

2025 Holland Steelheaders Spring Challenge

Rules & Information

Tournament Date: May 17, 2025

Member of Holland Steelheaders: It is required that you have one member of the Holland steelheaders on board your boat during this event. You can become a member by signing up at www.hollandsteelheaders.org .

Entry Fee: The entry fee for this tournament is \$150 per boat.

Entry forms and fees will be accepted online until 5:00 pm on May 16. You can register online at www.hollandsteelheaders.org or send entry form and check to our Address.

There will not be a Captain's Meeting, please call the Holland Steelheaders Tournament Director, Eric Bruins (616)293-1653 if you have any questions.

Fishing Period: The tournament will start as a shotgun start at 6:15am; **there is no run time.** You must stay within a quarter mile of the Holland Pier heads before the start time. Tournament Control will make the announcement that you can start to fish at 6:15am. You must be in line at the weigh-in no later than 1:30pm. The weigh-in will be located at the DNR fish cleaning station, across Ottawa Beach Road from the boat launch.

Tournament Control/Weather: Tournament Control will be on **channel 06.** Any tournament information/calls will be announced on this channel. If there are questionable weather conditions, an announcement will be made at 5:30 am if the lake is fishable or not. If the tournament is shortened due to weather, 2 hours will constitute a complete tournament. If called early, but still a complete tournament, you will have 1.5 hours from the time the tournament was called to get to the weigh-in line.

If cancelled due to weather on May17, we will try to fish on Sunday, May 18. If we are not able to fish on either day, entry fees will be refunded by mail or PayPal.

Mechanical Trouble: If you experience any type of mechanical trouble prior to fishing, contact tournament control. We will refund your entry fee if you could not fish due to mechanical trouble. If during the tournament you experience trouble, contact tournament control. We ask that you don't ask a friend to help you or we will have to disqualify both boats from the tournament. We will not allow the disabled boat to weigh-in because it had assistance returning to port.

General Rules: Catch 15, weigh 5 biggest fish .

This tournament is a 9-rod limit. You can weigh a fish outside your biggest 5 trying to go for one of the big species fish prizes. Species are limited to Salmon and Trout. All DNR rules apply. You must stop fishing after your first 15 legal fish, no catch and release sorting allowed. Fish must be released if DNR size limit of 10 inches for salmon, brown trout and steelhead or 15

inches for lake trout is not met. Captains have the discretion to keep or release a salmon, brown trout, or steelhead measuring between 10 inches and 10 ½ inches; or lake trout measuring between 15 inches and 15 ½ inches, allowing the captain to determine if the fish will still meet DNR minimum size requirements at the official weigh station. Salmon, brown trout, and steelhead over 10 ½ inches and lake trout over 15½ inches must be kept. Once a fish is measured, determination must be made immediately to keep or release the fish. Any intentional act such as, but not limited to, shaking off, breaking off, or burning off a fish will result in team disqualification.

Scoring: 10 points per fish weighed in and 1 point per pound.

Weigh-In: You must have your 10 fish ready to be weighed at the scale. There will be no sorting at the scale. Excess water must be removed from your cooler prior to coming to the scale. The weigh-in will be located near the fish cleaning station, across the street from the DNR boat launch. At 1:30pm the line will be cut off.

Payouts: One hundred percent of the entry fees will be paid out in winnings. Payouts are determined by boat participation. We will be paying roughly a third of the boats participating. We also will be paying big fish and big species along with a random drawing awarded to a team not placing in the top 5.

Disqualifications: Actions that may lead to disqualifications are as follows: fishing before the 6:30am start time, running gunnel to gunnel with boats, fishing too many rods or arriving late to the weigh-in. All final decisions rest with the Holland Steelheaders Board.

Sportsmanship: We expect outstanding sportsmanship at all times. This is to be a **FUN** tournament and unsportsman-like conduct will not be tolerated. Please respect the ones around you and the grounds that we use.

Awards: The awards will be presented immediately following the weigh-in.

Please visit us online at www.hollandsteelheaders.org for more information.

If you have additional questions, please contact Eric Bruins (616)293-1653