

# 2026 – 41<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL TREELAND CHALLENGE OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES

## I. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- A. Any properly licensed person is eligible to enter the 2026 – 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Treeland Challenge.
  - a.i.1. Except the immediate families of Treeland Cottages, Inc. & Pat's Landing.
- B. Entry fees if postmarked or purchased online by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 are: \$95/Single, \$170/Spouses, \$25/Child. If your registration is postmarked or purchased online after April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 fees are: \$105/Single, \$180/Spouses, \$25/Child.
- C. Anyone age 15 or under on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 is considered a child.
  - a.i.1. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- D. Entry fee includes tournament hat, daily door prizes, Thursday Brat & Beer Feed and the Saturday Picnic & Awards.
- E. Professional guides may fish the tournament if registered and professionally guiding a registered contestant.
  - a.i.1. Professional guides are any currently licensed guides in Wisconsin who receive financial gain from their guide service.
- F. Tournament contestants limited to the first 300 entries received.
  - a.i.1. If the tournament is not filled entries will be accepted until 8 PM, Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

## II. REQUIREMENTS

- A. **NO REFUNDS ON TOURNAMENT ENTRIES. ALL ENTRIES FINAL AND NON-TRANSFERRABLE. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- B. All Wisconsin fishing and boating regulations apply.
- C. Entrants must sign a waiver (on registration form) to hold the sponsors of the tournament, their agencies and agents, harmless for any death, injury, damage, theft, fire or any loss that might result from participation in this tournament.
  1. If you are applying online, accepting the terms and conditions is considered a valid signature.
- D. All occupants of a boat must be registered contestants to fish "The Challenge".
  1. Anyone fishing in a boat with an unregistered individual during fishing hours will be disqualified.
- E. If in the sidepot, all occupants of a boat must be registered in the sidepot bet for any sidepot fish entered from a boat.
- F. All contestants must wear the official tournament hat while fishing.
- G. All contestants give permission to use photos of entrants and their catches for promotion of tournament.

## III. TOURNAMENT BOUNDARIES

- A. Tournament waters are the Chippewa Flowage, including all bays, sloughs and rivers which are accessible without portage.

## IV. TOURNAMENT FISHING & FISH REGISTRATION HOURS ARE:

- A. Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 6AM until 11AM and 4PM until 9PM
- B. Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 6 AM until 11 AM and 4 PM until 9 PM
- C. Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 6 AM until 4 PM
- D. All fish must be registered or in line to be measured by fishing session ending time.
- E. All registrants MUST wear a tournament hat while fishing registering fish.

## V. OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT WEIGH-IN STATIONS

- A. Treeland Resort & Pat's Landing Resort

## VI. RELEASE DIVISIONS ONLY

- A. The maximum entries are three walleye per day and three largemouth bass per day.
- B. All fish are registered by length to the nearest 1/4" rounded down. (Example 3/8" = 1/4")
- C. All walleyes must be a 15" minimum length, slot fish size 20" – 24".
- D. If you catch a walleye 20" – 24", or a second or third walleye in one day over 24" you must:
  1. Take a photo with the tournament sticker, and a legible bump board under the fish. The nose of the fish must be at the "zero" end and the tail at the point of measurement. The measurement must be clear. Video is also acceptable.
  2. Your fish will be disqualified if the measurement is not clear and the sticker is not in the picture with the fish.
  3. The fish must then be released live and the angler must bring the photo into either Treeland's or Pat's Landing to register during fish registration hours.
  4. If there is a discrepancy with the legibility of the photo, the registration staff has the right to disqualify the photo.
  5. There will be daily tournament stickers to be put on your bump board, for each fishing session. Thursday AM, Thursday PM, Friday AM, Friday PM, Saturday. The stickers will be provided with your tournament hats.
  6. The sticker colors will be announced just prior to each fishing session. Contestants can find the session sticker colors at the following places:
    - Announced after door prizes
    - Will be posted on [www.treelandresorts.com](http://www.treelandresorts.com) homepage, and Treeland Challenge Webpage.
    - Will be posted on Treeland Resort and Pat's Landing Resort Facebook page and Instagram page.
    - Contestants can also call Treeland's (715-462-3874) or Pat's Landing (715-945-2511).
  7. If you do not have a bump board, Treeland's will supply one for your boat.
- E. All largemouth bass must be a 12" minimum length or longer.

- F. Each walleye or largemouth bass entered qualifies the contestant for a chance in the drawing for the grand prize drawings in both the adult and the children's division.
- G. In the event of a tie, the tied anglers next largest fish will determine the winner. If still tied, cards will be drawn with aces high.

**VII. FISHING**

- A. Only those fish caught on hook and line in a legal manner will be eligible. Nets, traps, spearing, gaffing, bow and arrow and other such methods are not allowed.
- B. Live bait, artificial bait and lures are allowed.
- C. An aerated live well must be used for holding and transportation of all fish, walleyes and/or largemouth bass, to be registered at either weigh-in station, bringing fish in in a timely manner for registration.
- D. Fish are subject to a complete inspection if deemed necessary by a tournament official. All fish must swim away in a healthy manner and is subject to officials' rule.

**VIII. PRIZES**

- A. Release walleye division pays out 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places by length.
- B. Release largemouth bass division pays out 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places by length.
  - 1. Entrants may enter fish in both divisions (maximum of 3 for each species, for a total of 6 combined per angler, per day).
  - 2. Entrants are allowed only one place prize in each division.
  - 3. Dual victory by one entrant in the same division will allow the entrant their choice of prize. Prizes after "2." above will go to the next winner in that division. All other winners will be moved accordingly.
- C. Release Grand Prize Drawing
  - 1. Contestants receive a ticket for every fish registered in the tournament.
  - 2. One entry per registered/released fish.
  - 3. Children's entries are not eligible for the Adult's Division Grand Prize.
  - 4. Children's entries will have their own Children's Grand Prize division.
  - 5. Contestants must be present at the drawing to win.
- D. Daily Door Prizes
  - 1. Drawings take place: 8:15 PM Wednesday, 1 PM Thursday, 1 PM Friday and 6 PM Saturday. You must be present to win.
  - 2. All entrants are eligible for prizes every day of the tournament.
  - 3. Each contestant's name will be placed back into the drawing bucket each day for the daily door prizes.
  - 4. Every child will receive a special door prize on the final day of the tournament.
  - 5. Contestants must be present at Pat's Landing or Treeland Resort to win door prizes on Wednesday and Friday. Contestants must be at Treeland Resort on Thursday and Saturday to be eligible to win door prizes.
  - 6. Your contestant number is printed inside of your tournament hat brim and will be called if you have won.
  - 7. One Daily Grand Prize is awarded daily. Winners of the Daily Grand Prize are only eligible to win once in the current year's tournament.
- E. Lady Lunker Division
  - 1. Prizes for the Lady Lunker are awarded for the largest walleye and largest largemouth bass caught during the tournament by a female (both divisions winners determined by length).
  - 2. If someone in the Lady Lunker Division is also a winner in the overall walleye or largemouth bass division, she has her choice of award that she would like to take. If she chooses to receive the prize in the overall walleye/largemouth bass division, the prize in the Lady Lunker Division will go to the next largest fish by length.
  - 3. If she chooses to take the prize in the Lady Lunker Division, the placement in the overall tournament will go to the next largest fish by length.

**IX. SIDEPOT BET**

- A. Optional for all anglers, but all anglers in the boat must be in the pot to be eligible to win.
  - 1. Anglers will be disqualified from the sidepot if fishing with someone that is not registered in the sidepot.
- B. Sidepot is split 1/6 to the largest walleye and largest bass registered each day of the tournament.
- C. Optional sidepot bet is \$30 total per angler for all three days. Pay out equals 1/6 pot daily to walleye and bass.

**X. PROTESTS**

- A. Written protests must be made prior to 4:00 PM Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
- B. Parties involved may be called before the protest committee.
- C. Committee will meet within two hours of any protest being formally presented.
- D. A protest fee of \$25 will be required to accompany any formal protest. This fee will be returned if found to be valid by committee. If the protest is invalid, the protest fee goes to the alleged violator.
- E. Any contestant under protest may continue fishing, however, the catch will not be tallied until the protest is resolved.
- F. The tournament committee, acting in the best interests of the tournament, may initiate a formal protest against a contestant at any time during the tournament.
- G. The decision of the tournament committee is final in all cases.

**XI. SPIRIT OF THE RULE**

- A. All rules will have loopholes. It is our intention to provide an honest, sportsmanlike tournament. In the interest of good sportsmanship, contestants are reminded that the “spirit of the rule” will prevail in all judgment cases.

**XII. MISCELLANEOUS**

- A. All decisions of the judges are final.
- B. The tournament committee reserves the right to reject any entries.
- C. Any infraction of tournament rules will call for immediate disqualification.
- D. The tournament committee reserves the right to use any legal means to authenticate the fish registered in each division.

**XIII. NORTHERN DIVISION**

- A. Entrants will be given a ticket for each northern harvested for a chance to win \$100 cash prize, drawn on Saturday.
- B. Per Wisconsin fishing regulations, entrants are limited to 10 Northern per day with a possession limit of 10.
  - a. Harvesting northern **24” and under** is strongly encouraged.
  - b. Entrants are responsible for cleaning their own Northern and are welcome to use fish cleaning houses at Treeland’s.