

2013 Great Lakes Tackle Summer Invitational

Aug. 24th & 25th 2013

1. **Invitations:** if interested in competing in this event, please call 814-580-1710 or e-mail pete@greatlakestackleshop.com to request an invitation. GLT reserves the right to refuse invitation requests.
2. **Eligibility:** Any person 18 years or older may enter a team in the event.
3. **Entry Fee:** Total of \$650 per team. (U.S. funds only) There will be no refunds after July 1st, 2013. Balance due by July 1st. Balance received after July 1st will be assessed a \$75 late fee in addition. Entries should be sent or hand delivered to: **Great Lakes Tackle Shop , 1644 East 12th Street, Erie, PA 16511.** Checks payable to: **Great Lakes Tackle** All teams, upon registration agree to abide by all tournament rules.
4. **Entry Deposit Deadline:** Deposits of \$250 or paid in full entries must be received no later than Friday, June 1st, 2013. Entries should be sent or hand delivered to: **Great Lakes Tackle Shop , 1644 East 12th Street, Erie, PA 16511.** Checks payable to: **Great Lakes Tackle .**
5. **Late entries:** Deposits/Entries received after June 1st, 2013 will be **\$725, unless your invitation was issued after such date by GLT due to another Team cancellation or an incomplete field.** (Drop dead entry deadline for entry is: August 1st).
6. **Entry limit:** Entries are limited to the first 40 teams to register and be accepted by GLT.
7. **Additional Entries:** if deposits have been received for the full 40 boat field, additional entries (with deposit) will be accepted and added to a waiting list in the event there is a team cancellation. This will be on a first come basis. This money will be refunded in full if the event remains full.
8. **Captain and Observer Registration and Meeting:** There will be a mandatory Captain's and observer meeting held at 6pm on Friday August 23rd. *Registrations begin at 4:30 pm-please try to be there before 6pm to have your team registered. A Captain (or competent team member) and observer are required to attend. This meeting will be held in Erie, PA at: **(to be determined)**
9. **Tournament Times:** 6:00 am-2:00 pm. *In the event of foul weather, fishing time on day one can extend until 6pm. Please be prepared to adjust your schedule if needed. *In the event of bad weather, the start of fishing time can be delayed until 2:00pm on day one and 10:00am on day two. 4 hours total will constitute a tournament.
10. **Team Structure:** Participating teams are not limited to a maximum number of persons on board. However, a team will be based on a minimum of two anglers (required) This does NOT include the observer.
11. **Committees:** GLT will retain a separate rules/protest and weather committee. This committee will consist of 3 persons. All decisions made by the committee will be final.
12. **Weigh-In Location:** **(to be determined)**
13. **Boundaries:** Teams may fish any waters within Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie, no exceptions. If at any time your vessel enters Canada/Ohio/NY waters your score for that day will be a zero. Observers have the right to ask a Captain to view his loran or GPS for the purpose of determining location – if the observer feels that the boat has ventured outside of PA waters. An observer can write coordinates down which can be later checked by the tournament rules committee for verification or can look at the GPS map to determine your location. The intent of this rule is to keep all teams fishing Pennsylvania waters only. Observers cannot ask to see navigation instruments unless there is a good cause to believe the boat is near or outside of PA waters.
14. **Pre-Fishing:** Unlimited pre-tournament fishing is allowed.

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15. **Observers :** Each competing team is required to provide an observer 18 years of age or older. Observers will be matched according to boat size and enclosed head availability. *However, all teams MUST provide their own by having them register with GLT a minimum of one week prior to the tournament date. All observers are required to register through the GLT website. Observers will be asked to review all tournament rules and complete a pre-registration form. GLT will accept and keep a list of voluntary observers, advise if interested. GLT will provide and pay for observers if requested for a \$150.00 fee for the event. This fee will be paid regardless of cancellations.
NOTE: Observers are “required” to have a PA fishing license with trout stamp and Lake Erie permit. Observers can differ each day but each must be registered with the GLT website. It is their Team Captain’s responsibility to educate them on the rules, their responsibilities and to make sure they have proper license. Observers will be exchanged by the GLT tournament committee. Observers “**may not**” assist the team in any manner unless it is to help avoid a problem. Observers shall log each fish caught including time and estimated weight “Observers **may not leave** assigned team’s fish until catch is weighed and registered at weigh in site each day, along with the observer log signed by the observer and the team captain. If a team fails to have their observer at the assigned boat, they are either obligated to forfeit another member to fill in as the observer, or the entire catch for that day will be disqualified. It is the responsibility of each team to provide an observer for both days of the tournament even though the GLT is assisting with the process. Observers are required to check all fish that are near the 15.5” size limit. Observers can differ from day to day but it is not recommended. *GLT reserves the right to switch observers from boat to boat on day two on a random basis.
16. **Tournament Boat Points of Origin:** All teams must exit and enter any of the marinas located within Presque Isle Bay (including Presque-Isle Marina and launches), East Ave. boat launch and Lampe Marina. There will be no exceptions to this rule. No other launches or marinas outside of these locations can be used at any point during this event.
17. **SHOTGUN Start:** All boats will be departing from the Port of Erie. Boats shall congregate near the point of the Peninsula after disclaimer is turned in. Boats must stay within 200 yards east, and north of the Point of the Peninsula. An official tournament boat will signal the shotgun start at 6:00 AM, Fishing can begin immediately after the shotgun start. Captain and observer will coordinate start and end times. If there is a delay announced at 5:15 am, the next announcement will take place at 6:15 am. and so on until the Teams are released or the Tournament is cancelled. There will be no announcement made to commence or cease fishing. Tournament time will be satellite time taken from GPS.
18. **Start:** Observers must be on assigned boats no later than 5:00 am (unless prior arrangement has been made). Teams who fail to have their observers at the assigned boat by 5:15 am will be obligated to forfeit a team member to fill in as observer on the assigned boat, or that day’s catch will not be allowed to weigh in. No boat may hand in their disclaimer form prior to 5:15am. Teams may depart from port after their team member has returned from turning in their disclaimer. The disclaimer must be turned in by an assigned team member or observer no later than 7:00 am each day. **NOTE:** Each team must have a team member drop off “their” disclaimer form. The drop off areas will be identified at the Captain’s meeting. A GLT Official will begin collecting disclaimers at 5:15 am. Any team that fails to deliver their disclaimer by 7:00 am each day will have their day’s catch disqualified.
19. **Start and end time:** All fishing starts at 6:00AM and after the shotgun start. All fishing must cease at or before 2:00 pm (unless tournament start time was modified or you achieved a boat limit). Any fish landed (lifted, brought over the gunnels or stern or netted) after 2:00 pm does not count. The day’s catch must not leave the boat under any circumstances until the day’s fishing is over (exception: disabled boat rule) and the boat is docked. At least one team member and the observer must remain with the day’s catch until the day’s catch have been weighed in.

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- 20. Rod and line Restrictions:** Contestants, including observers, must have in their possession a valid PA Angling License and a combination Lake Erie/Trout Permit, in accordance with the state of PA Fishing regulations. Rod limits is 9. However it can be 6 if only 2 persons are competing. No more than two lures are permitted per line. All fishing methods must be in accordance with the rules and regulations of PA's Fish & Boat Commission.
- 21. Scoring:** The first legal (3) man limit of walleyes must be kept, based on 3 person team. If a 2 person team, then the first legal (2) man limit of walleyes must be kept. No culling ! Walleye size limit is 15.5" min. The first legal (2) man limit of trout, (10 total) must be kept, including lake trout if you are a 2 person team. No culling ! Steelhead or brown trout size limit is 15.5" . (GLT is allowing a one half inch buffer). No salmon can be weighed. If you bring a salmon to the weigh-in, you will be penalized 25 points and lose the score for that fish.
Additional incidental fish caught must be released immediately.
- Bonus Fish:** (2) lake trout may be kept in addition to the maximum (3) man limit of walleyes and (2) man "combination" limit of trout. Size limit is 15.5". No culling of lake trout. The first (2) lake trout landed which are larger than 15.5" MUST be kept. No additional lake trout may be kept afterwards. **Note:** Only the weight of lake trout will be counted. No points will be given for lake trout.
- IMPORTANT:** A team can weigh any combination of trout or walleye up to 17 fish with ONLY 2 being lake trout. If no lake trout are creeded, then the maximum fish to be weighed will be 15 (walleye, steelhead or brown trout). No exceptions.
- Note:** for 2 man teams, it is a violation of the PFBC to possess more than 10 combined trout, including lake trout. Possessing 10 steelhead and/or brown trout and (1 or 2) lake trout is a PFBC violation and subject to penalty and tournament disqualification.
- Your best 15 fish (any combination of walleye, steelhead or brown trout) can be brought for weigh in.** In addition, (2) lake trout can be weighed for a maximum of (17) fish. The minimum size limit for both walleyes and all trout species for this event will be 15.5" . **There will be a ½" buffer allowed when measuring fish.** It will be the Captain's decision to keep a fish that measures between 15.5" and 16" .)
- Do not bring more fish to the weigh-in than the allowable tournament amount. If you bring more than the allowable tournament limit, you will be assessed a 25 point penalty. However, you will be allowed to remove the extra fish.
- Once your cooler has been presented to the fish checking station, your catch becomes the possession of GLT and you will not be allowed to access the cooler or remove/add fish.
- 22. Largest Fish:** There will be overall largest fish prizes awarded at this event for largest walleye, steelhead, brown trout and lake trout. It is the responsibility of the participating team to notify the weigh master that they may have an eligible fish. GLT will provide zip ties for teams to identify their potential large fish. Once a team has weighed their catch, they forfeit the right to single out a particular fish.
- 23. Coolers:** All coolers brought to the scale shall be free of foreign objects, loose ice cubes and an unreasonable amount of water. Block ice, frozen containers or bag ice is acceptable. A 25 point reduction penalty will be assessed against teams that violate this rule.
- *GLT recommends all cubed ice is "double bagged" to avoid bag breakage in a cooler or block ice or frozen plastic containers.

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24. **Weigh In Time & Procedure:** Weigh In will be held from 3:00-4:00 pm at (a location to be determined). Fish brought to the weigh in line after 4:00 pm will not be accepted. All teams must check in at the official weigh in station or they will be given a "0" score for that day. Any team entering fish that have been altered in any manner as to increase the weight of the fish will be disqualified from the tournament.
Reverse weigh-ins will be done on day two just for the top 10 team leaders after day one. These teams will have their coolers held aside until it is time for them to weigh.
25. **Landing Fish:** An attempt must be made to reel in any hooked fish with no intentional over reeling, dragging, mis-handling, shaking , breaking off, knocking off or lifting. Allowing a hooked fish /pole to sit in a rod holder for a length of time is also a rule violation.
Limit Fish: While fighting your last allowable tournament "limit" fish, if another fish(s) is hooked up, it will be the anglers discretion as to which fish(s) they decide to bring over the gunnels to complete their tournament box. This includes the bonus lake trout. In other words, a team can keep a fish in the water while fighting another(s) fish in order to decide which fish is the larger. However, once a fish is brought over the transom or gunnels, it must be kept (if legal). No culling is allowed. Once the allowable tournament limit is reached, including bonus lake trout, fishing has concluded. Any incidental fish MUST be immediately released.
26. Observers are required to check all fish that are near the 15.5" size limit.
27. **Measurement and Point System:** The tournament weigh officials will squeeze the tail forks to achieve the longest possible measurement when determining overall length of your fish. Short fish will be disqualified and your team will be assessed a 25 point penalty... Each fish weighed in will score 10 points and one point will be scored per pound of fish weighed. **Exception:** Only the weight of lake trout will be counted. No points will be given for lake trout. (Fish under 15.5" will be penalized 25 points from the Team's total score.
28. All fish weighed in must remain in the specified area until the completion of weigh in. In the event of a tie, the victory will go to the team who caught the largest "single" fish by weight (walleye, brown trout, lake trout or steelhead). The losing team will move into 2nd place.
29. **Post tournament day fishing:** No team members or their observer are permitted to fish after day one concludes. Violation will result in disqualification.
30. **Team Captain weather decision:** In the event of questionable weather or rough water conditions, the Captain will ultimately be responsible for making the Team's decision whether to fish or not ,even if the field of Teams has been released to fish that day. If both days are cancelled without meeting the minimum 4 hour requirement, \$100 of the \$650.00 entry fee will be kept to cover tournament expenses and administration fees incurred. Entry fees will be refunded within 14 days.
31. **Cancellation or shortened day due to dangerous conditions:** GLT's weather committee can shorten the days fishing if it determines that un-safe wind or questionable weather conditions arise. For that reason, it is imperative that all teams monitor the proper channels and have their observer document the time that each fish is landed.

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- 32. Radio Use and Restriction:** All participating boats must be equipped with an operational VHF radio. Radio silence will be in effect throughout the tournament, this is a CLOSED communication event. Tournament control will operate on Channel **88 when necessary**. All boats are asked to monitor channel 16 at all times except when directed to Channel **88** for communication. After being directed to channel **88**, all teams must return to channel 16. No channel scanning is permitted. All marine radios, hand held's, etc.. shall remain on channel 16 unless directed otherwise by tournament control. Use of cellular phones, electronic devices and scanners is prohibited. GLT will provide bags for observers to gather all communication devices in. Teams are required to monitor channel **16** during the fishing hours. Radio use for other than emergency reasons or contacting tournament control will result in disqualification. (Note: The objective of this rule is to not allow communication between boats during tournament hours) Any form of communication, i.e., conversing from boat to boat, sign boards, hand signals, etc. are a violation of the intent of this rule and may result in disqualification.
- 33. Boat size and Identification:** All boats must be at least 18 ft. L.O.A. (State registered length over all) be accompanied by a working marine radio and have all the necessary US Coast Guard approved safety devices on board. Identification: GLT will furnish each team a colored flag. Flags must be permanently affixed to the antenna or another visible high point of the boat for the purpose of tournament team identification.
- 34. Emergency Notification, Disabled Boat and Cellular Phone Procedure:** A telephone number for emergency contact of tournament participants is (814-602-8436) this will be confirmed at the Captains' Meeting. Cellular phones may be present on the boat under the following rules: The phone must be surrendered into the possession of the observer or other secure location by 6:00 am each day of fishing, and must be turned off until the stop fishing time of 2:00PM or later if the tournament has been extended. The phone is to be returned by the observer to team participants after 2:00 pm each day. If a tow is required, the day's catch, one team member and the observer can be transferred to another team's boat in an effort to make the weigh in deadline. However, the tournament committee must be notified by cell phone or Channel **88 via 16**, in advance prior to ship to ship contact. Failure to abide by this requirement may result in disqualification. A towed Team boat still must make the tournament weigh in deadline, there will be no exceptions.
- 35. Inspections:** GLT may inspect any boat prior to the start of the day or after fishing concludes. GLT officials may also ask to see GPS units to verify where a team fished that day, especially under a protest situation. If a Team Captains refuses to co-operate, that Team may be disqualified from the event.
- Any fish weighed in can be tested for altering or modification. Forms of fish testing may include but not limited to cutting of the fish for internal inspection.

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36. **Prize Money:** First Place: **Guaranteed - \$12,000** (cash & merchandise) for a field of 35-40 teams and **\$8,000 - guaranteed** for less than 35 teams. Prize payouts will be to 10 places for a minimum of 25 teams participating and 5 places for less than 25 teams entered. Big fish awards will be given out on an overall basis.
37. **Protests:** Any team may protest the conduct or score of another team. All protests must be made within 15 minutes after the last team has weighed in. Protests must be accompanied by \$100 fee. Protests are only refundable if the protest is won by the protesting Team.
38. **Rulings and Limitations:** The Tournament Committee's decision is final in all matters pertaining to the interpretation and conduct of these rules. In the interest of good sportsmanship, contestants are reminded that the "spirit of the rule" will prevail in all judgment cases. (Note: falsifying any of the rules or any perpetration of fraud can be considered a felony and subject violator to prosecution.) Competitors may be disqualified for any violation of the tournament rules, misconduct, with no refund of entry fee. Decision of GLT officials will be Final.
39. **Misconduct:** Any inappropriate, improper, or abusive conduct by any participant towards any GLT official, volunteer, observer or fellow participant shall be considered a violation of the rules and may be subject to disqualification as determined by GLT officials.
40. **Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission:** if you receive a written penalty for a fishing violation during the tournament, you will be disqualified from the tournament entirely.
41. **Liability:** Every reasonable precaution will be taken by GLT to protect persons and property during the contest. However, neither the sponsors mentioned, nor tournament committee, GLT officials, volunteers or employees of the same are responsible for the safety of persons or property of participants in regards to accidents, theft, fire, vandalism, drowning or any other cause. GLT is not responsible for emergency assistance. All participants further understand and agree to hold harmless GLT and aforementioned groups and individuals by signing the liability disclaimer each morning before the boats depart port.
**All teams must submit a copy of their boat/liability insurance policy with their application.* GLT requires that all boats have current liability insurance at time of the event.
42. **Fish Disposal and Drop Off:** Any teams that do not want all or part of their catch can deposit their fish at a drop off location located at the weigh in area. These fish will be given to a local charitable organization. Any fish found deposited into dumpsters, marinas or other areas where they will be deemed as unsightly or as trash may lead to prosecution by City law enforcement personnel. Furthermore, those individuals may be excluded from future GLT Summer Invitational's.
43. **Disqualification:** If you are disqualified for any tournament rule or a PFBC fishing violation, you will not receive a refund and you may be barred from future GLT Summer Invitational's.

Submitted: 1/06/13