

New River Paddle Fishing Tournament Regulations 2017

Dates

Tournament is Friday, July 14th – Saturday, July 15th; camping until Sunday, July 16th at 10:00 a.m. In the event of extreme weather or high water, the tournament will move to Friday, August 4th – Saturday, August 5th.

Participation

Participation is open to anyone 18 years of age or older. Minors are eligible to participate with a parent or legal guardian signature. By entering, all participants agree to assume all risks of personal injury, death, damage or loss of property and further agree to indemnify Back Country Ski and Sport, Inc., Montgomery County Parks and Recreation, its members, agents, and sponsors harmless from and against all claims, liabilities, and causes of action resulting directly or indirectly from participation in the event.

Registration

For 2017 registration, participants are required to pre-register; registration will not be allowed past the June 23, 2017 11:59:59 p.m. EST deadline. Entries will be limited this year, for enjoyment of all participants. Registration is available by phone to Montgomery County Parks and Recreation – (540) 382-6975, or at Back Country Ski and Sport, Inc. in Salem, VA and Blacksburg, VA, or online at www.bcski.com. Again- late registration is not allowed this year. All participants must sign the medical release waiver at check in. Check in will be at Tournament Headquarters only.

Captains Meeting/Check In

There will be no scheduled Captains Meeting this year; any questions can be addressed during check in. Each participant must check in at Tournament Headquarters upon arrival, at which participants will be provided a fish ruler unless providing their own. Check in as at Tournament Headquarters only, and will not be at any other location.

Fishing License

All participants must have an appropriate fishing license. Out-of-state participants should check with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for a non-resident freshwater fishing license. All participants must follow rules set by the VDGIF. See www.dgif.virginia.gov for state rules and regulations.

Safety

Virginia law requires a coast guard approved PFD (life jacket) must be in the watercraft at all times and to have an available light source, if on the water before daylight. It is highly advisable that all participants wear a PFD and a proper form of eye protection. All participants are required to take responsibility for themselves, their actions, and their equipment.

Eligible Watercraft

Includes canoes, kayaks and inflatable raft. Watercraft may only be powered by a paddle or oar. Electric or combustion motors and the use of sails are prohibited. Hobie, Native Watercraft, or other pedal drive systems are allowed.

Location/Launching

The 2017 tournament is open to the entirety of the New River in Virginia. Tournament Headquarters is located off of McCoy Road on private property (2076 Big Falls Rd, Blacksburg, VA 24060, same location as previous years). Be advised, while there are no restrictions to areas participants may fish on the New River in Virginia, the tournament provided shuttle will only run on one section of the New River, deemed Section 1.

Section 1 will be from Whitethorne Public Boat Landing to the Tournament Headquarters. This 5 1/2 mile stretch of the New River is considered an easy section, posing little to no hazards. The tournament provided shuttle will cover this section of the New River only and shuttle service begins Saturday afternoon.

Bass anglers may not launch before 5:30 a.m. and must complete check in process prior to launch.. Anglers participating in the Midnight Musky Challenge may launch no earlier than 5:00 p.m. Friday. Only bass caught after 5:30 a.m. on Saturday will be scored. Musky caught and photographed between 5:00 p.m. on Friday and 3:00 p.m. Saturday will be scored. Anglers are not required to run Section 1 of the New River, participants may fish anywhere on the New River in Virginia.

Midnight Musky Challenge

Anglers who want to try their luck at landing a Musky...and getting a photograph of it from their boat may add the Musky Challenge to their registration for an additional fee. Largest Musky wins the competition and to the winner goes the Top Secret Musky Challenge Grand Prize. Anglers may put on no earlier than 5:00 p.m. Friday and check in no later than 3:00 p.m. Saturday. The same catch-photo-release rules apply for this category of the tournament. Keep in mind that any bass caught before 5:30a.m. Saturday will not be scored.

Fishing

During competition, contestants must abide by all regulations stated by the VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the state of VA. During the stated fishing time anglers may not receive aid from others in casting, baiting, fighting, or landing fish. Contestants may receive aid with tangled lines, tying knots, removing hooks and photographing their fish. All fish must be caught on rod and reel via hook and line from watercraft. Permitted baits may include natural or artificial so long as they meet the requirements of the VADGF. Prohibited: use of game fish as bait. No snagging, gigging, trout lines, jug-hooks, seine, drift, or other nets are allowed. Nets may be used to land fish. All fish must be released. Anglers competing in the fly division may only have fly fishing equipment on their craft.

Scoring

All fish will be scored by photos taken via catch-photo-release.

Adult Spinning Category—the total sum in inches of the longest two bass. There must be a difference of 1 inch between fish. Artificial lures only for this category.

Adult Open Category—the total sum in inches of the longest two bass. There must be a difference of 1 inch between fish. Artificial lures and live bait allowed.

Fly Category—the total sum in inches of the two longest bass. Fly tackle only.

Musky Challenge – Largest Musky, artificial lures and live bait allowed.

Musky Fly Challenge- Largest Musky caught with fly rod.

Junior Category (16 and under)—Longest fish, artificial lures and live bait allowed.

All fish must be measured with a tournament-provided measuring device or a Hawg Tough; if providing your own measuring device, please bring it to check in for approval. All photos except for two biggest fish and boat at put-in must be deleted upon weigh in.

The Musky categories are add-on categories, to be added to one of the adult categories. Multiple category registration (ie. Fly and Adult Open Category) is prohibited. Participants in different categories in the same boat is allowed.

Weigh In

Weigh in will start with first entree, and end at 3:00 p.m. Saturday. Participants may still enter photos after 3:00 p.m. with a deduction of 1/4 inch for every minute after 3:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. After 4:30 p.m. no more entrees will be permitted. Tournament officials will use a computer and memory card reader to view pictures of fish for the photo weigh in. Participants are requested to make it convenient for judges to find photos, to ensure a speedy weigh in process.

Photo-Release

Proper photo scoring requires that each contestant take a picture of his or her boat prior to launching. In all pictures, fish must be shown lying flat on the official or approved measuring device with the fish's mouth at the "0" and the tail being in an un-pinched position. Fish must be measured with mouth closed. Scoring and winning photographs remain the sole ownership of Back Country Ski and Sport, Inc. and Montgomery County Virginia Parks and Recreation Department and may be used at their discretion. Contestants grant Back Country Ski and Sport, Inc. and Montgomery County Virginia Parks and Recreation Department the unconditional right to use their name, and photographic likeness in connection with Back Country Ski and Sport, Inc. and Montgomery County Virginia Parks and Recreation Department tournaments, promotions, articles, and press releases without entitlements to any royalties or other compensation in connection with their use. Tournament officials will use a computer and memory card reader to view pictures of fish for the photo weigh-in.

Sportsmanship

Contestants are expected to exhibit high levels of conduct prior to, during, and after the event. Use of alcohol or illegal substances is prohibited at anytime during or prior to the event.

Camping

Camping will be allowed with an additional charge at the Tournament Headquarters starting 5:00 p.m. Friday and Ending at 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning. Please designate whether you wish to camp at the time of registration as there are limited spaces this year. Camping will be in **DESIGNATED AREAS ONLY**. Use of alcohol or illegal substances is prohibited at anytime during or prior to the event. We are sharing space with a separate event this year so we must be respectful of their space and presence. The gate will be closed and locked at 10:00 a.m. Sunday July 16th so please plan ahead and be ready to leave early.

Protest

All protests must be made in writing and submitted to a tournament official prior to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Rule Changes and Enforcement

Tournament officials have exclusive rights to interpretation and enforcement of all rules. All rule changes, infractions, and disqualification decisions will be made solely by the Tournament officials and are not subject to appeal.