

# 2025

## MID OHIO SAUGEYE TRAIL

### TOURNAMENT RULES

#### 1. RULES AND RULE CHANGES

These rules will remain unchanged unless otherwise notified at the Captain's meeting. Interpretation of these rules will be at the discretion of the Tournament Director and the Rules Committee. Solely, the Rules Committee, which consists of the Tournament Director and four **M.O.S.T.** board members, shall be the interpreter of all rules. Every competitor is expected to participate in the marshalling of the field in order to maintain the highest integrity to the competition. Any incidents observed during tournament hours shall be reported to the Rules Committee, for further investigation. In the event, it is determined a violation occurred; daily and/or tournament weight will be forfeited as well as the entry fee. The rules and the interpretations of them will be final and not open to protest.

#### 2. SPORTSMANSHIP

Entrants must conduct themselves in a true sportsmanlike manner at all times. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Courtesy and ethics of the highest standard are the norm, not the exception. Remember that you not only represent yourselves, but all tournament anglers and competitive fishing. Any rude or insulting type of behavior will be subject to disqualification or penalties enforced. Any team receiving a citation, for a violation in their boat, from any law enforcement agency, on the day of the tournament, will be disqualified for that tournament.

#### 3. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

It is the contestant's responsibility for knowing and abiding by all **M.O.S.T.**, local and state regulations, which pertain to the **M.O.S.T.** tournament waters. Contestants must enter as a two person team. Teams may have a single participant in all but one qualifier through out the year. Any person, 10 to 17 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. The Tournament Director and/or the Rules Committee have the right of entry refusal or the expulsion from the tournament for any reason.

#### 4. PARTNER SUBSTITUTION

Each team will be allowed **partner substitution** during qualifying and championship events. Only team members are allowed in the boat during tournament hours. All substituting partners must be club members.

#### 5. ENTRY INFORMATION

A \$25.00 club membership must be purchased before entering any tournament. All participant memberships must be up to date and current to participate in any tournament. All memberships shall be purchased on a per year basis. The entry fee for all qualifying tournaments shall be \$100.00 (includes BIG FISH). Everyone shall be included in the BIG FISH POT. The entry fee for the championship shall be \$200.00 (includes BIG FISH) both days. **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN 7 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED TOURNAMENT, THIS INCLUDES THE CHAMPIONSHIP. ENTRIES NOT MEETING THIS DEADLINE WILL BE SUBJECT TO A \$25.00 LATE FEE. {NO EXCEPTIONS}**

#### 6. REFUNDS AND CREDIT

No refunds at any time. At the discretion of the tournament director a credit may extend in the case of a serious emergency or tragedy that has caused a team to miss a tournament. Credit must carry over to the same team during the current year or the following year if at season end.

## **7. CAPTAINS MEETING, INSPECTIONS, LAUNCH ORDER**

Mandatory captains meeting will be held before the start of all tournaments. At least one member from each team shall attend. All boats will be inspected prior to launching and will have a ribbon temporarily attached to mark it as a tournament boat. Launch order will be determined by one member of each team drawing a numbered chip at the captains meeting. After the draw of the numbered chip, one team member shall receive a boat number board for that specific event. This number is the team ID number for the day. That number board shall remain in their possession throughout the day's event. **The number board shall be returned at the time of weigh-in, if it is not returned, a penalty of \$10.00 shall be charged for replacement.**

## **8. FISH AND FISHING**

Tournament bag limit will six (6) fish per team with a minimum of 15" measured on "THE JUDGE" tournament ruler. State size and bag limits will always take precedent. Only eight (8) fish are allowed in the boat on tournament days. **Presentation of more than the tournament limit will result in a disqualification for that day.** All fish must be kept in aerated livewells or coolers to keep the fish alive and as fresh as possible for release. Use of stringers, wire fish baskets, boat bags, etc. is prohibited. Any fish mauled, frozen, stringered, injected with water, or other fluids containing foreign matter to add weight or showing white gills, soft flesh, sunken eyes, or gills that won't bleed will result in disqualification from the tournament. **Short fish that are presented at the weigh-in shall result in a disqualification for that day.** Dead fish will result in a **1 pound** per fish penalty. This will apply to total weight, and any fish being weighed for big fish. Tournament start shall be by order of the boat number board. Tournament hours will be from 7:00 – 3:00. **Teams must stop fishing at 3:00 pm, be in line to weigh fish by 3:45pm, after that time a 1 lb. per minute penalty will be instituted, after 15 minutes, disqualification.** Teams may pull their boats prior to the weigh in. If a competitor's boat breaks down another competitor MAY bring their fish to the weigh in or assist in a tow. Any disabled boat must notify the tournament staff by radio or phone. Fish must not be combined between teams. One team member shall remain with each team's fish at all times. Big fish winner shall be determined by the weight of a single fish. Only one fish per team is eligible for big fish.

## **9. SAFETY**

**All contestants must wear a Coast Guard approved PFDs while the boat is above trolling speed.**

**Also, Driver must wear kill switch when traveling over 5 mph.**

## **10. POINTS AND SCORING SYSTEM**

Scoring shall be determined by the pound weight of each team's catch during the tournament. Each team's total weight will determine the final tournament standings. If a tie occurs, any cash awards of the two finishers will be added together and divided equally to each team

Points will be awarded based on the place of finish (total fish weight). 200 points will be awarded to the team that finishes first in the qualifiers and 250 points each day in the championship, and will drop by two (2) point increments for each place after first. 100 points will be awarded to teams not weighing fish. Each team will be allotted one throw-out tournament. Therefore, only points for 3 qualifiers and the championship will count for Team of The Year Points.

## **11. TOURNAMENT WAIVER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

All contestants understand that in signing an entry form: you acknowledge you have received a copy of the rules and understand the rules. You also agree to hold harmless any and all of the tournament staff, the Tournament Director, any agencies, promoters or organizations assisting M.O.S.T. in the tournament operation. Furthermore, all contestants agree to waive all responsibility for injury, death, damage, liability, theft, fire or loss of any kind to entrants. I read, understand and agree to abide by the above rules and by signing the entry form is in fact signing a waiver form. All entries must be signed by both team members in order to participate.