

Rules for the Kids-n-Kings youth fishing derby.

Saturday, June 28, 2025

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Entrance fee is \$25.00 per youth.

Membership to the Steelheaders is **not required** to fish the tourney, but please consider joining to help improve, preserve, and promote sport fishing on the Great Lakes. Membership info is available at www.hollandsteelheaders.org. We have youth memberships for \$5.00 and adult memberships for \$45.

The first **100 kids** signed up are guaranteed a T-shirt,

1: You must sign up online by 9:00 P.M. Thursday, June 26, 2025. You will receive T-shirts and a weigh slip at the weigh-in when you check in to weigh your fish.

2: This tournament is for all youths, ages 6 to 16. You may have as many youths and crew members as is safe for your vessel. **Rod count is DNR rules and all other DNR rules apply.** You may catch **5 fish per Youth.** When you reach **their DNR limit** you must stop fishing. **Note: This rule also means only 5 Off-species fish per youth if we are combining big lake and Off-species.** However, if Tournament Control declares a switch to an All-species tourney due to Lake Michigan waves, then you may catch as many Off-species fish as DNR rules allow.

3: Anyone on the boat can set lines and net fish. When a fish bites, anyone is allowed to remove the rod from the rod holder and give it to the youth, but the youth(s) must be the one(s) to fight the fish to the side of the boat where it may be netted by any crew member. More than one youth may participate in catching the same fish, but only one youth can enter that fish.

4: Shotgun start at 6:30 AM from the piers of Holland, Saugatuck, and Port Sheldon. **You may fish Lake Macatawa for Off-species if you want, beginning no earlier than 6:30 AM,** but all fish will be weighed equally against each other. You are responsible for disposing of all fish you catch.

5: Each youth will weigh **ONE** fish. Eligible species are Salmon, Steelhead, Lake Trout, Brown Trout, sheepshead, carp, or any other hook-and-line legally caught fish. Bow fishing and spearing are not allowed.

6: All contestants must be registered before the start of the tourney and must fish out of a boat. Any size boat may be used **BUT** it must have a working marine radio for safety and to receive information from Tournament Control. **Channel 06** will be used by Tournament Control and all announcements will be made there.

7: Weigh-in will be from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Saturday, June 28, 2025, at the old Chris Craft building along Aniline Road. **You must be in line no later than 12:00 PM to weigh your fish.**

8: All prizes will be awarded for the largest fish based on weight. Each youth may enter **one** fish and may not transfer any fish he/ she caught to another contestant. If youths share a cooler then it is your responsibility to keep track of who caught which fish. When you come to the scales please bring **ONE** fish per youth, **there will be no sorting at the scales.**

9: There will also be prizes awarded for the largest King, Steelhead, Trout (lake or Brown), and Off-species.

10: There will be a trophy plus \$500.00 for First Place. \$300.00 goes to Second Place, \$200.00 for third, \$100 for fourth, \$75 for fifth, and non-cash prizes down to 25 places. In the event of a tie in the top 5 spots the money will be split between contestants.

11: We will be fishing on Lake Michigan if the waves are no bigger than 2 feet. We will have weather boats out before 6:00 am to check on the lake. **We will announce on channel 06 no later than 6:00 am whether we will be fishing the big lake or fishing Lake Macatawa only for Off-species.** If we do change to an Off-species tourney in Lake Mac you may fish the channel but may not go into Lake Michigan. Salmon caught in Lake Macatawa or the channel are eligible for weigh-in.

12: If the tournament cannot start by 8:00 am due to inclement **WEATHER (NOT WAVES)**, it will be canceled and not rescheduled. If it is canceled, there will be a meeting at 10:30 A.M. to distribute T-shirts. Each contestant will receive their entrance fee minus \$10.00 to help cover tournament costs.

13: Remember this is a youth tournament. Have fun, teach sportsmanship, and play by the rules. You are shaping our future!