

2025 Winter Pike Ice Derby Rules & Regulations

- 1) If you haven't pre-registered, MFN Fishing will accept registrations on Saturday, February 22nd, 2025, from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Forestry.
- 2) The Derby package will be given to you at check-in on February 22nd, 2025, starting at 6:00 a.m.
- 3) **HOURS OF THE DERBY:** 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Mattagami Lake, only Live Pike caught during these times will qualify as a counting fish.
- 4) **ABSOLUTELY NO drilling of holes before 8:00 a.m. Saturday, February 22nd, 2025, or you will be disqualified.** Holes will not be pre-drilled, if you do not have the means to drill your hole, derby officials will be available to drill some for you.
- 5) On the morning of the derby, you must check in at the Trailer for inspection. Failure to check in will disqualify your fish from being entered into the Derby.
- 6) If you are fishing in a fish hut, you must tell the official, and you will only get your ticket when they have inspected your hut. (This rule does not apply to portable fish huts).
- 7) NO pre-fishing will be allowed in the boundaries on Friday, February 21st, 2025. We are going to be patrolling the lake.
- 8) One registration allows you to fish a **maximum of two lines/holes.**
- 9) **Only the name on the registration can bring fish to weigh in.** You can transfer your registrations to someone else, but we are not responsible for any winning agreement with the original owner of the ticket. The initial owner of the ticket must contact the Derby officials for any changes before February 21st, 2025.
- 10) Non-participant anglers are allowed to be with a participant angler, BUT we respectfully ask the anglers who are not registered, not to fish in the boundaries during derby hours. **If a group of anglers is caught with fishing holes with no flag, they will be disqualified.**
- 11) Participants must fish within the designated boundaries.
- 12) All participants must affix their flag sticks next to the holes in which they are fishing. If fishing in a hut, a flag must be affixed outside or affixed on the hut.
- 13) There is no minimum age for fishing. However, all minors must be with a parent or legal guardian during the derby, and a license must be presented when weighing. Participants must be 18 or older to be eligible for Early Bird, Registration, and Random Prize Draws.
- 14) Ontario Fishing regulations will be in effect. In Ontario, you must have a valid license or treaty card. If a derby official should find a participant fishing in violation of these regulations, that person will be disqualified from the derby. For all aboriginal members who reside outside of Treaty #9, by request, we will have a universal letter stating they are allowed to fish at our derby.
- 15) **FISH WEIGH-IN PROCESS:** The fish will only be weighed by derby officials. The process is as follows:
 - a. You must show your bracelet or ticket at the weigh station (which was provided at the time of inspection).
 - b. All pike must be alive and be brought to the weigh-in station by the participant who caught it.
 - c. Derby officials will weigh and determine the time the fish was caught. To ensure the fish hasn't been tampered with, every fish will be cut open after being weighed.
 - d. The information will be recorded by the derby official and initialled by the angler for verification.
 - e. Any fish brought to the weigh-in station will count as part of your daily possession limit as per Ontario Fishing Regulations. **The fish can be kept or donated to the Elderly of Mattagami First Nation.**
- 16) IN CASE OF A TIE: The prize will be given to the person who caught the fish first.
- 17) ***NEW*** Anglers are permitted to present fish for weigh-in only if they meet or exceed a **minimum length of 24 inches**. Any fish measuring less than 24 inches will not be accepted. The length is determined from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail with the fish's mouth closed.

- 18) Participants cannot win more than one prize listed from 1st to 4th place.
- 19) All prizes will be presented at the Community Complex at around 5 pm
- 20) The prize board is based on 200 registrations.**
- 21) All Pike Derby entry fees are non-refundable after February 15th, 2025.
- 22) If the Derby is cancelled, 1st place and all the sponsored prizes will be awarded through a random draw of those participants who have pre-registered AND pre-paid (payment must be RECEIVED no later than Feb. 23rd, 2025).
- 23) Promoters and organizations assisting in the derby operation, their agencies, and agents are not responsible for death, injury, damage, liability, theft, or fire on any participant entries.
- 24) upon entering the derby, each participant understands and agrees to Rule #23.
- 25) In case of discrepancies or complaints, the Derby Official's decision shall be final. No other person can be considered a spokesperson for the rules during the derby.
- 26) At all times, before, during, and after the derby, you are responsible for your safety, actions, gear, and equipment.
- 27) PLEASE DO NOT LITTER. GARBAGE BARRELS WILL BE PLACED AT THE WEIGH-IN STATION. As per Ontario Law, leaving refuse, including dead fish or fish remains, is illegal on the ice.
- 28) Failure to comply with the contest rules will subject a participant to be disqualified.
- 29) The organizer may change the event format if required before, during, and after each event.
- 30) The derby officials have the right to delay or shorten the derby, subject to weather and/or safety conditions.
- 31) All participants must exhibit good sportsmanship and appropriate conduct during the derby.
- 32) All prizes are final, and no cash substitutes or prize exchanges will be allowed.
- 33) Participants agree upon entry to the derby that they may be photographed for the promotion of the MFN Fishing Pike Derby event, and MFN Fishing reserves the right to use any or all photographs without compensation.
- 34) Live bait, artificial lures, manufactured baits, pork rind, and commercially available liquid attractants may be used.
- 35) Not allowed to use underwater cameras. Live transducers will be permitted.

Derby Officials : Jessica Naveau 705-221-4248 & Crystel Vallée 705-363-7024

Movement of baitfish

To help protect our waters from harmful invasive species and fish diseases, four BMZs limit the movement, possession, and use of baitfish and leeches (see bait). Baitfish or leeches, whether live or dead, may not be transported into or out of a BMZ with some limited exceptions. The following rules apply when using baitfish or leeches for fishing.

Receipts

Anglers using or possessing baitfish or leeches for fishing in a BMZ where their primary residence is not located (see general regulations), must obtain them from the holder of a commercial license and be able to immediately produce a legible receipt upon request by a conservation officer whether live or dead, baitfish or leeches can only be possessed or used within two weeks following the date on which they were obtained. The receipt must list the location and date obtained from the commercial license holder, the business name (if applicable), the commercial license number, and the quantity of baitfish or leeches obtained.

Receipts are not required when an angler uses baitfish or leeches in the BMZ where their primary residence is located, in the Great Lakes or Ottawa River, or for other forms of bait (such as worms).