



# 2025 TOURNAMENT RULES

CPR – Catch Photo Release

Anglers will report the measurement, and the app will apply a weight conversion. Winners will be determined by Grand Total in Inches of Trout and Largest Trout

## FishDonkey App

All registration and payment must be completed using the app. The FishDonkey App will be used to photo document fish and will generate live leaderboards. The leaderboards will update throughout the event as fish are submitted. All entries will be considered unofficial until verified. **It is your responsibility to train on and test the App before the tournament.**

## Participation & Eligibility

- The Iowa Driftless Classic is a team tournament.
- *General registration teams* must enter as two-person teams (no "Partner TBD" or unknown partner names on the registration) and are encouraged to fish together. If a situation arises where only one member of the team can participate, proper notification must be made to the IDC directors as soon as possible.
- *Youth registration teams* (16 and under) may have 1-3 youth anglers and must be accompanied by one fully-licensed adult.
- The Iowa Driftless Classic reserves the right to refuse entry to any individuals who have been barred or disqualified from any tournament for rules violations.

## Measuring & Photo Documenting

All photos must be taken through the FishDonkey app and measurements must be on a "trough" fish measuring board. Measuring board length markings must be clearly legible. No alterations or enhanced lines will be allowed.

- Fish should be recorded immediately, and measurements noted by length.
- All submissions must include ONLY 1 photograph and 1 video: 1) Measurement Shot - pic of trout on measuring board and 2) A release video of the trout going back into the water.

### 1st photo Measurement Shot

Close the fish's mouth and place the fish on the "trough" fish measuring board. The nose must touch the bump of the measuring board (the belly is facing you). This photo needs to include the entire fish on the board.. You may not insert anything inside the gill plate of the fish while measuring. Absolutely NO hands, fingers, or props are allowed under the fish to alter fish length. Trout will be scored based on their length - 1 point per inch of fish or 0.25 points per ¼ inch of fish. The team agrees on the length of the fish to ¼ inch accuracy. If the tail fin touches or crosses a graduation line on the "trough" fish measuring board the official length of the fish for scoring purposes must be lengthened to the next one quarter of an inch line of the "trough" fish measuring board.

- Example: 9 ¾" Fish will count as a 10" Trout
- Example: 9" Fish will count as a 9 ¼" Trout

### 2nd Release Video

The video must show the live release of the trout back into the water. Failure to submit a release video, or a careless release will result in the fish being denied. Failure to submit 1 photo and 1 video will result in fish denial.

## Practice the FishDonkey App ahead of time

[Watch a 1 minute tutorial video on "How to Enter a Fish"](#)

Test the app before you get out on the water.

1. Download the app (if you haven't yet)
2. Tap: FISH IN A TOURNAMENT
3. Search and Join: Practice Entering a Fish

[Video: How to Join the Practice Tournament](#)

It is the sole responsibility of each participant to be proficient in the use of the app.

## FishDonkey in poor reception areas

Prepare in advance, just in case.

The app will work without internet reception.

Do this: Tap on the name of the tournament on the FishDonkey home screen. Your event is now fully loaded, & you are ready.

When you return to good reception:

- Your Digital Livewell® (fish icon) will show you if there are fish waiting to get pushed into the leaderboard.
- Open your Digital Livewell® and leave that screen open/active until all fish are "Received". If your pictures are not showing the leaderboard, this is what you need to do.
- If you tap RESUBMIT, you only need to tap it once. Keep the screen "awake" by tapping in a blank area on the screen to keep it processing.

Every angler is responsible for checking their Digital Livewell® at the end of the day to make sure that all of their fish submissions have been identified as "RECEIVED". Tap on the Digital Livewell® (fish icon). You will need a minimum of 2 bars of service or strong Wi-Fi. If any entries have a message that reads NOT RECEIVED, leave that screen open until all fish read RECEIVED to the leaderboard. If you cannot get your entry to say RECEIVED, try this: <https://tinyurl.com/DigitalLivewell>

## Measuring Boards

All teams will be required to use the official "trough" fish measuring board that will be provided to participants on the day of the tournament.

## Tournament Directors

Your tournament Directors are Ross Evelsizer ([ross@northeastiowarcd.org](mailto:ross@northeastiowarcd.org)), Jared Nielsen ([jared@northeastiowarcd.org](mailto:jared@northeastiowarcd.org)) and Dre Fornasiero ([xxraggamuffinx@gmail.com](mailto:xxraggamuffinx@gmail.com)). Directors can be reached by calling Northeast Iowa RC&D at 563-864-7112. The interpretation and enforcement of the rules is at the sole discretion of the directors. The tournament directors may change rules or impose sanctions as they deem appropriate, including but not limited to disqualifications, forfeiture of prizes, and prohibition from competing in future tournaments. All decisions made by the tournament directors are final.

Attendance is mandatory by at least one team member at the Rules and Procedure Meeting on Saturday, September 14th at 8AM at Impact Coffee. Failure to register and check-in BEFORE the start of the rules meeting results in disqualification for the tournament.

## Tournament Format

- Teams must check in the morning of the IDC at Impact Coffee (101 W Water St., Decorah). Check in begins at 7AM.
- Teams must remain within tournament boundaries during the tournament hours.
- Teams must abide by all local navigation laws and AVOID RESTRICTED AREAS AT ALL TIMES.
- The tournament date is Saturday, September 20, 2025
- Tournament waters include all navigable and PUBLICALLY-ACCESSIBLE waters in IOWA.
- Fishing hours will be from 9AM-5PM.

## Scoring

Awards are presented on the basis of length and verified by tournament judges. The award categories are:

- **Largest Trout** - measured by length
- **Stringer** - adds the total length of all Trout caught (1 point per inch of fish). Teams can have a maximum stringer of 15 Brook, Brown or Rainbow Trout. Please note that the FishDonkey app will automatically cull the smallest fish from your stringer for any Trout entered after your 15th fish.
- **Trout Trifecta** - Plus 20 bonus points for all species of Trout caught (brook, brown, rainbow).

If a tie occurs, the team with the largest trout (measured by length) will determine the tiebreaker.

Prizes are based on a full field of participants. The tournament committee reserves the right to adjust cash/prize values accordingly.

## Safety

Participants are responsible for their own safety, actions, and property at all times.

## Sportsmanship

- All contestants will be expected to always act in a sportsmanlike manner towards non-competitors and competitors alike. This shall include the areas of safety, conservation, and courtesy. Violators of this rule will be subject to disqualification.
- Any unfavorable conduct or action by a competitor which could negatively reflect on the Iowa Driftless Classic Tournament will be grounds for disqualification and/or future rejection of entry application.
- During the tournament's fishing hours, we encourage contestants to not discuss techniques, tactics, or fishing spots with other contestant; nor try to receive fishing information from non-competitors. Noncompetitors are not allowed to scout or hold spots for contestants.

## Rules and Interpretation

Contestants are responsible for knowing tournament rules as well as state and local rules and regulations, which pertain to the tournament waters. Any team violating state or local rules may be disqualified at the discretion of the Tournament Director. All protests must be lodged with the Tournament Director in writing 1 hour of completion of the days weigh-in (5PM). Following interviews with concerned parties, a ruling will be made. The Tournament Directors will interpret rules according to the spirit and intent of the rule and their decision in all disputes is final. If rules infractions are brought to the Tournament Director's attention at any time, and investigation proves a violation occurred, prizes and/or awards must be returned if requested.

## Cheating

All protests must be brought to the director's attention before the end of the event.

- Anyone caught breaking the law or disobeying the rules will be disqualified.
- Fish must be hooked and caught live in a conventional manner. Fish cannot be snagged, netted, speared, etc.
- Alterations of fish tails is prohibited. (Clipping)
- If you see another angler doing what you believe is a rules violation, follow these steps if possible: 1) Take out your camera and take a picture or video of the offender and 2) Call the tournament director immediately.
- Ensure that your correct address, email, and mobile number appear in your app profile for prize announcements and delivery. Find your app profile by tapping on the person icon in the top right corner in FishDonkey. Prizes are the responsibility of the winners. Transportation, taxes, and incidentals are the responsibility of the winner.
- It is the responsibility of the tournament director to disburse all prizes.
- From our terms and conditions, you have agreed to the following: **"FishDonkey makes no representations or warranties regarding the Service, or the quality, features, conditions, rules, prizes, results, or other aspects of any tournament ORGANIZED THROUGH, OR hosted on, the Site. AS BETWEEN FISHDONKEY AND THE TOURNAMENT ORGANIZER, THE TOURNAMENT ORGANIZER IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RESULTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE TOURNAMENTS THEY ORGANIZE AND HOST USING THE SITE AND SERVICES."**