dailey Lake Fishing Access Site

- i.** Fish allowed- Walleye, Yellow Perch, Rainbow Trout

- b.** Willow Creek Reservoir via Harrison Lake Fishing Access Site

- i.** Fish allowed- Rainbow Trout

- c.** Three Forks Ponds via Three Forks Ponds Fishing Access Site

- i.** Fish allowed- Rainbow Trout, Largemouth Bass

- 4.** Region 4

- a.** Hauser Reservoir via York Bridge Fishing Access Site, Causeway Fishing Access Site, and Black Sandy State Park

- i.** Lake Helena is considered a separate waterbody and is not included in this tournament.

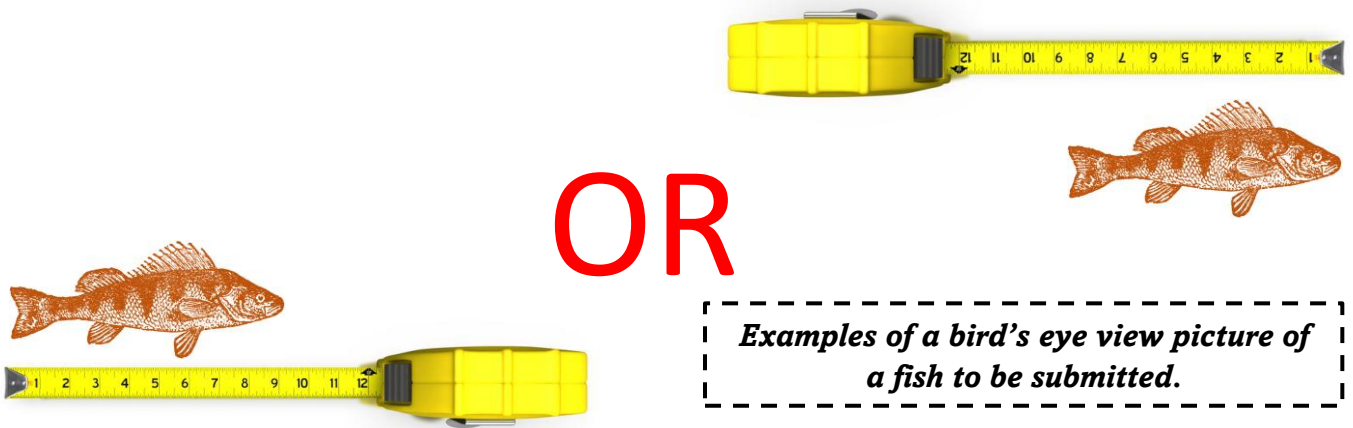
- ii.** Fish allowed- Walleye, Yellow Perch

- iii.** Rainbow trout are not allowed per MT FWP permit requirements.

- b.** Pishkun Reservoir via Pishkun Reservoir Fishing Access Site

their hand to stabilize the fish, but should be careful not to damage the fish and should not stretch the fish. The measuring device should be stretched above or below the placement of the fish, with the start of the measure lined up with the mouth or tail of the fish. The picture should be taken from a “bird’s eye” view, meaning looking down at the fish. See the example photo at the top of the next page. Participants should handle the fish with as much care as possible to ensure a healthy release.

- b.** Photos must be clear enough for tournament organizers to easily view the species of fish and numbers on the measuring device, as they will be completing the official measurements via the submitted photo. If the photo is not clear enough to view the numbers on the measuring device, or the measuring tape is not flat, even, and lined up with the fish, the photo will be deemed ineligible. Photos deemed ineligible by tournament organizers cannot be appealed for reconsideration, so make sure everything is perfect in the picture.
- c.** There is no limitation to the number of photos that can be submitted, but only one photo per fish will be accepted. If it is determined a duplicate photo of a fish was attempted to be submitted, the participant will be automatically disqualified from the tournament with their entry fee non-refundable.
- d.** Photos must be submitted on the tournament website at <https://www.cssmt.org/fishing-for-families/>. A new form must be submitted for every fish. Photos can be submitted with most online connected devices, including computers, cell phones, and tablets.
- e.** Examples of how to properly set-up a photo are included below.



13. Scoring and Prizes

- a.** Fish measurements will be rounded to the nearest inch based on what is clearly visible in a submitted and accepted photo.
- b.** Tiebreakers
 - i.** Fish measurements of the tied participants will be rounded to the nearest ½ inch in the event of a tiebreaker.
 - ii.** If there is still a tie after the procedure in b.i., the angler with the largest submitted fish will be deemed the winner.
 - iii.** If there is still a tie after the procedure in b.ii., the angler with the smallest submitted fish will be deemed the winner.

- c. Tournament Competition-** Participants will be scored on their 5 largest submitted fish, no matter the species. Please note the below exceptions which help equalize the average length between species in the tournament and in the waterbodies included in this tournament:
 - i.** Walleye- A maximum of 3 walleye can be submitted. A participant may submit any other specie(s) for their 4th and 5th fish.
 - ii.** Yellow Perch- Participants may submit yellow perch for all 5 of their scored fish.
 - iii.** Largemouth Bass- Participants may submit largemouth bass for all 5 of their scored fish.
 - iv.** Rainbow Trout- A maximum of 3 rainbow trout can be submitted. A participant may submit any other specie(s) for their 4th and 5th fish.
 - v.** Kokanee Salmon- Participants may submit kokanee salmon for all 5 of their scored fish.
- d.** If a participant does not have a submission for 1 of their 5 fish slots, that slot will be scored with 0 inches. For example, if John catches and submits 3 walleye and 1 perch, John would have 4 fish to be scored. Since he didn't submit a 5th fish to be scored, it would be scored with 0 inches.
- e.** At the end of the tournament, participants will be ranked from the most inches from their caught and submitted fish to least. The participant with the most submitted inches will win.
 - i.** For example, if a participant submits a rainbow trout of 18 inches, a rainbow trout of 17 inches, a kokanee salmon of 11 inches, a walleye of 11 inches, a smallmouth bass of 10 inches, the participant's total inches that will be put towards their final score is 67 inches.
- f.** All participants will fish as individuals for this competition and submit fish separately, unless they are entered into the Knights of Columbus Challenge. Individuals may fish together, but will submit separate scores. For example, if Bill takes his son John fishing for the tournament, Bill and John will each submit up to 5 fish. They will not submit their combined 5 biggest fish.
 - i.** This includes participants registered together on a registration.
 - ii.** Knights of Columbus Challenge participants will submit up to 5 fish as a team, not as individuals.
- g. Small Fish Bonus Pot-** the shortest 1 fish measured in inches (does not matter from which species) will be eligible for a prize and will not count towards the participant's final inches fish total, so a participant could submit 5 fish for the main competition and 1 fish for the Small Fish Bonus Pot.
- h. Big Fish Bonus Pot-** the longest 1 fish measured in inches (does not matter from which species) will be eligible for a prize. It will also count towards the participant's final inches total.
- i. Knights of Columbus Challenge-** Each team must have at least one 1 dues paid member of the Knights of Columbus on it.
 - i.** If one of the members of the team is a Council's priest, deacon, or other ordained clergy members, the team will receive a 6" bonus towards their final score.
 - ii.** Each member of the team that has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for less than 1 year from June 1st, 2024, will earn the team a 4" bonus towards their final score.
- j. Beat the Staff Challenge-** All participants in the "tournament competition" from 13.b. are automatically entered in this challenge.
 - i.** If a participant's total submitted length is longer than the CSSM staff's combined best, they will win a prize.
- k.** Additional information and available prizes can be found on the tournament website at <https://www.cssmt.org/fishing-for-families/>.
- l.** Prizes earned will be delivered to the address included on the registration form.

14. Use of Watercraft

- a.** Use of watercraft is allowed in this tournament. Only watercraft registered (or unregistered if it meets Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks regulations, such as a manual powered kayak) in Montana are allowed to be used in this event unless approved by tournament officials. Usage of out-of-state watercraft not previously approved by tournament officials will result in immediate disqualification for the participants using the watercraft. For case-by-case watercraft approval, contact tournament organizers through the tournament website at <https://www.cssmt.org/fishing-for-families/>. All Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and US Coast Regulations regarding the registration and operation of a watercraft must be observed.
- b.** Participants accessing any body of water within the state of Montana that requires proof of inspection for aquatic invasive species must obtain this proof of inspection before they are eligible to participate in the tournament. This includes stopping at all roadside inspection stations. Proof of inspection must be retained by participants for the duration of the tournament.
- c.** Participants must clean, drain, and dry before and after the tournament to prevent transport and introduction of aquatic invasive species.

15. Substance Use

- a.** Use of alcohol, marijuana, or other mind-altering substances is prohibited during the time fishing is being conducted as a part of this tournament.

16. Sportsmanship, Honesty, and Respect

- a.** It is Catholic Social Services of Montana's belief that all life should be respected and as a participant in this tournament, you agree to respect others and exhibit good sportsmanship to anyone else you encounter while fishing in this tournament.
- b.** This tournament is a competition, but CSSM also wants participants to have fun. For a tournament of this format, it is important participants are honest with their photo submissions of fish caught. This includes, but is not limited to only submitting fish for that you caught for yourself or if submitting photos on someone else's behalf, only submitting photos of fish they themselves caught.

17. Withdrawal and Cancellation Policy

- a.** Entry fees will be refunded by check to participants who notify tournament organizers of their intention to withdraw or cancel their participation a minimum of ten (10) business days in advance. Transaction and postage fees will be subtracted from the refund at the participant's expense. Refunds will not be granted for withdrawals or cancellations made within ten (10) business days of the start of the event.

18. Violation Policy

- a.** Unsportsmanlike conduct, cheating, and any other violation will lead to the automatic disqualification of any offending participant. Any participant found violating the rules in this tournament regulations document will be automatically disqualified with no refund of entry fees. CSSM and tournament officials reserve the right at their discretion to deem any action that is not specifically addressed in these tournament rules as a violation if it offends any other participant or the integrity of the tournament and/or organization.

19. Photo and Video Release

- a.** I understand and agree that any and all photographs or videos taken and submitted during participation in this tournament which include me and any of my possessions (unless they

include sensitive material) may be used by tournament organizers, sponsors, or media without my prior consent and without royalties.

20. Communications

- a. All official tournament communications will be made by tournament organizers on the tournament website at <https://www.cssmt.org/fishing-for-families/> or by the email provided on your registration form.

21. Release of Liability

Fishing for Families is a charitable fishing tournament, starting June 1st, 2024, at 8:00am and ending June 9th, 2024, at 11:59pm, hosted by Catholic Social Services of Montana (CSSM). CSSM is located at 630 N Last Chance Gulch, Ste 2200, Helena, MT 59601.

1. By signing the tournament entry form for this event and in consideration of being permitted to participate in the activity described above, all participants on the entry form release and forever discharge CSSM, its owners, directors, officers, employees, agents, assigns, legal representatives, and successors from all manner of actions, causes of action, debts, accounts, bonds, contracts, claims, and demands for or by reason of any injury to person or property, including injury resulting in death of a participant, which has been or may be sustained as a consequence of a participant's participation in the activity described above, and not withstanding that such damage, loss, or injury may have been caused solely or partly by the negligence of the activity provider.
2. All participants understand that participation in the activity described above would not be permitted unless the entry form is signed by the submitter.
3. Concurrent Release- All participants acknowledge that this agreement is given with the express intention of effecting the extinguishment of certain obligations owed to a participant and with the intention of binding a participant's spouse, guardians, heirs, executors, administrations, legal representatives, and assigns.
4. Fitness to participate- All participants acknowledge that they do not have any physical limitations, medical ailments, physical or mental disabilities that would limit or prevent them from participating in the above activity. If required, a participant will obtain a medical examination and clearance.
5. Full and final settlement-
 - a. All participants hereby acknowledge and agree that this agreement has been carefully read and understood and the agreement is being freely and voluntarily executed.
 - b. All participants understand that with the submitted signing the entry form, all participants agree to be forever prevented from suing or otherwise claiming against CSSM for any property loss or personal injury that a participant may sustain while participating in or preparing for the above activity.
 - c. All participants have the opportunity to seek independent legal advice prior to the entry being signed.
 - d. This agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties to this agreement and the terms of this agreement are contractual and not a mere recital.
6. This agreement is governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the state of Montana.

Lakes included in the tournament are noted by a purple star.



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