

## National Pike Fishing Derby Rules July 11, 2026

1. All participants including scouts, adults, and fishing buddies (non-scout siblings, friends, community members) must be registered for the event in order to participate in the National Pike Fishing Derby. Adults and fishing buddies can contribute to pack\troop totals if they are associated with a unit. Fishing Buddies are only eligible for the “Fishing buddy” trophy. Adults are only eligible for the Adult trophy.
2. Online registration opens May 1 and closes at 6pm on July 10. On-site registration will open 30 minutes prior to the start of the Fishing Derby. All participants must check in at the weigh-in station on the morning of the event before starting to fish. Any fish brought to the weigh-in station before officially checking in will be disqualified. The official event hours are 9:15 am to 12:00 pm with an award ceremony at 12:30 pm.
3. Advanced registration for the event will be \$10.00. Same day registration will be \$15.00. All registrations will include a patch. Patches will be delivered within three months following the event. They will be distributed to the Scoutmasters and Cubmasters at Roundtable or mailed to any out-of-district participants or participants not affiliated with a scouting unit.
4. All fishing must take place from the shore. No fishing from boats or with waders is allowed. The Buddy System is to be followed throughout the event. Scouting America Safeguarding Youth standards state that no adult may be alone with any youth who is not their own child. Adults are encouraged to help youth fish safely.
5. The weigh-in station will be open throughout event hours. Fishing Derby officials will do the official weighing. Weight will be the sole determinant of winning fish. In case of a tie, the winner will be determined by length. If there is still a tie, then both participants will receive a prize.
6. Trophies will be awarded to the top 10 fish caught by Scouts, the top fish caught by an adult, and the top fish caught by a fishing buddy. No individual may win more than 1 trophy. There is also a Troop/Pack “team competition” with the top 10 teams winning ribbons. The group ranking will be determined by the sum of weight of the 3 heaviest fish for each team. Ties will again be broken by total length measured. No fish entered in the individual competition will be eligible for the team competition.
7. Coolers and other containers brought to the Fishing Derby are subject to inspection prior to the start of fishing. Anyone caught bringing live (non-bait) fish to the event will be disqualified.
8. Only registered fishing derby participants will be allowed to enter fish for prizes. Anyone receiving a fish from a non-registered individual is subject to disqualification by the event officials. Non-registered adults can verbally coach their Scouts but are NOT allowed to actively fish in the Scout’s place. The same applies for non-registered unregistered fishing buddies.
9. Only **LIVE** fish may be weighed and be eligible for prizes. All fish must be released after weigh-in. This is strictly a catch and release event.

10. Any participant who leaves the park during the event will be ineligible to register fish for prizes upon returning.
11. Participants are limited to three rods per person and two hooks per line. All fish must be caught by rod and reel only. No traps or nets are allowed except to help land a fish on a line close to shore. No traps or nets are allowed for bait capture.
12. All participants
13. must obey the state fishing regulations. Anyone registered to fish, age sixteen (16) or over, must have a valid 2026 Maryland fishing license.
14. Artificial and live bait may be used. If a bait or lure is questionable, then it should be brought to the event officials **BEFORE** fishing with it. Standard fishing equipment will be approved without question, except for sonar type fish finding equipment.
15. Every attempt should be made not to disturb the habitat we are fishing in. Fish should be released gently. All trash should be disposed of properly. Please do not disturb other visitors to the lake.
16. The weigh-in station will be located under the pop-up at the check-in station.
17. All fish must be weighed no later than 12:00 noon. **You must be standing in the weigh-in line at the time the fishing derby ends.** The official's clock is the one and only official timepiece. Any late fish will be disqualified. The decisions of the judges are final.
18. All participants are responsible for their own equipment including rods, reels, bait, and buckets.
19. Fish hooks are sharp. When casting, please pay attention to the people around you. If there is a first aid need the Check-in Station has a basic first aid kit.

### **Specific to Lake Elkhorn—**

**NO FISHING AREAS-** The dam area by Broken Land Parkway

There are bathrooms at the pavilion near Broken Land Parkway.

Please watch youth on the playground.

Questions or problems should be brought to the Fishing Derby officials. The decisions of the judges are binding and final in all disputes.

**Fishing Derby Officials are Michael Katz and Matthew Katz.**