



## Sportsman's Lodge Sturgeon Tournament Rules

### Catch and Release Tournament

**Immediate Release** - All lake sturgeon caught during the tournament must be immediately released. Fish may not be held in boats or tethered for the purpose of measuring or judging. Tournament participants are not allowed to reduce a sturgeon to possession or harvest a sturgeon during the tournament. For tournament purposes immediate release is defined as the minimum amount of time necessary to identify, unhook measure, photograph and release the fish into its environment in a revived and healthy condition. This definition does not constitute possession, so size regulations do not prohibit entering sublegal fish in an immediate release tournament.

**Judge Boats** - There will be a minimum of 1 judge boat per 20 tournament boats. Judge boats will be equipped with marine or similar communications equipment to facilitate communication between judges, anglers and tournament officials. Judge boats must be equipped with a leader board. All fish shorter than the leader's length shall be released immediately.

**Fishing Boundaries:** Area will be limited to an area approximately 1.2 miles long within 4-Mile Bay and the Rainy River. The upstream and downstream ends of the tournament area will be marked with buoys.

**Tournament Boats** - All tournament boats must be equipped with a high visibility flag for the purpose of summoning a judge boat immediately upon hooking a lake sturgeon. Judge boats must be positioned to retain a line of site of all tournament boats. Tournament is allowed a maximum of 60 boats.

Failure to live release a fish will disqualify angler from the tournament. No person may be in possession of or use a gaff in any tournament boat.

**Scoring:** The two longest fish caught will be the winner for each day. When a fish is landed, a patrol boat will be signaled which will measure and record the fish length before releasing the fish. Failure to release a live fish will disqualify angler from the tournament. Length overrules girth.

\* All contestants must possess a valid Minnesota fishing license.

\* All persons fishing out of each boat must be entered in the tournament. There is no contest limit on anglers per boat (must be within Coast Guard regulations).

\* The Wheeler's Point access may be used for launching purposes, but all vehicles and trailers must be parked at Sportsman's Lodge.

\* All rulings made by the tournament director are final.

By entering this tournament, you release the tournament directors, committee and all sponsors from any liability due to property theft, injury, or death during this tournament.

**Ask about our package plan options that can include lodging, meals, & more!**