

## 2026 Salmon Unlimited - Wisconsin Jackpot Series Rules

### 1. ELIGIBILITY, ENTRY FEE, AND REQUIREMENTS

- a. This tournament is only open to current or new Salmon Unlimited - Wisconsin (SU-WI) members. All parties on each boat must be current with their SU-WI membership to participate. SU-IL members may sub-in as crew for teams for up to two events before being required to join SU-WI, as well. Membership can be engaged or renewed online up to midnight prior to the individual event's date. A boat's team may change members for any/all events, so long as all parties are active SU-WI members or eligible SU-IL subs.
- b. Entry fee is 250.00 per boat for the series. This allows the team to compete in all four events for cash & prizes and be eligible for the year-end series awards, including trophies for the top three positions (total weight of your best 3 events) and Master Angler. There is also an option for single entry at an entry fee of \$150 for a single event. (single entry boats can just have minimum two SU-WI & SU-IL members for one time)
- c. All applications and payments must be received no later than 6:00 PM May 8<sup>th</sup> for the first event and 6:00 PM on June 5<sup>th</sup> or August 7<sup>th</sup> for the series/single entries. For single entry opportunities on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, payment/application must be received by 6pm on August 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - You may enter the series (\$250) at any point prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> event. If paying for the series after the first but prior to the second event, your first event score will automatically be your dropped score for the full-season trophies. You will be eligible to compete in events two, three and four, as well as for all prizes associated with series-end (trophies and Master Angler).
- d. Entry fees for the series are non-refundable after the start of the first event. Any refunds will be made by mail via check.
- e. Every boat must be equipped with an operating VHF marine radio that can transmit and receive channels 16 and 68. All boats should monitor channel 68 for contest information.
- f. All boats will compete in a single, open division.
- g. A boat identification number will be provided at the captains meeting and must be displayed on the Starboard side of the participant's boat during the contest.
- h. All entrants will be required to provide at least one of the following forms of contact to be used for updates and communications regarding the tournament.

These contacts will only be used for official tournament business and will not be provided to any other organization or person for any purpose.

- Phone number capable of receiving text messages (preferred)
- E-mail
- Phone number capable of receiving voice call.

## **2. DATES AND HOURS**

Tournaments are scheduled for the following dates & periods:

- May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 — fish from 4:30 AM – 11:30 AM
- June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 — fish from 4:30 AM – 11:30 AM
- August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 — fish from 4:30 AM – 11:30 AM
- August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 — fish from 4:30 AM – 11:30 AM Rain

Dates

Each tournament will have a rain date that is always the following day (Sunday):

- May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- August 23<sup>th</sup>, 2026

a. Captain's Meetings - There will be an in-person captain's meeting hosted on Friday, May 8th, 2026, 6:00PM, at the Reefpoint Marina Member's Lounge. While it is encouraged for each team to come in person, the meeting will also be broadcast via the Jackpot Challenge Series by Salmon Unlimited of Wisconsin Facebook page. Tournament supply packs will be distributed at the captain's meeting or teams can arrange to collect their pack any day PRIOR TO the captain's meeting.

b. Each crew must have at least one member in attendance at the captain's meeting or virtually attend to acknowledge their understanding of the rules. Any team/boat joining the competition after the first event must get in touch with one of the committee members to review the rules and collect the tournament supplies pack.

c. The contest will be considered official if a total of three (3) hours are fished.

### **3. START AND FINISH**

- a. All boats must start from and return to the Racine staging area (see image 1 on next page) by water.
- b. Check in will begin at approximately 4:15 AM for each event.

The Tournament Committee Boat will check-in all boats by visual and/or VHF radio (Channel 68). All boats will be subject to a random cooler check before or during check in.

- c. There is no longer any Run Time prior to eligible fishing time. This will be a shotgun start at the declared start time for each event. The official start of the fishing period will be announced by Tournament Control at the start times listed section 2C on VHF channel 68.
- d. No lines may be placed in the water before the start announcement via radio and times in section 2C. You are on your honor.
- e. By the end of the fishing period each boat must be back within the check in area. The check in area is defined as West of the green can and no further North than the main harbor entrance and West of the green can and no further South than a line from the green can East to shore. Boats that do not arrive by the time listed in section 2C will be disqualified, no exceptions. (See Image 1 on following page)



Image 1 – Check In Area

- f. Each boat must check in with Tournament Control, by VHF radio on channel 68 as they enter the check in area. A tournament boat will be posted near the green can for visual confirmation.
- g. Each boat must seal their cooler before it leaves the boat.
- h. Each boat must have their boat name on the cooler. The catch log attached to the cooler is acceptable naming of the cooler.
- i. A crew member must stay with the cooler until weigh in.
- j. The weigh in will be held at the Pershing Park Boat Launch Pavilion located at 1 5<sup>th</sup> St, Racine, WI 53403. See Section 4 for details on the weigh-in procedure.
- k. All coolers must be in the weigh-in line within 30 minutes of the end times listed in section 2C.

#### **4. WEIGH-IN**

- a. A crew member will disembark with the sealed cooler of fish and signed catch log and proceed directly to the weight station.
- b. Once arriving at the weigh station, the cooler must be sealed and remain closed until opened by a Jackpot official.
- c. Entrants are responsible for determining what fish will be part of their catch to be weighed. Tournament scales will not be used to sort fish. The first 5 fish on the scales will be used for the official weight.

#### **5. GENERAL FISHING RULES**

- a. All fish entered must be caught on hook and line in accordance with the DNR regulations of the state which has jurisdiction over the waters being fished.
- b. Any violation of USCG or DNR rules will result in immediate disqualification at the discretion of the Jackpot committee.
- c. Each boat is limited to a maximum of nine (9) rods and a three-person limit of fifteen (15) fish, per DNR rules, though your boat team may contain more than 3 participants.
- d. Each boat may weigh a maximum of five (5) fish, with a maximum of two (2) lake trout.
- e. Fish entered for bonus prizes do not need to be part of the five (5) fish tournament box.
- f. Fish may be released when caught. Fish to be released must be returned to the lake immediately.
- g. There are no distance limits as to where a tournament boat may fish as long as all traveling is done on the water.
- h. All fish kept must be recorded on the catch log. These logs are not only used for tournament record, but the catch data is also required to be provided to the WDNR at the end of the season.
- i. Each boat that reaches the fifteen-fish limit shall immediately cease fishing, bring in all lines, and return to the harbor.

j. No fishing may take place upstream of the first bridge of any harbor or tributary

k. All fishing must be via trolling. No other means are allowed. For example, jigging, casting, or other techniques from a stationary or drifting boat is not permitted.

## **6. SCORING**

a. Each event Winners will be determined on the total accumulation of points. Points will be assigned as ten points per fish and one point per pound for the five fish weighed.

b. The following species shall be eligible for points: COHO SALMON, CHINOOK SALMON, BROWN TROUT, STEELHEAD/RAINBOW TROUT, LAKE TROUT and PINK SALMON (Pink salmon shall be treated as a Chinook for tournament classification)

c. All winners will be determined by the Tournament Committee, and their decision will be final.

## **7. PRIZES**

a. The top seven boats for each individual event's 5-fish weigh-in will be awarded cash prizes. 8th-10th place boats will be awarded product prizes. This will be based on total points for the single event. See section 1b for eligibility. Payouts amounts will be determined by the number of boats entries.

b. The top three boats for the season-long series will be awarded trophies. This will be based on the sum of each boat's best three WEIGHT ONLY totals from the four single-day events. See section 1b for eligibility.

c. The largest fish of each of the five species (by weight) caught during each of the four individual contests shall win a cash prize. See section 1b for eligibility. Payouts will be determined by number of boat entries.

- For single day events, this will be the largest fish of each species caught that day.
- For any species not caught during a single event, the prize will be raffled off (must be present to win).

- d. In case of ties, the boat with the largest fish, by weight, shall be the winner.
- e. In the interest of developing a more diverse participation base, special prizes will be awarded to children under 18 (prior to the start of the final event date), women, and US military veterans. During the registration process, please check the appropriate box of any crew members who are eligible for these fields.
- f. A season-end Master Angler contest shall also be held for the series. The boat which has weighed in the top combined weight of their largest of each of the five eligible species will also win a cash prize.
- g. Participants may win more than one prize.
- h. If any of the four events are not able to be completed by using the scheduled or its rain date, the prize money for first through seventh for that specific date will be paid out to seven boats drawn randomly for each place. This drawing shall take place at the next SU-WI general membership meeting.

## **8. CANCELLATIONS**

- a. The Tournament Committee will announce their decision if the contest will be run no later than one hour prior to when check-in is scheduled to begin. Notification morning of the contest will be made by the tournament committee on VHF marine radio channel 68. If possible, a decision will be made the evening before and communicated via, social media, text, or e-mail as applicable. The Tournament Judges may cancel the Tournament at any time when, in their opinion, the conditions could be dangerous to persons or property.
- b. The Tournament Committee may also decide to delay the start of fishing or to cut short the fishing due to deteriorating weather conditions.
- c. If there is a small craft advisory, the day will be automatically canceled/postponed/delayed. Winds of 15+ mph continuous and/or storms will likely warrant a cancellation.
- d. For rain dates, all rules listed for the original contest date apply.
- e. In the event that a single day tournament or its associated rain day cannot be run, that leg will be considered canceled.

## **9. PROTESTS**

- a. All protests must be made in writing to the Tournament Committee before 5:00pm on the day of the tournament.
- b. Any written protest given to the Tournament Committee must be accompanied by a 100.00 deposit, returnable if the protest is judged valid.
- c. A panel of three (3) judges appointed by the Tournament Committee will resolve all disputes.
- d. Winners and any person involved in any formal protest may be subject to polygraph testing, prior to the awarding of prizes. Such persons must be available to be tested within 2 weeks of the event.
- e. The decision of the Tournament Committee and/or its duly appointed panel of Judges shall be final.

## **10. RULE CHANGES**

- a. The Tournament Committee may change or modify any of these rules, as necessary. Any changes will be communicated at the Captain's Meeting. If changes are made between the original date and rain date they will be communicated via, social media, text, or e-mail as applicable, at the captains meeting and by the tournament committee via VHF radio on channel 68 during check in.

## **11. LIABILITY EXCLUSION**

- a. Each contestant shall accept responsibility to protect persons and property from injury or damage during the contest, and Salmon Unlimited of Wisconsin, Inc shall not be responsible for the safety of persons or property of participants, regardless of cause.
- b. All participants further agree to hold Salmon Unlimited of Wisconsin, Inc, its officers, tournament committee, volunteers and sponsors harmless from any liability for damage incurred because of participation in the Tournament, in whatever form or manner said liabilities or damages might be incurred.