



It is Tournament Week so time to send out some details on logistics for the upcoming event this Saturday, 4/17. We'll try to answer all your questions below, and there is a lot of information below, but if there is something which is unclear please do not hesitate to ask - reply to the e-mail or give us a call.

Rules & Release Form:

The final version of the rules for the 4/17 tournament are posted on the Striper Mafia Web-page (<http://www.stripermafia.com/tournament-rules.html>). Please ensure that all participants on the team have read and are familiar with all the rules - and if you have any questions, PLEASE ASK & CLARIFY before the start of the tournament.

Captain's Meetings:

- We will hold ONE Captain's meetings for this event. You must have a team representative attend this meetings The Captain's Meeting will be held at Smith Mountain Building Supply, 13080 Booker T Washington Hwy, Hardy, VA 24101, from 5:00 pm to 8:00pm. Come any time during those windows, and it should only take 10-15 minutes or so depending on those in line in front of you. Please help us adhere to social distancing during the Captain's Meeting & check-ins.
- At the close of the Captain's meeting, no additional entries will be accepted. If absolutely you cannot make the meeting, please contact **Craig Miller (540-520-6532)** to discuss if alternate arrangements can be made, but PLEASE plan to try and make it during the scheduled window.
- Each team must send at least one team member to a Captain's Meeting and turn in a **completed Release form with names and signatures of ALL team members participating in the tournament.**
- We will have copies of the Rules & Release forms at the Captain's Meeting, but it will expedite things by having it pre-completed before arriving.
- At the Captain's Meeting each team will receive an approved measuring device and tournament token card. The token card will have a Sharpie attached which will be used to write the token code on the card once announced just prior to Lines-In. These **MUST** be returned after the tournament else the team will be assessed a \$50 fee.

Tournament Entry Fees:

- Entry fees (and optional Big Fish fee) are to be made in **CASH ONLY**, paid at the Captain's meeting. **Exact change is appreciated, as is smaller bills (\$20s or smaller).**
- **Entry fee is \$100 per team, with an optional \$25 Big Fish entry fee, and an optional \$10 Biggest Bass side-pot.**

Token Code:

- **The token code will be released approximately 10-15 minutes before Lines In.** This will be texted to the Team Captains (unless requested otherwise to another team member), E-mailed to the Team Captains (unless requested otherwise), posted the Striper Mafia Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/StriperMafia) and posted on the Striper Mafia Website (www.StriperMafia.com). Please ensure you are in an area where you can receive or download this code - depending on your cellular provider, you may need to position yourself elsewhere on the lake and then move to your desired fishing area once downloading the code and writing it on your token card.

Lines-In Time:

The official start of the tournament / Lines-In time will be 6:30 am. You may be on the water in advance to lines-in - there will not be a required "launch point" for teams. However, no lines are permitted to be in the water prior to the Lines-In time, and no fish caught prior to Lines-In may be submitted.

Catch - Photo - Release Format Tournament:

- Each team will be issued a measuring board and a token card. **You will be responsible for ensuring your Team name and the correct token code** (which will be announced about 15 minutes before Lines-In via Text Message, E-Mail, Facebook & Website) **is on the card, and that the card is clearly visible in all pictures.**
- The fish in the picture must have no question to the Tournament Directors that it was just caught. Any sign of bleaching in the tail or other aspects of the fish which indicate a previously caught or iced fish will be disqualified. We hold ourselves to the highest of ethics and expect that those which participate in these events to do so as well.
- **The fish should be placed on the board with the head against the bump-board, with the head facing left, tail facing right, board "up". WE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCING THIS ASPECT THIS SEASON.** This ensures all pictures all consistent and no one will be tempted to submit the same fish twice, from two sides.
- It is your responsibility to ensure that the fish is clearly visibility - that the mouth touching the bump board and that tail on the measurements are clearly visible and not blocked from view - and that the measurements are readable. Pinched tail is recommended. Have one team member hold the fish on the board and another take a photo from directly above - not from an angle to one side or the other. If you have question on the quality of your camera, practice a time or two first. Also check your pictures

before releasing the fish to ensure you have a suitable photo - we don't want the fish to be out of the water any longer than required, but we also do not want to have to disqualify a photo due to our inability to read it

- **Do not alter your photo in any way** - do not crop, apply filters, adjust contrast, brightness, etc. The tournament directors can manipulate the photo in such ways if required to view, but please do not do this before submission as it may appear to the tournament directors as if you have altered the photos
- You may photo as many fish as you desire, but each team may only submit two fish/photos.
- While we encourage catch & release with this tournament format, you may keep fish as long as they are within the current regulations in place (keeping in mind that the slot is in effect). However measurement and photo of any fish must happen immediately upon catch and no fish are to be brought to the check-in area.

Tournament Day Logistics:

- **Post-Tournament Check-In** will be held at **Smith Mountain Building Supply, 13080 Booker T Washington Hwy, Hardy, VA 24101** and will **open at 3:30 pm, and close promptly at 5:00 pm**. You must have a team member in-line with your photos no later than 5:00 pm - e-mailing the pictures or providing them on a SD memory card. **If e-mail'ed, they must be time-stamped prior to 5:00 pm AND you must still have a team member in line no later than 5pm to confirm entry.** If you plan to e-mail photos (the preferred method), you can do so to stripermafia@gmail.com - but you must include your Team Name and indication if the picture is your #1 or #2 entry or an entry for a youth member. If possible, please send both pictures in one email, or indicate "1 of 2", "2 of 2" in the subject so we can easily find both.
- **Polygraph** - as we have each season we will conduct polygraphs. Testing will be conducted after the tournament award ceremony - with payouts held until the completion of testing.

Youth Competition

- We realize that with cash money on the line, there may be a struggle aboard as to who grabs the rod when it bends over. Our goal with the youth competition is to get them as involved in fishing as possible and that it be a fun time for youth as well as the adults. However, to make the youth a part of the team, the way we will handle this is a team with a youth entry will submit the fish photo of their choosing as the youth's entry. This fish can also be one of the two submitted from the team for the overall competition. If multiple youth are on the team, then separate pictures (of different fish) must be submitted for each youth participants. You decide what happens on the boat - after all it may be less who reels in the fish the net-man (or woman or boy or girl) or what bait was picked from the tank - that makes the magic happen. Just promise us that you will fully involved the kids in all aspects of the day and we'll all be good.

Ladies Big Fish Competition

- The Ladies Competition is back again this season. The lady who catches the longest fish throughout the overall series will win a watch donated by Haywood Jewelers. In addition to having the fish submitted on the measuring device with the token card, we will require a picture of the lady angler holding the fish, and the token card to prove she was indeed out there and assisted in the catch.

Need a Place to Stay?

- The day will have an early start - so you may wish to consider staying at the lake. Our tournament check-in host, and Gold sponsor, Halesford Harbor Inn, is offering participants with a 20% discount off their room rates - just mention the Striper Mafia tournament to them when calling to inquire about a room reservation

Helping Others

- We will be holding a raffle for a Fitec SuperSpreader Cast-Net to raise funds for SML Good Neighbors - a local organization which focuses on developing good neighbors skills and values in children through programs that nourish, educate & support them while providing life-changing experiences for college students through leadership development internships. Tickets are \$5 per, or 7 for \$25.

Tournament Directors

- This season we have four tournament directors - Michael Ward, Craig Miller, Khris Bradley & Chris Bolt. These directors will be participating in the tournaments and subject to all the same rules as other participants. Though at each event one director will be running the event and not participating in that event - and that director will be the one determining the token code, without any prior visibility or awareness of the and making final calls on any questionable outcomes.

Questions?

- If you should have any other questions, concerns or issues before or on tournament day, please do not hesitate to give us a call at (336) 437-4114
- We look to your support to make this a fair, safe and most importantly, fun event. We appreciate your support of this event and the format and look forward to the competition

Examples of DO's and DON'Ts for Fish Photos

(Note - What is missing from all the photos that would result in disqualification of all these pics? The Token Card.... make sure your token card, with your team name and token code, is clearly visible in the pics)



DON'T: Fish facing the wrong way on the board, hand covering measurement; not against bump-board



DON'T: Fish not aligned board; Can't see tail against measurements



DON'T: Well positioned, but hand covering tail / measurements



DO: Head against bump, tail and measurement visible (better if all of tail is visible but longer part is against measurement)