



## 2023 FISHING DERBY RULES & REGULATIONS

APPROVED MAY 5, 2023

- 1. TIMING.** All participants must only fish during the time set forth for the Fishing Derby (June 1 – June 30, 2023).
- 2. AREA.** All Fishing Derby participants must only fish within the Falls of the Ohio National Wildlife Conservation Area (map below).

### Approximate Boundary of the Falls of the Ohio National Wildlife Conservation Area



**3. TAGS.** All individuals must register for the event and have properly obtained a numbered tag in order to enter the Fishing Derby Contest. Tags will be mailed by standard USPS mail on May 25. You may also register and/or pick up your tag at the Interpretive Center (201 W. Riverside Drive, Clarksville, IN 47129) from 10:00-12:00 pm on June 3, 2023. Tags not picked up at this time will be mailed via USPS to the address provided on the registration form.

**3.A. PHOTO FOR PRIZE CONSIDERATION.** The numbered tag must be visible in the photo you submit for the online voting competition. And the photo must clearly show that you are fishing in the Falls of the Ohio National Wildlife Conservation Area (have unique features in the background like the dam wall, Interpretive Center, Falls of the Ohio rock landscape, etc.). Failure to have or display a proper numbered

tag or properly show that you fished the Falls, will result in disqualification for all prizes and expulsion from the Fishing Derby site.

**3.B. SUBMITTING YOUR PHOTO.** At the close of the month (June 2023) all registered participants with a valid email address will be provided information on where to submit your favorite Fishing Derby Photo to be considered and voted on. Submissions must be made between noon on June 25 through noon July 5, 2023.

**3.C. CATEGORIES.** Tags are by age category and may not be upgraded during the course of the event. If you purchase a child tag you may not upgrade to an adult tag during the event. Violations of this rule will result in disqualification from all prizes.



*Falls Fishing Derby Photo Example*

**4. LAWS.** All participants must obey all City, State and Federal laws during the course of this event, including all applicable game and fish laws. If a participant is cited for a violation of an applicable law while on the Fishing Derby grounds they will be disqualified from any and all prizes and may be expelled from the Fishing Derby grounds.

**4.A. FREE FISHING DAY.** Participants are encouraged to fish during Indiana's Free Fishing days (June 3-4, 2023). On Free Fishing Days, Indiana residents do not need a fishing license or a trout/salmon stamp to fish the state's public waters. All other rules such as seasons, bag, and size limits apply.

**5. ROD/REEL/BAIT.** Participants must only catch fish using a rod and reel. No other means besides a rod and reel can be used to catch a fish. The Fishing Derby does not allow the use of chum, boxed bait, chumming buckets, bait blocks or any other manner of fish attraction that does not use hook and line.

**6. FISHING LICENSE.** All participants 16 years of age or older are required to have a valid Indiana or Kentucky Fishing License in order to participate as required by law.

**7. LIFE PRESERVER.** All participants should follow all safe water and boating rules and regulations as it relates to wearing life preservers and floatation devices. Children should be monitored by an authorized parent/guardian at all times and are encouraged to wear a Coast Guard approved life preserver at all times when fishing at the Falls of the Ohio.

**8. PRIZES.** You may claim a prize only for fish that you catch. You may not claim a prize for friends, family members or others (unless for minor child). If you attempt to claim a prize for a fish that you did not catch you will be disqualified from further participation in this event and may be subject to additional penalties pursuant to Indiana law. **DO NOT WASTE FISH! TAKE A PHOTO WITH YOUR TAG AND PROOF YOU'RE AT THE FALLS TO DOCUMENT YOUR CATCH. DOCUMENTED FISH MAY THEN BE RELEASED BACK INTO THE WATER.**

**8.A. PRIZE ELIGIBILITY.** To qualify for a prize, you must take a photo of a live fish. Your unique numbered tag must be visible in the photo you submit for the online voting competition. And the photo must clearly show that you are fishing in the Falls of the Ohio National Wildlife Conservation Area (have unique features in the background like the dam wall, Interpretive Center, Falls of the Ohio rock landscape, etc.). Failure to have or display a proper numbered tag or properly show that you fished the Falls, will result in disqualification for all prizes and expulsion from the Fishing Derby site.

**8.B PHOTO VOTING FOR PRIZES.** All submitted photos will be uploaded to an online portal for a set voting period. Photos should be uploaded by noon on July 5, 2023 and the voting will

commence between July 7-16. Prizes will go to the top three vote earners in each age category. Votes are tallied through an online system. Any ties will be decided with a coin flip. Winners will be announced on July 18. FOTOF reserves the right to remove any photos that do not meet the criteria outlined within these rules or are deemed inappropriate.

**9. ALTERATIONS.** Alteration of a tag, fish or any other attempt to fraudulently obtain a prize will result in disqualification from further participation in this event and may be subject to additional penalties pursuant to Indiana law.

**10. ALCOHOL.** Participants are prohibited from bringing alcohol on the FOTO premises.

**11. FIREARMS.** Open and concealed firearms and weapons are strongly discouraged during the event. Per Indiana Department of Natural Resources Policies, "A person may possess a handgun at DNR State Parks & Reservoir properties with the exceptions of properties that have land leased from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (e.g., Mississinewa, Salamonie, Patoka, Brookville, Cagles Mill, Cecil M. Harden and Monroe lakes) or at Falls of the Ohio State Park."

**12. CONDUCT.** All participants are expected to conduct themselves in a true sportsmanlike, courteous, safe and ethical manner at all times. Failure to conduct themselves in such a manner may result in disqualification and expulsion from the grounds. Give your neighbor sufficient room to cast and land fish. Do not interfere with any other participants fishing activity. Any fish that is caught and claimed by more than one participant will be disqualified from prize contention. Photos of a disputed fish will be determined by a Fishing Derby Chairperson's ruling.

**13. NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN.** This event is a charity benefit and proceeds benefit the 501(c)(3) Falls of the Ohio Foundation. ALL SALES AND REGISTRATION FEES ARE FINAL. The event lasts one month to give sufficient time to account for inclement weather, schedule conflicts, or other reasons. For this reason, **NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER REGISTRATION.**

**13.A. CANCELLATION.** If for inclement weather, or for any other good cause, the Falls of the Ohio Foundation (FOTOF) reserves the right to cancel the Fishing Derby. **IN THE EVENT OF THE CANCELLATION OF THE FISHING DERBY, NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN.**

**14. DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE.** FOTOF does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, national origin, color, religion, gender or gender identity. All registration applications will be reviewed by the FOTO and FOTO retains sole discretion on acceptance or rejection of any application. Employees of FOTO, members of the FOTO Board of Directors, and FOTO employees are not eligible for prizes.

**15. LIABILITY and CONSENT.** All participants agree to the Falls of the Ohio Foundation's Liability Waiver (find it online at <https://www.falloftheohio.org/waiver-of-liability/>) and release the Falls of the Ohio Foundation from any and all liability as a result of any acts or omissions by the staff and/or volunteers of FOTOF. All participants release the use of photographs, video or film of themselves taken, submitted, or obtained during the course of the Fishing Derby or the use by FOTOF without prior consent to royalties. All participants agree to cooperate with and perform as instructed by FOTOF and all sponsoring businesses in the award of prizes and the publication or use of such awards by the Fishing Derby or the sponsoring business without prior consent or royalties. Failure to cooperate in the award of the prize may result in disqualification from the event and prize consideration. FOTOF reserves the right to refuse to award a prize to anyone and all decisions of the Fishing Derby leader are final.