



## **2023 Mercer Open All-Species Fishing Tournament**

### **Can-Yak Division Rules**

**Mercer Area Chamber of Commerce**

1. Participants must be fishing in a canoe or kayak only.
2. Participants under 18 years of age must have written parental permission.
3. Check-In and Day-of Registration is on Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6-8PM.
4. All participants must check in and sign a release waiver and understanding of rules document prior to fishing.
5. Tournament times are 6AM-3PM Saturday, June 24 and 6AM-Noon on Sunday, June 25.
6. A PFD must always be worn while in the boat.
7. If asked, all participants must be prepared to present a valid state fishing license (printed or online) at the event.
8. We care about the long-term health of our lakes, so Mercer Open: Can-Yak Division is a Catch-Photo-Release (CPR) tournament. Fishing species include pan fish (crappie, pumpkin/sunfish, bluegill, rock bass, and perch) and game fish (walleye, bass, northern, and musky).
9. There will be a reporting "bag limit" of a baker's dozen (13 fish) per day, of which up to 9 may be pan fish of any species and up to 4 may be game fish of any species (musky, walleye, bass, northern). Four points will be awarded per inch of length, regardless of species (one point per quarter-inch).
10. All participants will be registered as individuals to compete for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes.
11. Teams will compete for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place plaques. Team scores will be calculated by total number of inches divided by the number of team members.
12. Both live and artificial bait is acceptable.
13. Fish must be recorded on the official "Clam Sponsored" bump board showing at least the top end and slightly beyond the end of the fish. However, If you have your own bump board that you

would like to utilize, you must get approval from the Mercer Open event staff. You must have the daily event sticker attached and in frame of every photo on the bump board.

14. All fish must be photographed using a cell phone only where the time and date can be verified. Digital cameras will not be allowed.
  - a. Fish must be placed on the assigned board clearly show the left side of the fish with the mouth butted up to the end with tail pinched.
  - b. You will be given a Saturday sticker for your Saturday catches after the rules meeting on Friday night or after the rules meeting on Saturday morning.
  - c. Sunday stickers will be handed out at the end of the day check-in on Saturday for Sunday's catches.
15. Human powered propulsion may be used for navigation.
  - a. No motors are permitted
  - b. Pedal-drive kayaks are permitted for navigation
16. Fishing will be allowed on any lake that has a **PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE** in Iron County south of County Hwy G (which is in central Iron County).
  - a. Little Martha Lake and San Domingo Lake are also allowed
  - b. A map will be provided to all participating anglers upon check in.
  - c. To keep our lakes pristine, anglers will be provided with a boat washing kit. If your boat has been on any water within 14 days prior to the tournament, please clean your boat with the provided kit before entering our waters.
  - d. If you change lakes at any time throughout our tournament, you must clean your boat with the kit provided before doing so.
  - e. In order to ensure safety, we ask all anglers to let us know what lake/s they intend to fish. We will NOT share this information with anyone, but in the event of an emergency, we have an idea of where to start looking for you.
17. Fishing will be 6AM – 3PM on Saturday and AM – Noon on Sunday. All boats must report in with their catch no later than 4:30PM on Saturday and 1:30PM on Sunday.
18. Catch photos must be verified by our designated Mercer Open officials between 3 and 4:30 on Saturday and noon to 1:30 on Sunday at the host site.
19. If the same fish is caught twice by the same person, it only counts as one. Although uncommon, this has happened in the past.
20. Both bump board and boat washing kit need to be turned into the registration table at the end of the tournament. We appreciate your cooperation on this.
21. This is a Mercer Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored event.
  - a. The Chamber will fully promote the event on social media including photos of fish and participants unless directed otherwise by the participant.
  - b. All winners and information will be posted at the end of the tournament.
  - c. Along with recorded bump board photos, we encourage candid shots of you and the fish for promotion. Feel free to post on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MercerOpen>
22. Violation of any Mercer Open All-Species Fishing tournament or State of Wisconsin Fishing Regulations or state rules will result in forfeiting that day's points.