

STRIPER MAFIA TOURNAMENT SERIES RULES

October 27, 2018 / December 8, 2018 / March 16, 2019 / April 13, 2019

1. This is a "Catch-Photo-Release" tournament, all members of the general public are eligible to participate. The maximum number of team members in a team is 4. Teams must obey Coast Guard passenger limits per boat.
2. Teams may not hire the services of a Fishing Guide for the day of the tournament. However, for clarification, a Guide may enter the tournament on his/her on behalf, along with a team of his/her choosing, as long as they are not being paid a guide fee by clients for that day's fishing.
3. Applications, along with the tournament entry fee of \$100.00, and optional Big Fish fee of \$25.00 must be submitted no later than the close of the Captains Meeting to be held at a pre-announced time and location the evening before the tournament. The Tournament Fee and Optional Big Fish fee is for the event on the specified date only. At least one member of each team must be present at the Captain's Meeting. NO EXCEPTIONS.
4. All members of the team must be listed on the application.
5. The tournament will begin ("lines in") at "Safe Light", to be announced at the Captain's Meeting of each tournament.
6. All State Fish & Game laws apply. All contestants must have a valid Virginia fishing license.
7. If fishing from a boat, only contestants are allowed in the boat used to fish the tournament. If fishing from a dock or bank, only contestants are allowed to fish together or support each other in any manner while fishing (i.e. tending to rods, landing a fish). For clarity a team is required to fish together - that is they may not be in multiple boats, or some fishing from land while others from the boat. Non-contestants are NOT allowed to fish or ride with contestants.
8. Only striped bass caught from Smith Mountain Lake, by a contestant during tournament hours, may be entered in this tournament. No fish caught prior to the start of the tournament may be entered. Fish caught by one team may not be entered by another team as its own. No fish may be caught/captured prior to the tournament event and held and then submitted or "caught" and submitted.
9. Fish must be caught on a rod and reel. There is no limit as to the number of rods used. The use of live-bait or artificial lures is allowed as long as it is permitted by Virginia State Game laws.
10. All State Game Laws apply. Any team member cited for a game violation during the tournament will be cause for team disqualification.
11. Check-in Location :
 - 11.1. The official headquarters for each event may vary - refer to information published on the Striper Mafia website (www.SMLStriperMafia.com) for specific details of that event.
 - 11.2. Refer to information published on the Striper Mafia website for specific information on the location of the Post Tournament Check-In & Awards Ceremony for each event .
 - 11.3. Check-in will open at 3:00 p.m. and remain open until all teams are checked in. However, contestants must be present, in line with photos available upon request at the check-in location no later than 4:00 p.m. Any photos that must be e-mailed (vs presented via SD card), must be received to the e-mail address to be designated at the Captain's Meeting prior to the 4:00pm cut-off or have team representative checked-in and working with Tournament Directors to download the pictures.
12. Check-in / Fish Submission Rules:
 - 12.1. Each team may submit photos for up to two (2) eligible fish. As this is a "Catch & Release" tournament, "virtual culling" is allowed - in that photos of multiple fish may be taken, but only two pictures may be submitted at Check-in.
 - 12.2. Photos are to be submitted electronically by e-mailing to an e-mail address to be provided at the Captain's Meeting or by presenting a "SD" memory card. If alternate arrangements are needed for delivery of the picture, you must discuss with the Tournament Director(s) at the Captain's Meeting.
 - 12.3. No team will be allowed to present photos for check-in after "last call" as made by the tournament director.
 - 12.4. Photos of all fish must be taken with the Tournament Token Card, clearly visible in the picture. The full fish must be visible in the picture, along with clearly visible measurements, and the token card, on the approved measuring device.
 - 12.5. The provided Tournament Token Card must clearly show the Team Name & the Token Code which will be published approximately 15 minutes before "Lines In" - via e-mail / text-message & posted to Facebook & Website.
 - 12.6. Use of a tournament approved measuring device MUST be used. The approved measuring devices will be distributed at the pre-Tournament Captan's Meeting and must be returned at Check-In. Failure to return the measuring device will result in a \$50 fee and/or restriction from participating in future events.
 - 12.7. Photos of all fish must be in fresh condition: clear eyes, red gills, clear tail without fading - there should be no question that the fish was immediately photographed upon catch. Any fish that was obviously sick, injured or dead when caught or any fish deemed questionable by the Tournament Director(s) will be disqualified.
 - 12.8. Fish should be placed on the measuring device with the mouth against the "bump board" portion, top of the fish oriented to the top of the board (board oriented with "bump-board" placed to the left), It is recommended to pinch the tail if possible - but be sure not to obscure the mouth of the fish against the "bump-board" nor the tail of the fish in the photo. There is no specific requirement regarding open/closed mouth of the fish. If a picture is submitted with the fish "upside down" it will only be considered if it is at least 2 inches shorter/longer than any additional fish submitted.
 - 12.9. The Tournament Director(s) will disqualify any photo that exhibits signs of altering by any means. Do not crop, filter, adjust the color / contrast or other settings of the photo. Prior to releasing the fish, ensure that the picture taken conforms to the above rules and that the measurement is clearly legible. The decision of the Tournament Director(s) on a disputed measurement is final.
 - 12.10. Fish will be measured to the nearest 1/4" - rounding down. For clarity, if the measurement is deemed ON the measurement line, that will be the measurement recored - if there is any visible space between the fish and the next line the measurement will be rounded down.
 - 12.11. The length of a team's largest fish will decide ties, with earliest time of team check-in serving as the secondary tie-breaker.
 - 12.12. Anyone who presents a fish that was not caught by their team, as his own, or was caught outside tournament waters or hours will be disqualified.
 - 12.13. ANY PROTESTS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING WITHIN 15 MINUTES AFTER CLOSE OF CHECK-IN AND BE ACCOMPANIED BY A \$200 CASH DEPOSIT - DEPOSIT WILL BE REFUNDED IF THE PROTEST IS FOUND VALID AND UPHELD.
 - 12.14. The Striper Mafia Tournament Director(s) reserves the right to require a polygraph test of any money winner. Participants agree to submit themselves for a polygraph if requested by the Tournament Director(s). If an individual fails the first test, a second will be administered. If the individual fails the second test the team of which that individual is a part will be disqualified from the event.
13. Prize money for any place not claimed at the Awards Ceremony, which will immediately follow the Check-In, will be retained for use in future events at the Tournament Director(s)' discretion.

14. The Tournament Director(s) are empowered to impose additional restrictions, alter rules or reschedule the tournament due to dangerous weather. Tournament entrants are entitled to fish the new date. Entry fees are non-refundable.
15. All State Safety Laws apply. The Striper Mafia Tournament Series strongly recommends wearing an approved personal flotation device at all times when participating in the tournament.
16. All contestants and spectators participate at their own risk. The Striper Mafia Tournament Series, will serve as the tournament and check-in host. The organizers of the event, the Tournament Director(s) and any sponsors of the tournament will not be liable for any accident or injury to contestants, spectators or by-standers for any damage to property, or bodily harm. A contestant's entry into this tournament constitutes a release of liability to the organizers of the event, any other event sponsor, their successors and/or assignees for any such accident, injury, or property damage the contestants may be involved in. Each Member of a team must complete, sign & date the Tournament Application form in order to be eligible to participate.
17. The use of alcohol or drugs is prohibited at the Captain's Meeting, during tournament hours and at the post-tournament Check-In & Awards Ceremony. Contestants appearing to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be cause for his or her team to be disqualified.
18. Any contestant who willfully violates any rule will be cause for his or her team to be disqualified along with any contestant who witnesses and fails to report a violation. Any disqualified individual is subject to disqualification from Striper Mafia Tournament Series events for life, as determined by the organizers of the Tournament Series.
19. The decision of the Tournament Director(s) will be final in ALL tournament matters.
20. For any questions, contact Tournament Organizers - Michael Ward at (336) 437-4114 or Tyler Early at (540) 580-8040. Alternatively an e-mail may be sent to stripermafia@gmail.com.
21. Distribution of Entry Fees:
 - 21.1. Prize monies and the Raffle Prize Pot will be awarded at the Awards Ceremony to follow the Check-In on the day of the tournament. All non-money placing teams will be eligible for the Cash Raffle Prize(s).
 - 21.2. Prize money payouts will be determined by the number of teams entered into a given event:
 - 1 - 10 Teams: 1st Place - 80%
 - 11-20 Teams: 1st Place - 55%; 2nd Place - 25%
 - 21-30 Teams: 1st Place - 50%; 2nd Place - 20%; 3rd Place - 10%
 - 31-40 Teams: 1st Place - 45%; 2nd Place - 17.5%; 3rd Place - 10%; 4th Place - 7.5%
 - 41+ Teams: 1st Place - 40%; 2nd Place - 17.5%; 3rd Place - 10%; 4th Place - 7.5%; 5th Place - 5%
 - 10% of Entry Fees will be paid out as Cash Raffle Prize(s).
 - 10% of Entry Fees will be retained for tournament expenses.
 - 21.3. Optional Big Fish Pot will be a 100% payout. Longest single fish per team as determined by submitted photographs will be used to determine winner. In the event of a tie (closest 1/4", rounding down), earliest time of submission will be used.
22. Youth Category Competition - Any youth age 15 or under, on a registered team, shall be eligible for the Youth Competition. Each Youth may submit one photo as their entry. This photo/fish must comply with all the rules stated above. The Youth may submit a photo of one of the fish which his or her team has submitted as their entries. In the event of a tie (closest 1/4", rounding down), earliest time of team check-in will be used. Should multiple youth be fishing on the same team, each must submit a unique entry. Awards will be given for 1st through 3rd places in the Youth Category.
23. Ladies Competition - The lady (age 16 or older) who catches the longest fish caught by ladies entered in the overall tournament series will win a prize donated by one of our sponsors. They do NOT have to be entered in the Big Fish competition. In addition to the picture of the fish on the measuring device with token card, a picture of the lady holding the fish, and token card should also be submitted.
24. Striper Mafia Tournament Series "Team of the Year" & "Big Fish of the Series" competitions will be held through the course of the four events. Participation in these competitions is automatic and does not incur any additional cost. Entry in the optional Big Fish pots is NOT required to be eligible for this competition.
 - 24.1. The "Captain" and Team Name as designed on the tournament registration designate a team. Team members may change throughout the events, but the Captain and team name must remain the same.
 - 24.2. Team of the Year Points will be awarded to a team at each event based on their ranking in overall placement of that event.
 - 24.2.1. The team's top three scores will be used to determine the overall "Team of the Year" ranking.
 - 24.2.2. Points will be awarded as follows: 1000 to 1st, 950 to 2nd, 900 to 3rd, 850 to 4th - reducing points awarded by 50 through 20th place - which will receive 50 points. Teams placing lower than 20th place will receive 0 points for that event.
 - 24.2.3. In the event of a points tie, the tie breaker will be the team with the largest total inches of fish throughout their tournament entries (up to four events), followed by the team with the most 1st places, followed by the most 2nd places, followed by the most 3rd places, followed by the most 4th places, followed by the most 5th places, followed by the team that fished the most events.
 - 24.2.4. Big Fish of the Series will be determined by the largest fish caught throughout the series. A tie will be broken by the 1st fish to be caught during the series.
 - 24.3. **A minimum of one team member must be present at the April Awards Ceremony** in order to be eligible for "Team of the Year" or "Big Fish of the Series" awards. If not present the award(s) will go to the next highest placing team.

(End of Striper Mafia Tournament Series Rules)

STRIPER MAFIA TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION FORM
 October 27, 2018 / December 8, 2018 / March 16, 2019 / April 13, 2019

All team members which will be participating in the event must complete & sign the form below.

One representative from Team must be present at the Captains Meeting prior to Lines-In the morning of the tournament to collect measuring device & token card

Registration Fee: \$100/Team/Event / Optional Big Fish Pot: \$25/Team/Event

Bank/Dock Fishing Team: Yes / No (Circle One)

Team Name: _____

Team Captain	Name	Mailing Address	Cell-Phone	E-Mail
1				
Team Member(s)	Name	Youth (15 & Under) or Lady?	Cell-Phone	E-Mail
2				
3				
4				

By signing below, each team participant acknowledges that they have read and understand the "STRIPER MAFIA TOURNAMENT SERIES RULES" document. Each team member participates at their own risk. The organizers of the Striper Mafia Tournament Series and any sponsors of the tournament series will not be liable for any accident or injury to contestants, spectators or by-standers for any damage to property, or bodily harm. A team member's entry into this tournament constitutes a release of liability to the organizers of the Striper Mafia Tournament Series, any other event sponsor, their successors and/or assignees for any such accident, injury, or property damage the contestants may be involved in. Youth participants (under the age of 18) must have a parent or guardian sign this document on their behalf.

Team Captain - Name **Signature** **Date**

Team Member 2 - Name **Signature** **Date**

Team Member 3 - Name **Signature** **Date**

Team Member 4 - Name **Signature** **Date**

Entry Fee Received: _____ Big Fish Pot: _____ Board #: _____