



BAY AREA FISHING TOURNAMENT 2026 INFORMATION AND RULES

FOUR CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS:

- Largest length YELLOW PERCH (*Perca flavescens*) pays \$1,000.00.
- Largest length WALLEYE (*Sander vitreus*) pays \$1,000.00.
- Largest length NORTHERN PIKE (*Esox Lucius*) pays \$1,000.00.
- Largest length SMALLMOUTH OR LARGEMOUTH BASS (*Micropterus dolomieu* or *Micropterus salmoides*) pays \$1,000.00.

YOUTH ANGLER AWARDS – 1 Trophy for each age group will be awarded for the single largest length fish (must be one of the 4 species listed above) –

- Under 10 years old
- 10-14 years old
- 15-17 years old

REGISTRATION: All boats will register with New Baltimore Parks and Recreation Office at 586-725-0291. The registration fee is \$200.00 and can be paid by phone with the Parks and Recreation Office, via link on our website or <https://newbaltimore.recdesk.com/Community/Program?category=8>. Limited to 40 boat field, and registration ends when slots are filled OR at Midnight on Sunday, July 27th, 2025. Registration fees will be non-refundable. ALL boats will check-in, depart, and return to William and Mary Burke Park Boat Harbor in New Baltimore. There will **NOT** be any boat launching at Burke Park, so participants will have to launch at another site and travel by water to Burke Park. (Launch site map on website) No more than 4 people will be allowed on any boats fishing in this event. Youth Anglers count towards the 4 Angler Total per boat. All Michigan DNR Licensing regulations apply.

There will be a MANDATORY boat representative meeting on a date to be decided at Walter & Mary Burke Park – 36300 Front St New Baltimore MI 48047

Check-in starts at 5:30pm. The event will include pizza and pop. First team representative / Captain eats for free. Additional team members and family members are invited to attend for \$10 per additional person. MAX 4 people may attend per team, including team members and family members. Please RSVP no later than July 24, 2026, to aabraham@cityofnewbaltimore.org. At the meeting, team members will receive their team shirts and boat bags with flags and tags. There will be a presentation starting promptly at 6:00pm to go over rules, procedures and answer any questions you may have.

Boats must arrive at Burke Park fishing pier between 6:30am and 7:45am on Saturday August 1, 2026, to check-in for the 8:00am tournament blast-off. Tournament fishing time runs from 8:00am to 3:00pm. All properly checked-in boats will depart from Burke Park fishing pier for fishing at 8:00am. Any boat arriving late (after 8am) will be able to check-in and depart for fishing beginning at 8:15am and return to the harbor before the 3:00pm deadline. Any boat failing to return to Burke Park Harbor prior to the 3:00pm ending time will be disqualified. A regulator boat will be on site to ensure smooth check-in for both the departure and return. All Michigan DNR Fishing regulations and licensing guidelines are required to be adhered to.

BOUNDARIES: Fishing will be limited to the American waters of Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River (including the channels). All fishing and boating safety regulations of the Michigan DNR and United States Coast Guard must be followed. All fish must meet the minimum size regulations of the Michigan DNR. **The Detroit River is out of bounds for this event.**

All participating boats in this event will be provided a numbered boat Flag which must be displayed where visible from a distance. Boats competing in this event are prohibited from direct contact with any other vessel during the fishing hours of the tournament. Boats competing in this event are prohibited from docking in any canals or marinas or approaching and contacting private docks or mooring sites.

FISH TAGGING – EACH BOAT WILL RECEIVE:

- 4 GREEN TAGS: Green tags will identify the Longest Fish for each of the 4 species. Each tag must be labeled with the boat number when the fish is presented to the judges. **Fish must be tagged prior to arriving at the concrete pier for weigh-in. Untagged fish will be disqualified.**
- 3 YELLOW TAGS: Yellow tags will be used to identify the fish entered in the youth competition. Only the longest fish caught by any youth anglers in each age group will be tagged with a yellow tag. That fish must be one of the valid species. There can not be more than 3 yellow tagged fish per boat as there are only 3 age groups. When delivered to the judges, the boat number AND the name and age of the youth angler must be printed on the yellow tags. Fish must be tagged prior to arriving at the concrete pier for weigh-in. Untagged fish will be disqualified.

Fish must be caught during the tournament hours and tagged as described above to qualify as a valid entry. Tagged fish must be **ALIVE** when presented to the judges to qualify as a valid entry in this event. You can turn in a 'Big' fish early and keep fishing, once a fish is recorded and entered you cannot cull that species, what you turn in will remain as your official catch for that species for the day.

Upon returning, a team's fish weigh bag containing their tagged fish (maximum of 8 tagged fish) will be handed to tournament representatives on the concrete pier at the Burke Park Boat Harbor. The BAFT representative will take the fish weigh bag directly to the judges' station with one team member accompanying. Tagged fish will be inspected, measured, and recorded by the tournament judges at the tournament headquarters. The team member will sign off on the results of the judging. The results will be announced at the beer tent during the award presentations. Prize winning fish will be on display during the award presentation.

In the event of a tie by length, the heaviest fish by weight will win.

Tournament judges reserve the right to disqualify any fish(es) that don't meet their expectation of anatomical appearance. Judges may disqualify any fish(es) that doesn't meet their definition of "**ALIVE**". Judges may disqualify teams for any rule violations, e.g, fishing outside of the boundary waters. Anyone disqualified will forfeit their registration fees. All decisions of the judges are final.