

LUDINGTON



GANDER MOUNTAIN OFFSHORE CLASSIC Big Lake Sport Fishing Tournament July 17-20, 2008

PRO / AM RULES

See General Rules page for further clarification - Failure to be familiar with rules may result in disqualification
Captains' meeting at 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 18th, at Ludington Waterfront Park

2 DAY EVENT, Sat & Sun, July 19th & 20th No fishing after 2 pm Saturday, July 19th

3 DIVISIONS – Pro, Am, Big Fish - See entry form for details. All entries must fish from minimum 18 foot boat outside Ludington Harbor entrance.

RULES - When you submit your registration fee, you are required to read and understand completely all rules pertaining to this tournament. **Ignorance is no excuse!** Questions, call Capt. George at (231) 845-1779. Captains Meeting is held specifically for you to insure all participants are clear on rules and their interpretation.

OBSERVERS -Observers will be mandatory in Pro Division only. Each team must supply an observer over 18 years old each day. Strict rules will apply to observers and their responsibilities. **Observers** must attend Captain's Meeting. **Observers** will be required to be aboard assigned boats at 5:15 AM on tournament days. Failure to do so may result in the disqualification of the **OBSERVER'S TEAM** for that day. There will be no exceptions and no refunds for disqualified teams. **Observers** will be required to log each legal fish caught. **Observers** will insure compliance of all tournament rules. You may send a different observer each day, but all observers need to be at the Captain's Meeting. We will assign, as close as possible, observers on similar sized boats; however, observers may or may not be aboard the same boat both days. Some leeway must be allowed. **Observers** must have a watch synchronized to Tournament committee time. **Observers** will be required to log START and RETURN times (inside pier heads) for team assigned. At the discretion of Tournament Committee, observers may be placed on Amateur Division boats at any time during tournament hours. Protests must be submitted by no later than 1 hour after tournament ends for that day to be considered.

TOURNAMENT TIME – 6am -2 pm each day for all divisions. Boats will leave from just outside the pier heads at 6 am and be to the pier heads by 2 pm each day. Observers on Pro Team boats will be required to log exact times. No fishing after 2 pm on Saturday, July 19th unless tournament has been canceled for the day before minimum 4 hours of fishing. Spotters will be in place on the pierheads to check for boats returning late. Any late boats will be penalized 10 points for each minute late. When directed, listen to Channel 68 for exact countdown to 2 pm each day.

COMMUNICATION - Radio silence for this tournament for Pro Teams only. Cell phones, pagers, or other communication is prohibited during tournament times. **NO BOAT-TO-BOAT COMMUNICATION WHATSOEVER!** Tournament communication will begin on Channel 68. After tournament begins, Pro Team radios must be switched immediately to Channel 9. At 1:45 PM we will announce on Channel 9 to switch back to #68 for Tournament Countdown. No radio communication except to monitor Channel 9 for tournament official announcements or emergencies. Cell phones or pagers activated during tournament hours disqualifies the team immediately. No Side Bands, No CBs, No electronic communication whatsoever. There are no radio restrictions for Amateur division teams.

LOCATION - Captain's Meeting and Weigh-in at Ludington Waterfront Park.

CAPTAIN & CREW - A Captain for each team must be designated and identified on registration form. The number of fishermen may vary. The same fishermen do not have to fish both days. Pro Team observer may be used as team member if necessary for 9 rod limit, however his license becomes that team's responsibility.

BOAT SIZE - Boats must be at least 18' long and have a marine radio.

WEIGH IN – When you return with your catch proceed immediately to weigh station for weigh-in. Boats with mandatory observers may transport their coolers from their dock. Transported coolers must be at weigh station no later than 1 hour after tournament ends each day. After the weigh-in you cannot fish for the remainder of the day. Weigh-in begins at 10 am. Please drain coolers before weigh-in; excess water or loose ice may result in a 5 pound deduction from overall weight.

LIMITS for PRO TEAMS - 12 fish no cull limit each day, 10" minimum size limit, 20" for Lake Trout. A maximum of 3 legal limits per species per day (9 Salmon max) can be caught, 12 fish maximum per day. For example, if you have in your box 9 Salmon and your next fish caught is a 30 LB Salmon it must be returned. Same scenario applies with Lake Trout. You must keep your first 9 legal Lake Trout. Please clarify any questions at Captain's Meeting. All fish must be brought in as quickly as possible and every effort must be made to land each fish with your net. When you reach your 12 fish limit, you are done for the day and must immediately pull rods and return to the Harbor. If you fill your 3 man limit with any species but do not yet have your 12 fish total, you may continue fishing, however, excess fish of the species you have reached your limit for must be returned at once, no matter what size they are. When you reach your 12 fish limit, Observer must list exact time on Observer Sheet and Captain and Observer both must sign. Observers note that every effort must be made to net and land each fish. This is the no cull division. Shaking off fish or returning fish without measuring is cheating and you will be disqualified with no refund. The exact length of all undersized fish returned must be verified by observer. Any boat can fish in Pro Division.

LIMITS FOR AMATEUR TEAMS - Best 10 fish, 2 man limit, okay to sort. Penalties apply at weigh station for short fish or too many per species for 2 man limit (see Tournament Cooler info for penalty procedures).

BIG FISH LIMITS - Weigh one fish (heaviest fish) per day. Catch all you want!

TOURNAMENT COOLER – PRO TEAMS - Please drain excess water from coolers. Observer and one team member will be required to accompany tournament cooler to weigh station and insure weigh-in corresponds with Observer's catch report data. No more than 12 minimum 10-inch, (20-inch Lake Trout), may be in tournament cooler at weigh station. Any combination of 12 fish cannot exceed 9 Lake Trout, 9 Salmon, 9 Steelhead, or 9 Brown Trout. Extra fish or fish under 10 inches, (20 inches Lake Trout), will be disallowed, PLUS a penalty of one fish will be deducted from your catch for each extra or under size fish you have beginning with the smallest of that species. Questionable sized fish will be measured at weigh station. Weigh Station measurement may supercede team measurement. Short fish will be disqualified and penalties will be assessed. Observers are required to closely observe the measure of marginal sized fish. Fish less than 10", (20" for Lake Trout), must be promptly returned, fish 10" and over must be kept except Lake Trout which must be 20". Stretching fish, squashing fish, breaking their neck or any manipulation to alter the length of the fish will disqualify team. Observer must record exact length of fish that need to be measured during tournament hours. Captain, observer and weigh-master, will sign weigh-slips. Once weigh-slip is signed by all, there can be no change. Re-weighing is not allowed after weigh slip has been signed.

TOURNAMENT COOLER – AMATEUR TEAMS –Please drain excess water from cooler. Same as for Pros except best 10 fish only - 2 legal limits - 10 inch size limit, 20 inch for Lake Trout - OK to sort - drop fish at Weigh Station immediately upon return.

TOURNAMENT COOLER – BIG FISH Division – Please drain excess water from cooler. Weigh your heaviest fish only - Blocked or bagged ice - catch all you want! Bring immediately to weigh station.

TOURNAMENT SCORES – PRO & AM - 1 Point per pound, 10 Points per fish using our certified tournament scales. Fractional weight of .05 - .50 lbs. will not count for points, .55 -.95 will count as 1 point. Our scales weigh in increments of 5/100's of a pound. **For Big Fish** contest, exact weight of fish will be used.

TIE BREAKERS - When points and pounds are used, total weight will break ties. If still tied, biggest fish will be used if that weight is available for all boats involved. If not, prize will be split. **BIG FISH ONLY** prizes will be split. Place prizes will be added together (ex 2nd & 3rd) and then split.

If you have any other questions, please call Chamber office at 1-800-783-4456.