

## **OFFICIAL RULES for the TRIPLE FISH CHALLENGE**

### **April 11, 12, 13, 2025 on Banks Lake, Electric City, WA**

The following rules will remain unchanged throughout the event unless State or local laws are in conflict. Interpretation and enforcement of rules will be left to the Tournament director. In the event of a violation, the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate, including without limitation: disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fees, and the right to participate in future events. Reel Recreation reserves the right to refuse entry.

**Participation and Eligibility:** This event is open to any angler in the adult age category, including anglers 15 years of age and older, and the youth category, including anglers 14 years of age and younger. Boats may register up to 4 adult anglers per boat, ensuring the boat's capacity rating is not exceeded. During the event, any junior anglers must be accompanied by an adult angler, and written authorization must be presented by a parent or legal guardian to register. Junior registration is available with the online registration package.

**Registration:** Pre-registration online is encouraged, and an early bird discount is offered until March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Online registration will be available from January 1, 2025, through April 12, 2025. Onsite registration will be available Friday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of April, from 2:00 to 7:00 pm and Saturday Morning, from 6:00 to 8:00 am.

**Driver's meeting:** The meeting will follow morning registration, and we will assign blast-off numbers. Depending on the number of boats, blast-off may be divided into two or more flights. Flight weigh-in will be separated by a period of thirty minutes, and the blast-off order will be reversed on day two. Your angler number is important and must be shown at the weigh-in, do not lose it! Official time is the weigh master's cell phone time; ensure you "sync" with that time at the driver's meeting. Blast off for day one will commence after the driver's meeting. Blast off day two will be at 9:00 am.

**Boat Inspection and Safety:** All boats must be inspected prior to launch on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Boat inspections will begin at 6:00 am. All boats must meet all Washington State and Grant County boating ordinances. Life jackets, a throwable PFD, a flare device, a fire extinguisher, and a sound device are required. Motors on the boat may not exceed the recommended horsepower rating by the boat manufacturer. Inspectors may need to board your boat to check safety gear and live wells; please make an entry for them easy. Kill switches must be attached to the boat driver when the main engine runs. Youth that is 12 and under must always wear life jackets. Anglers 13 and older must wear life jackets while the main motor is running.

**Insurance:** Adequate liability insurance is required on boats participating in this event. Contestants are required to have proof of that insurance with them at this event. All contestants must sign a liability release form absolving the tournament sponsors, co-sponsors, their employees, event volunteers, the town of Electric City, and Reel Recreation.

**Tackle and equipment:** New for 2025, live bait (worms/nightcrawlers) will be permitted for use during the tournament. Please note that all state regulations for Banks Lake still apply. For example, no live minnows. Please be aware this may increase the risk of fish mortality and that every effort should be made to maintain a healthy catch. All fish must be caught in a legal and sporting manner. Only one rod per angler may be in the water at any time. When a boat has multiple rods out, each rod must be dedicated to a specific angler. Anglers may only weigh fish THEY caught. No swapping of fish is acceptable! Trolling, casting, jigging, drifting, flipping, and pitching are all acceptable fishing methods. Landing nets, preferably knotless, models are allowed. Livewells operating in good condition are required. A minimum 58-quart cooler, with an approved cooler conversion aeration system such as Sea choice # 50-19481 or similar, may be used.

**Sportsmanship:** Each participant is expected to follow a high standard of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. In keeping with that, during event hours, no alcoholic beverages or drugs may be used/consumed, and legal prescriptions are exempt. We also encourage those who may not have "got the big one" to stay for the awards. It is the "right" thing to do!

**Limits times/areas:** General regulations: There will be no "off limits" prior to the event. Following day one weigh-in, boats may not go back out on Saturday. No fishing is allowed inside the log boom of the host marina; over the buoys at the north inlet, no angler may leave his/her boat to land a fish. All fishing must be done from an inspected boat. No fishing within 50' of an anchored boat without their permission. If an anchored vessel allows a boat in, any boat may enter the area without complaint. Only registered event anglers may be in each boat. Anglers may need to OPT out during the event; this may be especially true for our junior anglers. In that event, if the tournament director and weigh master can be reached and the scales are available, youth and adult weights will be recorded for daily prizes. All other anglers must present their fish during the designated weigh-in to remain qualified for the grand prize.

**Tournament Format:** To be eligible for the grand prize, anglers must complete a "stringer" on both days. A "stringer" is defined as:

- 1 Bass (smallmouth or largemouth)
- 1 Walleye
- 1 Kicker Fish (whitefish or rainbow trout)

Both day one and day two stringer of fish must be identical.

**Check-in for weigh-in:** An official timekeeper will be posted at the marina's entrance. The official time for each boat will be logged at the time it comes "off Pad." Each boat must clearly display its boat number to the timekeeper. If there is a time issue, the timekeeper will signal the boat with an orange flag. It then is the boater's responsibility to contact the timekeeper and resolve any time issues prior to weighing in. If the timekeeper reports a time issue to the weigh master, it will affect the weight of all fish on that vessel. An 8-ounce penalty for each minute late will be enacted on each qualifying fish for up to ten minutes, at which point, all weight will be lost. Only One (1) fish in each category may be weighed for each angler. All species must meet the 8" minimum length to be weighed in. Walleye, smallmouth, and largemouth bass presented alive for weigh-in must be released. Rainbow trout and whitefish may be retained; no dead fish penalty will be imposed on rainbow trout or whitefish. Dead Smallmouth, largemouth bass, and walleye will have a 4-ounce penalty deducted from the total weight. Dead fish must be retained; discarding a dead fish to avoid a penalty is both unsportsmanlike and illegal. Fish that appear to be frozen or display foul hooking will result in the disqualification of that angler. Weigh master/tournament directors' rulings are final.

**Prizes and Responsibilities:** Each day, the heaviest Rainbow Trout, Walleye, Bass, and white fish in each division will be awarded prizes. Youth anglers will receive prizes for each day's heaviest 3 fish strings. In the Adult class, the angler with the heaviest 6 fish total (2 Bass, 2 Walleye, and 2 "kicker" fish) will win the Grand Prize, valued at \$3,000.00. Total payouts, except for the grand prize, will depend on the total number of registrations. All winners are responsible for any taxes, licensing, or fees on their prizes. Winners shall submit to the tournament director any tax information required for prize transfer (a completed W9). Merchandise prizes will have no taxable cash value. All prizes shall be final after the awards ceremony. Entrants must be present at the awards ceremony to collect their prizes. The event will not "ship" prizes.

**Grand Prize:** If the two-day "Triple Fish" is not achieved, adult anglers that were able to catch all three species in one day will be eligible for a prize. The eligible anglers will be scored on overall weight from both days.

**\*Note: Reel Recreation board members are not eligible for the grand prize.**

**Tiebreaker:** In the event of a tie, the largest kicker fish from either day will be used. If the tie continues, then it will be the largest bass, and then the largest walleye if needed.

**Polygraph:** All contestants, winners, and non-winners may be subject to a polygraph. Failure to submit to or to pass a polygraph test will result in immediate disqualification.

**Weather Conditions:** The captain of each boat is responsible for the safety of their crew. Captains should be mindful of approaching weather conditions and prepare for inclement weather. It is recommended that all anglers seek shelter during a thunder and lightning event. No refunds will be given due to the weather.

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