

# Lady of the Lake Muskie Tournament

## 2020 Tournament Rules & Regulations

**Tournament Date: October 17, 2020**

**IT IS EACH CONTESTANT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL OF THE LOTL TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

1. This is an open tournament to men, women and youth. Youth participants under the age of (18) must have their Release of Liability signed by parent/legal guardian.
2. Two anglers per boat, each person must be a tournament registrant. Each tournament is limited to 75 boats.
3. Entry Fee is \$200.00, which includes tournament entry, and big fish pool.
4. A tournament packet will be mailed out to the first angler listed on the tournament entry form approximately 1-2 weeks prior to the tournament. The packet will include:
  - a. Tournament Rules
  - b. Boat number stickers (To be affixed to the outboard motor.)
  - c. Three Muskie Release Forms (To be completed at the time a Muskie is caught on the day of the tournament.)
  - d. **Two 2020 Muskies Inc Waiver Forms. (These waiver forms are required to be completed, signed and returned by each angler prior to the tournament date. Scanned images or photos of the signed forms can be sent via email or text to one of the LOTL Tournament Officials: Jim Cejna: 630-370-5509 ([jimcej@comcast.net](mailto:jimcej@comcast.net)) and, Tom Flannery 708-307-6101 ([flannman13@aol.com](mailto:flannman13@aol.com))**
  - e. Lake Geneva Lake Map. (The map will identify the pre-tournament staging area in Williams Bay.)
  - f. Tournament angler's invasive species prevention rules from the Wisconsin DNR.
5. Day of Tournament Registration: 5:30 am to 6:30 am at Tournament Headquarters, (Adjacent to the Williams Bay public boat launch.)
6. Any request for entry fee refund must be received prior to September 30, 2020.
7. BOAT NUMBER ASSIGNMENTS: Starting positions will be assigned in the order that complete entry forms are received and based on postmark date. Starting positions will be posted on the Chicagoland Muskie Hunters website ([www.chicagolandmuskiehunters.org](http://www.chicagolandmuskiehunters.org)) from time to time as they are received.
8. NO LIVE OR DEAD NATURAL BAIT CAN BE USED DURING THE TOURNAMENT.
9. Motor trolling is permitted for this tournament. The maximum number of rods allowed per angler when motor trolling will be governed by the current Wisconsin DNR regulations for motor trolling on Lake Geneva.
10. Tournament waters include all of the contiguous waters of Lake Geneva.
11. Entrants are responsible for all launch fees.
12. All USCG, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources safety regulations apply. Tournament participants are strongly encouraged to wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) and use the appropriate motor kill switches while operating their large outboards (except when trolling).
13. Tournament Fishing Hours: 7:30 am to 4:00 pm
14. The Williams Bay Public Launch will be the central staging and tournament take off point. For safety reasons all of Williams Bay starting at Conference Point and Cedar Point north up to the Williams Bay Public Launch will be considered **"NO WAKE"** for all tournament boats during pre-staging, tournament start and ease out. (The "No Wake" period will end at 7:45 AM.) Participants must have starting numbers affixed to motors, and will be released based on boat number.

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- a. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE “NO WAKE START” RULE WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION, NO EXCEPTIONS.**
15. At the tournament start a live well check will be completed as participants pass by the Williams Bay take-off point. All boat compartment lids must be open for inspection. **YOU WILL BE HANDED A “LOTL VERIFICATION SEAL” AS EACH BOAT PASSES BY THE TAKEOFF POINT. THE VERIFICATION SEAL MUST TO BE USED FOR ALL REQUIRED FISH AND BUMP BOARD PHOTOS.** (See Rule #17 for further details regarding the proper photo display of the LOTL verification seal)
16. Fish must be hooked and played by one person and only that person may enter the fish in the contest. Assistance with landing fish is permitted.
- 17.** This will be a Catch, Photo and Release (CPR) tournament for all caught Muskies 30” or longer. Every tournament boat **MUST** have a mobile phone with a built-in digital camera. The camera must be capable of taking a clear photo of the fish, the contestant along with the release form and must be capable of either texting or emailing. **Three photos will be required: (1) A photo of the Muskie on the bump board with the LOTL issued verification seal visible on the board. (2) A photo of the angler holding the Muskie and the LOTL issued verification seal. (3) A photo of the completed release form.**
  - a. Release forms will be provided to each contestant as part of the tournament packet. As soon as you catch a fish and right after you have released the fish, you must fill out a LOTL Release Form that will be provided to you which will capture the boat number, angler name, time-of-day and length of the muskie (Down to the closest .25 inch).
  - b. Anglers **MUST** have an actual bump board (NOT A RULER OR MEASURING STICK), so your fish can be immediately released after the photo is taken, without delay.
  - c. Photos:
    - i. Mobile Phone with a digital camera - It is strongly suggested that you text your three photos to a LOTL tournament official immediately following the release of the fish in order to avoid delays during the tournament check-in. **PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR BOAT NUMBER AND THE NAME OF THE ANGLER WHO CAUGHT THE FISH IN YOUR TEXT.**
    - ii. The LOTL tournament official must be able to clearly read the measurement on the bump board. Check your camera to make sure you can clearly see that the nose of the fish is touching the end of the bump board, and that the tail & LOTL verification seal is in clear view.
      1. If the LOTL tournament official cannot clearly read the measurement or the LOTL verification seal, they will make their best determination and that decision will be the final measurement.
      2. The fish may not count - if the official cannot see the picture at all, the LOTL verification seal is not included in the photos, the fishes nose appears to not be touching the front of the board, or there is no picture at all.
  - d. Contestants must send the photo of the fully completed release forms along with the two digital photos for each fish registered no later than 4:15 PM on Tournament day. Late release forms and/or photos will not be accepted and will result in the catch being disqualified.

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- i. Note that digital photos taken with a smart phone include the time the fish was photographed. Dates and times will be reviewed along with the actual photos.
18. **NOTE THAT DUE TO CONCERNS WITH THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THIS WILL NOW BE A VIRTUAL TOURNAMENT IN ORDER TO LIMIT PERSON TO PERSON CONTACT. WE DO HAVE A NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WHO FALL INTO THE "AT RISK" CATEGORY FOR COVID-19. WITH THAT SAID WE ARE CANCELLING THE AWARDS BANQUET AND DINNER.**
19. Prize payout will be based on a 75-boat field. The number and dollar amount of prizes paid will be adjusted based on the actual tournament field if less than 75-boats.
  - a. If the actual boat field total is less than 25-boats on the day of the event, we will reduce the number of cash prize payouts from five (5) prizes down to three (3) prizes.
20. In case of ties, tied teams will split prizes. Each team is eligible for one prize only.
21. In the event that no qualifying muskies are caught during the tournament, we will draw boat numbers to determine prizes.
22. In case a contestant's position is challenged, a written protest must be provided to the Tournament Committee Immediately. Individuals concerned may be required to take a truth verification examination. All rules of the 1988 Polygraph Protection Act will be followed.
23. The tournament committee is final judge of all tournament rules.
24. Winners are responsible for any local, state and federal taxes. Payments over \$600 will require filling out IRS Form W-9.
25. Tournament winners will be contacted the day of the tournament via phone and/or text/email. Prize checks will be mailed to the winning teams. The tournament results will be posted to the [chicagolandmuskiehunters.org](http://chicagolandmuskiehunters.org) website within 24-hours of the conclusion of the tournament.
26. If there are any questions concerning the 2020 Lady of the Lake Muskie Tournament, please call one of the following LOTL Tournament Officials:  
Jim Cejna: 630-370-5509 ([jimcej@comcast.net](mailto:jimcej@comcast.net)), Tom Flannery 708-307-6101 ([flannman13@aol.com](mailto:flannman13@aol.com)).  
For those with marine radios, we will also be monitoring **channel 68** throughout the day.

**NOTE: TOURNAMENT RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK THE CHICAGOLAND MUSKIE HUNTERS WEBSITE AT [chicagolandmuskiehunters.org](http://chicagolandmuskiehunters.org) FOR THE MOST CURRENT RULES.**