

## **Midlands Striper Club Tournament Rules**

By fishing in a tournament sponsored by Midlands Striper Club, each participant, whether member or guest recognizes Midlands Striper Club is not responsible for any participant's safety. MSC has no control over the weather (or its effects), the acts of other boaters, the condition or hazards of the lake, or any number of unsafe conditions that may arise while fishing. Each participant of MSC tournaments understands the potential safety problems that may arise while fishing and voluntarily consents to participate knowing the risks involved.

### **Honesty**

A high degree of honesty and sportsmanship is required of all members at all times.

### **Entry**

Notification shall include the team name, captain, and number of team participants. Any team and/or team member who has not paid entry fees must notify the Tournament Director no later than midnight of the day prior to the tournament. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the team being disqualified from the tournament.

### **Fees**

In order to participate in a MSC points tournament, all participants are required to pay an entry fee of \$20.00 prior to the tournament. Entry fees should be paid at the meeting prior to the tournament. Payment of tournament fees must be received no later than the opening of the tournament scales for that month. To encourage family participation, children fifteen (15) and under are not required to pay an entry fee. In all other cases, everyone in the boat must be a paid tournament entrant. Failure to comply with this rule will result in all paid entrants in the boat being disqualified from the tournament.

### **Guests**

Guests may fish any tournament, but must fish with a sponsoring Active Member and must pay the tournament entry fee. Guests are eligible to perform or assist all activities necessary for the team as it participates in the tournament. Guest participation is limited to no more than three MSC meetings or tournaments before a guest will be requested to apply for full membership. Guide parties taking place during a tournament, and their guides, are considered ineligible.

Guides are not allowed to take guide parties during tournament hours while participating in a tournament.

## **Team of the Year**

1. Members are strongly encouraged to declare their teams and team captain at or prior to the January tournament weigh-in that is the first in the TOTY series.
2. Team of the Year scoring is based on where a team places relative to other participating teams for all of the team events throughout the year.
3. The first place team in each tournament shall receive 250 points. The 2nd place team shall receive 240 points with each place below earning five less points (points =  $250 - (\text{place} \times 5)$ ). For teams that tie in total weight, the weight of the largest fish shall be used to break the tie. If the weight of the largest fish is not sufficient to break the tie, then the ranking in team points from the previous tournament or year shall be used to break the tie. For new teams with no prior team tournament experience, a coin toss shall break the tie. No points will be awarded for finishes less than 49th place. Teams that participate but do not weigh any fish will all be awarded the points for one place lower than the team with the smallest creel. A participating team with no fish cannot receive more than 10th place points.
4. Team member additions and substitutions are allowed at the Captains discretion for any tournament provided a tournament director is informed of changes prior to the tournament and all team members pay the tournament fee.
5. If a team should disband during the course of the year, all accumulated points will remain with the designated team Captain.
6. The order of finish for the final team of the year tournament shall be used to break any ties in the final points standings.
7. Each member of the Team of the Year that fishes in at least 7 team tournaments receives a plaque honoring the accomplishment. Additional prizes may be awarded based on sponsorship of the yearlong competition.

## **Tournament Start**

All tournament boats may be in the water and proceed to their fishing site prior to tournament start time in lieu of a typical blast-off, but may not place any baited lines in the water before official "Lines-In" start time. Entrants must be prepared for a boat check if requested by a Tournament Director, Club Officer or their designee at any time during or immediately prior to a tournament. Official tournament start time will be the time as displayed on GPS devices. In the interest of safety, all entrants are requested to check in with a Tournament Director or Club Officer prior to leaving the water early if not attending the official weigh-in.

## **Tournament Hours**

Safe light is defined as 30 minutes preceding official sunrise for that day, and will be adjusted for starting tournaments to the closest hour or half-hour. The Tournament Director(s) may alter hours due to safe light or weather conditions and under special circumstances or tournament events. The tournaments will start with "Lines-In" as announced in advance by the tournament director/s and end with "Lines-Out" 8 hours later. All fish must be boated prior to the designated time for "Lines-Out", unless a fish is hooked prior to lines out in which case the fish may be boated even if it is past "Lines Out", but all other lines must be in boat. If a fish is hooked prior to "Lines Out" but boated after "Lines Out", then the boat Captain (or designee) shall immediately notify the Tournament Director as soon as practicable after the fish is boated. The scales will open 30 minutes after "Lines-Out" unless otherwise noted in the tournament schedule.

Tournaments are generally conducted on the 3rd Saturday of every month. Night tournaments, if any, hours will be generally 6:30 PM until 10 AM of the following day. It is the entrant's responsibility to be aware of the changes as announced by the Tournament Director(s). (Check forum, MSC website, Facebook page, and/or ask when paying your entry fee.)

## **Weigh-in**

The Tournament Director(s) will begin the weigh-in forty-five minutes after the "Lines-Out" time of the tournament. Once the Tournament Director(s) announce the scales are open, the team and/or a member of the team may their creel to the scales for weigh-in.

Upon presentation of a team's creel for weigh-in, the team designee shall give the Tournament Director(s) a fully completed weigh-in sheet. To receive TOTY points the team and/or a member of the team must be present at the weigh-in and must submit a completed team weigh-in sheet to the Tournament Director(s) at the weigh-in. Tournament Director(s) will not accept team weigh-in sheets prior to weigh-in or after the scales are closed. Failure to submit a completed team weigh-in sheet will result in that team receiving no TOTY points regardless of whether or not the team weighed fish.

The Tournament Director(s) will announce "Last Call" for tournament weigh-in three (3) times. If a member or member boat fails to weigh his or her fish by the third "Last Call," the member's or member boat's total catch will be disqualified.

## **Tournament Creel and Size Limits**

An entrant may possess the legal limit for the body of water fished during a tournament, but may weigh-in no more than the maximum number of fish allowed in the tournament. Teams will generally be allowed to weigh their 2 largest fish with a 21-inch minimum length unless alternative lengths and limits are announced by the tournament director/s prior to competition. Only fish of the genus *Morone* or hybridized crosses of the genus *Morone* can be weighed for tournament competition. All fish weighed must measure a minimum of 21 inches total length with the fish's mouth closed. In the event a team brings a fish of less than 21 inches to the official scales, that fish and the team's biggest fish will be disqualified. Alternate fish species and lengths may be weighed for special events as announced by the tournament director(s) prior to competition.

### **Tournament Payouts:**

Payouts will be a fixed amount of \$875.00 per tournament in the following breakout:

1st Place	\$275.00	Lady Angler	\$50.00
2nd Place	\$175.00	Youth Angler	\$50.00
3rd Place	\$125.00	Mid-Pack	\$25.00
Big Fish	\$150.00	Lowest Weight	\$25.00

If only one team catches a tournament legal fish, then that team shall receive the payouts for the top three (3) places, big fish, and lowest creel. If only two teams have tournament legal fish, then 3rd place prize money shall be split between the two teams. All tiebreakers shall be considered before payouts.

### **Tournament Challenge**

If an entrant is suspected of an unsportsmanlike or unethical act or acts, the entrant may be challenged by the Tournament Committee and may be required to take a polygraph test at club expense. Board of Directors will be the sole determiners as to disciplinary action taken, including loss of prize money and barring from future tournaments. (Any member believing they have knowledge of a possible infraction of the above tournament rules shall discreetly and privately bring the matter to the attention of the club president or one of the Board of Directors.)

### **VHF Marine Radio**

If an entrant's boat is equipped with a VHF marine radio, he or she may utilize the club channel for safety and tournament information. While MSC usually uses channel 72 as its designated channel, the Tournament Director(s) may change this designation under special circumstances or tournament events. It is up to each entrant to find out the designated channel prior to tournament start and to observe proper radio procedure.

Any member using profanity during a radio transmission may be subject to a point violation as per Section 4.a.2. of the club bylaws.