

2026 Tournament Rules & Regulations

Tournament Date: October 17, 2026

IT IS EACH CONTESTANT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL OF THE LAKE GENEVA MUSKIE OPEN RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. Tournament registration on, day of tournament fish logging and real- me leaderboard will be managed again using the FishDonkey App for Android and iPhone smartphones. (Note that there will not be any paper or manual registration on process for this tournament. All will be managed through the FishDonkey App.)
 - a. FishDonkey Registration on Process:
 - i. Remember that only one person per boat/team can register for the tournament and will pay the full registration on fees for the team. You are considered the "captain" of your team.
 - ii. Depending on your smartphone type, you can download the FishDonkey App for your Android at FishDonkey.com or at the App Store for your iPhone.
 - iii. Follow the instructions in the FishDonkey App to create your login and password credentials along with adding your personal information on.
 - iv. Once registered select "Fish in a Tournament"
 - v. Click the magnifying glass at the top of the screen, then enter 7th Annual Lake Geneva Muskie Open Presented By La Preferida" to search for our tournament.
 - vi. Click on the tournament.
 - vii. Select "Join Now" at the bottom of the screen.
 - viii. Personal Information on Screen - Verify personal information on and hit "Continue".
 - ix. Tournament Fees Screen - Review tournament fees, then hit "Continue".
 - x. Credit Card Info – Enter credit card information on, then hit "Pay Now".
 - xi. You have successfully registered for the 2026 7th Annual Lake Geneva Muskie Open Tournament.
2. Tournament Prizes - We will payout a total of \$6,250 in cash prizes to the top five teams, plus a \$750 big fish prize, which is all based on a full 75 boat field. Prize money will be adjusted down by percent if less than a full 75 boat field.
 - a. 1st Place - \$2,500, 2nd Place - \$1,500, 3rd Place - \$1,000, 4th Place - \$750, 5th Place - \$500
 - b. In case of ties including the big fish prize, the team registering the first fish in the FishDonkey App will win the tie breaker.
 - c. If no qualifying muskies are caught for any of the places 1 through 5 during the tournament, we will draw boat numbers to determine the prizes. (Note that only teams present at the awards dinner will be eligible for the prize drawings.)
3. This is an open tournament to men, women and youth. Youth participants under the age of (18) must have their Release of Liability signed by a parent/legal guardian.
4. Two anglers per boat, each person must be a tournament registrant. The tournament is limited to 75 boats.
5. Entry Fee is \$240.00, plus a \$10.00 service fee to FishDonkey.com (\$250.00 total).
6. Approximately 1-2 weeks prior to the tournament a packet will be mailed out to the Team Captain (Person who registers the team on the FishDonkey App). The packet will include:
 - a. Tournament Rules
 - b. Boat number stickers (To be affixed to the outboard motor.)

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- c. Two 2026 Muskies Inc Release of Liability forms.
 - i. Note: These forms are required to be completed, signed and returned by each angler prior to the tournament date. Scanned images or photos of the signed forms can be sent via email or text to one of the LGMO Tournament Officials: Drew Matusek: [847-849-7406](tel:847-849-7406), DrewMatusek@gmail.com, or Tom Flannery: [708-307-6101](tel:708-307-6101), tompflannery@gmail.com.
 - d. Tournament awards dinner information.
 - e. Lake Geneva Lake Map. (The map will identify the pre-tournament staging area and take off location.)
7. Any request for an entry fee refund must be received prior to September 18, 2026.
8. BOAT NUMBER ASSIGNMENTS: Starting positions will be assigned in the order of registration on the FishDonkey App.
9. NO LIVE OR DEAD NATURAL BAIT CAN BE USED DURING THE TOURNAMENT.
10. THE CHICAGOLAND MUSKIE HUNTERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS CONCLUDED THAT GOING FORWARD, ALL FORWARD-FACING SONAR WILL NOT BE ALLOWED FOR USE DURING THE LAKE GENEVA MUSKIE OPEN. THESE UNITS WILL BE BANNED FROM USE TWO HOURS BEFORE THE START OF THE TOURNAMENT (5:30 AM), UNTIL THE END OF THE TOURNAMENT (4:00 PM).
 - a. THESE UNIT TRANSPONDERS MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE BOAT DURING TOURNAMENT HOURS.
 - b. To help us enforce this rule we will:
 - i. Video record the live well check at the takeoff point drive by inspection on.
 - ii. The Tournament Director will accept videos of any tournament boat that is observed violating this rule.
11. Motor trolling is permitted for this tournament. The maximum number of rods allowed per angler when motor trolling will be governed by the current Wisconsin DNR regulations for motor trolling on Lake Geneva.
12. Tournament waters include all contiguous waters of Lake Geneva.
13. Entrants are responsible for all launch fees.
14. All USCG and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources safety regulations apply. Tournament participants are strongly encouraged to wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) and use the appropriate motor kill switches while operating their large outboards (except when trolling).
15. Tournament Fishing Hours: 7:30 am to 4:00 pm
16. The Williams Bay Public Launch will be the central staging and tournament take off point. Participants can launch from any one of the public boat launches located on Lake Geneva. Due to launch capacity concerns, only boat numbers 1 to 50 will be allowed to launch at the Williams Bay Public launch. Boat numbers 51 to 75 are required to launch from one of the other public launches and boat over to the designated staging area. (Fontana Public Launch or Linn Public Launch)
17. For safety reasons all of Williams Bay starting at Conference Point and Cedar Point north up to the Williams Bay Public Launch will be considered "NO WAKE" for all tournament boats during pre-staging,

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tournament start and ease out. (The “No Wake” period will end at 7:45 AM.) Participants must have starting numbers affixed to motors and will be released based on boat number.

- a. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE “NO WAKE START” RULE WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION, NO EXCEPTIONS.

18. At the tournament start a live well check will be completed as participants pass by the take-off point officials. All boat compartment lids must be open for inspection.
19. Fish must be hooked and played by one person and only that person may enter the fish in the contest. Assistance with landing fish is permitted.
20. This will be a Catch, Photo and Release (CPR) tournament for all caught Muskies 30” or longer. The FishDonkey App will be used to record and verify all caught Muskies. Winners will be determined by total combined inches per boat/team. VERY IMPORTANT: THE ONLY WAY TO ENTER A FISH IS BY DOING IT WHILE IN THE FISHDONKEY APP. AS PART OF THE ANTI-CHEATING TECHNOLOGY, YOU CANNOT UPLOAD OR TRANSFER PHOTOS/VIDEOS FROM YOUR SMARTPHONES PHOTO ALBUM INTO THE FISHDONKEY APP. IT DOES NOT CONTAIN OR ALLOW PHOTO UPLOAD FUNCTIONALITY.
21. To enter a fish:
 - a. Start the FishDonkey App on your smartphone
 - b. Select the “7th Annual Lake Geneva Muskie Open Presented By La Preferida”
 - c. Select the blue “ENTER A FISH” button.
 - d. The first item you go to enter a fish in the app, an instructions page comes up.
 - e. Select “OK”
 - f. Using the yellow camera icon take two photos:
 - i. A Bump board photo that clearly shows the nose of the fish touching the end of the bump board along with a clear view of tail measurement will be required. Pinching of the tail is recommended to obtain the maximum length.
 1. If the LGMO tournament official cannot clearly read the measurement, they will make their best determination, and that decision will be the final measurement. Note that if the submitted photo quality is so poor that a length cannot be reasonably determined that fish is subject to disqualification and will not count.
 2. Anglers MUST have an actual bump board (NOT A RULER OR MEASURING STICK), so your fish can be immediately released after the photo is taken, without delay.
 - ii. An Angler photo with a proper horizontal hold of the Muskie is also required.
 - iii. Note that you can take multiple photos if you are unsure of the quality.
 - g. Release Video using the yellow video icon record the live release of your Muskie. The video is 30 seconds max. You can take multiple videos to capture the entire release.
 - h. When finished select the yellow checkmark button, which will take you to the screen where you can review and delete any unwanted photos or videos.
 - i. Select the species “Muskie”
 - j. Enter the total inches to the nearest .25”.
 - k. Hit the yellow “Submit” button.

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1. Your fish will be entered into the real- me leader board.
22. Prize payouts will be based on a 75-boat field. The number and dollar amount of prizes paid will be adjusted based on the actual tournament field if less than 75-boats.
 - a. If the actual boat field total is less than 25-boats on the day of the event, we will reduce the number of cash prize payouts from five (5) prizes down to three (3) prizes.
23. In case a contestant's position is challenged, a written protest must be provided to the Tournament Committee Immediately. Individuals concerned may be required to take a truth verification on examination. All rules of the 1988 Polygraph Protec on Act will be followed.
24. The tournament committee is the final judge of all tournament rules.
25. Winners are responsible for any local, state and federal taxes. Payments over \$600 will require filling out an IRS Form W-9.
26. Our intent is to have an awards dinner and fundraiser following this year's tournament. At the time that these tournament rules were written, COVID-19 restrictions had been relaxed. However, should local health officials determine that they need to impose limits on the size of gatherings, or eliminate in-person dinning altogether, we will comply with all related local ordinances. Should conditions change, we will inform you if we are forced to alter our awards dinner plans.
27. Tournament prizes will be presented at the awards dinner following the tournament. The location is the Lake Lawn Resort, 2400 Geneva St, Delavan, WI 53115. Doors will open at 5:00 PM.
28. The tournament results will also be posted to the chicagolandmuskiehunters.org website within 24-hours of the conclusion of the tournament.
29. For tournament questions, please call one of the following LGMO Tournament Officials: Drew Matusek: [847-849-7406](tel:847-849-7406), (DrewMatusek@gmail.com), Tom Flannery: [708-307-6101](tel:708-307-6101) , (tompflannery@gmail.com).
30. For those with marine radios, we will also be monitoring channel 68 throughout the day.

NOTE: TOURNAMENT RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK THE FISHDONKEY APP AND THE CHICAGOLAND MUSKIE HUNTERS WEBSITE AT chicagolandmuskiehunters.org FOR THE MOST CURRENT RULES.