

## TOURNAMENT RULES

### 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament RULES

These rules are for the Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament tournaments. In addition to these rules, each contestant MUST READ, UNDERSTAND, AGREE TO, AND SIGN Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament waiver. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament utilizes several forms of communication methods including websites, social media, emails, and texting. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament does not use standard mail to communicate rules or other program information. It is the responsibility of each individual to obtain program information (including sponsor contingency programs), event information, rule information, etc. through the methods utilized by 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament can always be reached by phone to update contact information or to verify current communication methods. **CALL (443) 619-9024**. Failure to "agree to" "Truth Verification" provisions stated in the Waiver may result in ineligibility to participate in 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament events. It is the responsibility of each entrant to know these rules. Ignorance of the rules is not a defense for violation of them. Tournament Directors shall apply penalties for rule infractions. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament encourages all parties involved in a rules dispute to photograph and/or video the incident at the time of the dispute to assist in resolving the issue with tournament authorities. Do not use zoom functions when taking photos involving encroachment. Protests must be made in writing within 30 minutes of the official check-in time of the final flight at each tournament. The person(s) submitting the protest must be present and willing to identify the offender(s) in a face-to-face situation at the time the director confronts the named offender(s). The Tournament Director may assess a penalty/disqualification without a written protest. The results of any event where protests have been filed or penalties or disqualifications have been assessed shall be considered unofficial until a review of the incident has been conducted by the Tournament Director of 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament. This review shall be completed within 72 hours of the event. The exception to this 72-hour limit is for "Truth Verification" testing (see Truth Verification rule for additional information). In the event of "Truth Verification" testing the final decision on tournament results are pending the outcome of the test. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final in all matters. Adjustments to the results/paybacks, if necessary, shall be made after the final decision. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament uses this procedure to assure fair and consistent application of rules and penalties in all regions and matters. Our objective is to offer you the fairest most consistent handling of any problem. To avoid protests, if you suspect a possible infraction is about to take place - Alert the would-be offender and check the rules! Contestants agree to only register for events that are "open" registration or events they have qualified for.

**IF COMPUTER GENERATED RESULTS ARE USED** - In the unlikely event of a computer failure at any event where the tournament director utilizes a computer to generate the results, the director may choose to give the basic tournament results and payments at the awards ceremony but hold any option payments until the computer problem is resolved. All results will be completed within 72 hours of the event and all results will be posted on the 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament web site. All option winnings will be mailed within 72 hours. This procedure is necessary to insure respect for all the competitor's time. The possibility of a computer failure exists. All directors keep back-up data that will assure proper payment. However, manual checking of this data can be time consuming and would not be practical at the weigh-in site.

**1) SCORING** - Scoring will be determined by the total length of each anglers catch. Top prize winner cannot win 2<sup>nd</sup> place as well. Total length wins first. See tiebreaker section for determining tiebreakers.

The divisions and scoring are as follows:

- 1) Bowfishing- Total snakeheads caught & Length of biggest snakehead.
- 2) Boat (Individual and Team): Most inches of snakeheads from a boat (TEAM) & Length of biggest snakehead caught by an individual.
- 3) Kayak & Land: Length of biggest snakehead

**CALCUTTA'S:** Each 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament tournament division can include a Calcutta's that will be scored separately from the rest of the tournament. The Calcutta's will consist of: Heaviest Blue Catfish. All money in the calcutta is given straight to the winner for first prize.

**TIEBREAKERS:** If there is a tie in placement for a 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament event or its Calcutta's, the tiebreaking procedure will be in the following order.

- 1) Snakehead Length- weight. Fish will be inspected by staff to prevent cheating if it comes to the tiebreaker. If still tied, next longest snakehead caught. Then it's weight. If tied again, split prize money evenly.
- 2) Most fish caught- Adding up the length of all caught by boat.
- 2) For Calcutta's, tiebreaker, it goes to length. If still tied after that, split evenly.

All results of the tiebreaking procedure are final.

**PRIZE MONEY:** Prize money will be distributed at the end of the results in cash to the winners. If you are not present, you will be contacted via phone. If after ten minutes of no contact, elimination and the angler in second becomes 1<sup>st</sup> place. Prize money is

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split evenly among the Winners in that division minus any fees to run tournament. (ex. \$1,000 total in sign ups for bowfish, \$500 goes to winner #1 in total caught and \$500 in longest catch, before fees which is minimal)

**2)SPORTSMANSHIP** - Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship and/or misconduct and/or violates these rules and/or violates the state fishing laws or waterway rules will be disqualified and/or excluded from future 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament events. This includes conduct on and off the water including improper fishing techniques, illegal fishing techniques, misconduct in and around the host facilities for any event including hotels, casinos, retail establishments, etc. Misconduct is a bad reflection on organized fishing and 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament. Misconduct may be deemed as an infraction of our sportsmanship rule and is grounds for disqualification from any event and/or exclusion from future 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament events. Any angler who engages in improper or illegal fishing techniques, either during a competition or not, may be disqualified from any event and/or excluded from future 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament events. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament shall make the determination as to any sportsmanship, improper fishing techniques and/or misconduct issue.

**3)PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY** - Participation is open to all licensed anglers unless otherwise noted. It is not up to tournament officials to make sure you are a licensed angler. However, if an angler is caught without a license they will automatically be disqualified. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament reserves the right to refuse participation in 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament events to anyone for any reason.

**4)BOAT/ENGINE REGULATIONS** – All legal watercrafts including but not exclusive to boats, kayaks, canoes etc are eligible for use during 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament events. Horsepower shall not exceed the horsepower rating for that boat, or the U.S. Coast Guard rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. Each boat must contain all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Any vessel deemed “unsuitable” by a Tournament Director will not be allowed to participate in that event. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament is not responsible to track or in any way regulate non-event boats used on waters during 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament events. Lake, water district, state & local officials, etc. are solely responsible for determining launch eligibility of any tournament vessel. Since the decision to allow or disallow a launch is not in the control of 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament, 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament will see this decision made by any governing agent as the final decision and will not allow any protest about that decision.

**5)SAFETY** - All boats must meet Coast Guard regulations. Boat owners must carry liability insurance. Safe boating shall be observed at all times. During competition, each contestant is required to wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket anytime the combustion engine is in operation. Anyone found operating a boat in an unsafe manner in the opinion of the Tournament Director may be disqualified. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device which must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. Any non-lanyard shut-off systems must be approved by the tournament director. Each contestant is responsible to have proper safety equipment to meet state and local regulations. It is not the responsibility of 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament or any tournament sponsor to provide assistance in on-the-water repairs or rescues at any time. Each contestant shall provide their own on-the-water assistance if needed. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament and its sponsors are not responsible to assure that any contestant has returned at the end of any contest. For safety, each contestant should inform another contestant as to the location(s) that they will be fishing and have that contestant check to assure that the other contestant has returned safely at the end of the contest and have a plan for assistance if needed.

**6)PERMITTED FISHING METHODS AND TACKLE** - All fish must be caught by the competing angler submitting the fish. All fish must be caught in a conventional and sporting manner. Trolling, cast and retrieve methods are legal. Attractant products may be applied directly to a lure. Chumming is prohibited. The intentional snagging of fish is strictly prohibited. Casting nets, and independent use of landing nets is prohibited. Landing nets are permitted only if used to land a fish already on hook and line. Only one line may be used at a time per angler. Number of hooks per lure and rules per rig will be restricted by Maryland state regulations unless a lesser number is stated by the 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament Tournament Director.

**7)PERMITTED FISHING WATERS** - Contestants may fish anywhere in the following waters in Maryland listed and accessible to the general public- Susquehanna River, Octoraro Creek, North East River, and the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay known as the Susuehanna Flats from the Turkey Point Lighthouse across to Havre de Grace and Swan Creek north. Aberdeen is too far, as is Back Creek the Spesutie Narrows, and the Elk River. NO PRIVATELY OWNED OR EXCLUSIVE WATERS, except areas designated as “off limits” or “no fishing” by the tournament director, local, state or federal officials or the service area for any gas pump, operational or non-operational. Marina's may have additional areas off limits near gas docks due to fuel lines in the water. Each angler is responsible to comply with the Off-Limits rules for each event. Consult the local authorities or call the Tournament Director for details.

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**8) ENCROACHMENT** - A "25-yard rule" is in effect at all times during competition. No contestant may move within 25 yards of another contestant at any time for the purpose of fishing without the consent of all contestants involved. A boat moving from one area to another may infringe upon this zone as long as the parties that are moving do not fish and do not intentionally disrupt the area. We understand that judging distance can be difficult at times but if there is ever a question just increase the distance between contestants. As a general rule of sportsmanship all anglers should give all others enough room to make a reasonable cast to fish an area. Exception: In the case of fishing docks or piers, no contestant's boat may "tie up," or "protect" more than a single dock at one time regardless of the distance involved.

**9) EQUIPMENT FAILURE OR EMERGENCY** - In the event of equipment failure or emergency, contestants' boat may be towed in. If it is necessary to transfer fish to another boat, it must be another contestant's boat.

**10) FISHING HOURS AND LATE PENALTY** - Official fishing hours are 6:30am to 4pm EST. All contestants must check in at the weigh-in site. Contestants who are not at the official check-in area at the appointed time will have their harvest disqualified for the day. **DON'T BE LATE!**

**11) RAIN DATES**- If rain shall cancel the event on September, the next date is October 5. If rain shall cancel this new day, all participants that gave us information will be emailed about the rules and how to participate and a modified tournament may run on a random date.

**12) LIVE FISH** – Contestants shall NOT submit any live fish during 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament events. As of the writing of these tournament rules it is against Maryland state law to possess a live snakehead. The most efficient way to ensure the death of a snakehead is to cut completely through the spinal cord. Any contestant who submits a live snakehead at the weigh in will be automatically DISQUALIFIED from the event!

**13) OFFICIAL BOATS** - Officials may be on the water during tournament hours and can approach, photograph, or observe any contestant's boat. Each contestant is requested to cooperate with all reasonable requests.

**14) WAIVER AND RELEASE** - Each contestant must sign a 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament waiver / release form. If it is not turned in, contestant may be disqualified from competing. If it is not turned in, it should be on the person when presented when asked.

**15) PRETOURNAMENT PRACTICE (PRE-FISHING)** - Check with the Tournament Director for each event.

**16) NO ALCOHOL OR ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES** - No alcoholic beverages or illegal substances are allowed for use by contestants during tournament hours. No alcoholic beverages or illegal substances are allowed in any tournament boat.

**17) BOAT INSPECTION** - 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament will conduct random boat inspections. It is your responsibility to ensure your boat meets all tournament and Coast Guard regulations.

**18) COOPERATION WITH MEDIA/PROMOTION** - Within the framework of reasonable requests, all contestants in 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament events will cooperate with media representatives covering said event. Likewise, participation in the tournament grants 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament the use of any pictures of contestants, accounts, or interviews with contestants it gathers for the lawful promotion of 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament and its tournament operations and sponsors.

**19) TOURNAMENT PROTECTION RULE** - Any act or inflammatory statement by any contestant that, in the opinion of the Tournament Authority, is detrimental to the operation of the tournament, damaging to 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament or any of its sponsors, or to permitting agencies or their officers (such as rangers, wardens, fishery biologists, tournament officials, etc.) during the practice round or tournament, may result in the temporary or permanent suspension from all future 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament tournaments. Disrespect and or defamation to 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament, any tournament staff member, or sponsors of 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament, may result in immediate disqualification.

**20) CITATIONS** - A contestant cited by officers for violation of State or Federal fishing or boating regulations may be disqualified.

**21) TRUTH VERIFICATION TESTING** - All contestants, by virtue of their entry into any 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament event, are subject to testing by any "Truth Verification" method by authority of the management of 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament. The cost of testing may be assessed to the challenger. Failure to comply with taking or failure to pass a "truth verification" test, either at the tournament site or at any time after the tournament is concluded may result in forfeiture of any or all awards. This may also affect your future participation in Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament events. See the waiver for additional details.

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand these "Tournament Rules" and I have read, understand and agree to abide by all rules.

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(Signature)

(Date)

### 2024 WAIVER/RELEASE

This "Waiver/Release" covers all 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament Tournaments and Events. All contestants must read, understand, agree to, and sign this waiver prior to participating in the 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament.

In consideration of the acceptance of my entry in any and all 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament events, I hereby waive, release and forever discharge any and all rights and claims and damages which I may have or which may hereafter accrue to me against 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament, Port Deposit Chamber of Commerce, SNAKEHEADLIFE.COM and all other promoters and sponsors of these events, the promoting clubs and organizations, officials, all municipalities, special districts and properties through which these events will be held or their respective officers, agents, representatives, successors, and/or assigns to any and all damages which may be sustained or suffered by me in connection with said associations with, and/or damages arising out of my traveling to, participating in or returning from these events. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless Port Deposit Chamber of Commerce, 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament, it's officers, sponsors, volunteers and employees from any and all liability for any: claim, accidents, libel, slander, negligence and/or death suffered by any member, family, crew, boat and/or other persons which may occur during participation in a 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament or Port Deposit Chamber of Commerce tournament and/or event and/or sponsored activity. By signing this "Waiver/Release" I am stating that I have read, and I understand all rules for 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament events. All members must provide their Social Security Number for tax purposes. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament utilizes several forms of communication methods including websites, social media, emails, and texting. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament does not use standard mail to communicate rules or other program information. It is the responsibility of each individual to obtain program information (including sponsor contingency programs), event information, rule information, etc. through the methods utilized by 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament can always be reached by phone to update contact information or to verify current communication methods. (443) 521-4686. I understand, per 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament tournament rules, that if I am involved in a protest or rules violation that the results of the event are pending the review of the head tournament director of 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament to be completed within 72 hours of the event or upon completion of the investigation. I also understand that if I am involved in the dispute that I may be asked to submit to "Truth Verification" examinations. I therefore agree to submit to any and all requests by 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament for "Truth Verification" examinations and agree to abide by the outcomes of these examinations, including the return of any awards that may have been distributed at the event in question. I also understand that if a dispute requires that "Truth Verification" examinations be administered, the official results of the event are pending the outcome of the "Truth Verification" examinations and any other investigations. Any member who declines a request to take a "Truth Verification" examine pertaining to tournament rule adherence or other fishing related activities may be permanently banned from participating in any future 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament events. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament reserves the right to request any 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament member to submit to a "Truth Verification" examine pertaining to tournament rule adherence or other fishing related activities at any time. This questioning may or may not involve a current dispute or investigation. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament may choose to report rule violations to authorities for criminal prosecution. Disrespect and or defamation to 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament, any tournament staff member, or sponsors of the 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament, may result in immediate disqualification, and/or a permanent ban from any future 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament events. This includes the elimination of any and all points an individual may have accrued during an active season. I understand that some events require qualification criteria to participate. I agree to only register for events that are "open" registration or events I have qualified for. It is mandatory to provide 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament with complete and correct name, address, and Social Security number information for tax purposes. Providing incorrect and/or incomplete information is grounds for denial of participation in any/all 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament events. Registering for events where I am not qualified to participate jeopardizes my future participation in any 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament events. All prize offerings are dependent on manufacturer and/or sponsor support. I understand and agree that it is not the responsibility of 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament or any tournament sponsor to aid in on-the-water repairs or rescues at any time. Each contestant shall provide their own on-the-water assistance if needed. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament and its sponsors are not responsible to assure that any contestant has returned at the end of any contest. I attest and verify that I am physically fit, am enjoying good health and have sufficient expertise for participation in this event. I understand that fishing and hunting are physically strenuous activities and that I will be exerting myself during any 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament event, and if injured as a result of a heart attack, panic, hyperventilation, etc. that I expressly assume the risk and all expenses and liabilities incurred by said injury/illness. I agree to abide by the rules and regulations of these events and all boating and vehicle laws. I understand that boats equipped with motor horsepower in excess of factory and or B.I.A. Rating are in violation of Coast Guard Regulations. Boat owners are required to have proper boat insurance. All participants are required to have proper liability insurance. Participation in 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament events grants 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament and its sponsors unlimited rights to use any photos of contestants, photos of fish caught, accounts, or interviews with contestants for social media, promotional, and advertising purposes and event coverage. The use of these photos may include the editing out of competitive fishing organizations or competitive manufacturers names and or logos that may appear in the photo either worn by the angler or in view of the photo. By joining and/or participating in any 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament event you are giving permission to 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament to contact you via mail, email, text, voice message or other means not listed here. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament reserves the right to refuse participation in 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament events to anyone at any time. I understand the activity of boating is inherently dangerous. I also understand that the bodies of water that I participate on may become dangerous due to weather or other boating conditions. I agree to take sole responsibility to choose if I launch and participate in any 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament event. I am choosing, under no duress, to launch and participate in any 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament event. No matter the conditions at the onset of the event or conditions that may develop during the event, I am responsible for the safety of myself, anyone in my vessel and my vessel. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament and the sponsors of any event are not responsible for your safety, your boat operations, your conduct, or any dangers that you may encounter during any 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament event. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament will provide you with a full refund of event entry fees paid for any event that you deem unsafe, prior to your launching of your vessel. 2024 Port Deposit Snakehead Tournament officials will make decisions if an event will be conducted based on a number of safety conditions.

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I have read and understand this "Waiver/Release" and I have read, understand and agree to abide by this waiver and all rules.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) (Date)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

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