

MEMBERS FISH POLICIES, CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS as of 01/2023

Rules governing the Lunge Log and the Members Only Fish Contest

The Lunge Log and the Members Only Fishing Contest - The Lunge Log is a standardized voluntary reporting system through which members of Muskies, Inc. register Muskies they catch and by doing so may participate in an annual Members Only Fishing Contest (MOFC). Muskies must be 30 inches or longer. The Lunge Log serves as a valuable resource to our members, fisheries, scientists and managers who work with muskies.

All muskies must be caught on legal sports fishing tackle (hook and line) in the United States or Canada in strict compliance with all local, state or provincial laws.

The fish must be hooked and played by only one person and only that person may enter the fish. Assistance in landing the fish is permitted.

Entrant must be a member in good standing of Muskies, Inc. as defined in the Bylaws prior to catching the fish (note exception below for Lunge Log entries which do not qualify for MOFC).

Fish submissions for the MOFC have firm deadlines. Most members choose to enter their own fish via the Website, and must enter them within 30 days of the catch to count toward the MOFC (note rule for end of the year below). As an alternative, entries may be mailed to the chapter contest chairperson and postmarked within 20 days of the date of the catch. The chapter chairperson will enter them on the Muskies, Inc. Website within 30 days of the catch date or mail them to the Lunge Log Administrator postmarked within 30 days of the date of catch. The MOFC entry periods get shorter each day, starting December 12th, as all entries must be received by the Lunge Log Administrator by January 10th of the following year. The annual MOFC ends on December 31st each year.

Muskies entered more than 30 days after the catch will still be included in the Lunge Log and in each member's "My Fish List". Every muskie is an important record in the Lunge Log database.

Lunge Log Entries by New Members - Chapters often use fishing events to recruit new members. To encourage joining Muskies, Inc. and the use of the Lunge Log new members are allowed to make entries into the Lunge Log for muskies caught up to 7 days prior to joining M.I. These entries will NOT be included in the MOFC.

Lunge Log Entries by Previous Members - If a previous member rejoins Muskies, Inc. after a lapse in membership they are allowed to make entries into the Lunge Log for muskies caught up to 30 days prior to rejoining M.I. These entries will NOT be included in the MOFC.

Release & Measurement; Muskies, Inc. encourages members to release any healthy Muskie that is not a true trophy to them. Acknowledgment of the release is available to the member by either a patch, a yearly summary of all catches or individual certifications for each fish (unless the member indicates that he or she does not want the patch or certificate sent). This process of selecting and receiving the awards is coordinated through the Chapter chairperson.

Total length is measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the farthest tip of the tail.

Members are encouraged to enter his/her own catches via the "My Lunge Log Entry" screen on the Website. A printable version of the release forms to record the information manually is available on the website.

Muskies Inc. has suggested guidelines for the proper holding and handling of fish that is to be released on the Website. The guidelines are printed periodically in MUSKIE Magazine. Stress on the fish should be kept to the absolute minimum and the fish should be safely returned to the water as soon as possible.

A Muskies, Inc. Members Only Fishing Contest Committee has been established to review all entered fish. It will arbitrate any disputes or questions and their decisions shall be accepted as final. At its discretion the committee may require additional documentation including photographs and/or additional witnesses before any entry is accepted or any awards are finalized.

All entries submitted must have a state or province listed for the body of water and at least a lure type and the name of the Lake or River. No Exceptions. Listing the specific body of water for each Muskie makes the Lunge Log a better research tool for the various departments of natural resources in the United States and Canada. All members are encouraged to list the specific lure name a Muskie was caught on. This allows members of Muskies, Inc. to learn from the successes of fellow members.

Muskies Inc. Awards

Annual Awards based on release points will be presented each year. Release Points or length of Muskies which qualified for the MOFC will be presented each year for the leaders in each division will be assigned and displayed in the MOFC Reports on the Website and in MUSKIE Magazine. Each muskie 30 inches or longer approved for the MOFC will count toward the individual member's point total. Release Points are based on 4 points for each release and 1 point for each inch or fraction of inches over 30 inches.

Awards based on angler point totals by division:

10 Awards for Men's Masters Division

5 Awards for Women's Masters Division 10 Awards for Men's Division

10 Awards for Women's Division

5 Awards for Junior's Fry Division (age 12 or under on January 1st of year of Award)

5 Awards for Junior's Fingerling Division (age 13-17 on January 1st of year of Award)

6 Awards for Muskie Fly Fishing Division

Awards based on length of released Muskies:

At least one witness is required to be eligible for any MOFC award, replica, or other prize based upon length of individual Muskies.

1 Award plus replica* for Men's Longest Release (all male members age 18 or older) 1 Award plus replica* for Junior's Longest Release (all Junior members)

1 Award plus replica* for Women's Longest Release (all female members age 18 or older) 1 Award plus replica* for Longest Release of a Hybrid

12 Awards for Lunker of the Month. One per month. Will include duplicate awards for ties within any month.

Availability of replicas is strictly contingent upon advertising partnerships with replica artists. In the event of a tie for Longest Release in any category the value of the replica as per the advertising partnership will be divided equally between the winners and they will receive gift certificates of equal amounts from the replica artist. No adult member may win more than one Longest Release replica during his/her entire membership in Muskies, Inc. No Junior member may win more than one Longest Release replica during his/her years as a Junior member; however, they could win one additional replica during their years as an adult member. In the event that a previous replica winner has the Longest Release of a subsequent year in their category the replica will go to the member with the next Longest Release