

# 2024 Holland Steelheaders Spring Challenge

---

## Rules & Information

Tournament Date: May 18, 2024

**Member of Holland Steelheaders:** It is required that you have one member of the Holland steelheaders on board your boat during this event. You can become a member by signing up at [www.hollandsteelheaders.org](http://www.hollandsteelheaders.org).

**Entry Fee:** The entry fee for this tournament is \$150 per boat.

**Entry forms and fees will be accepted online until 7:00 pm on May 17.** You can register online at [www.hollandsteelheaders.org](http://www.hollandsteelheaders.org) or send entry form and check to the address shown below.

**Captain's Meeting:** We will be holding an optional in-person Captain's/Membership meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup>. It will be at the Yacht Club upstairs at the Yacht Basin Marina. Social Hour at 6pm with food and meeting starting at 7pm. Yacht Basin Marina is located at 1866 Ottawa Beach Road.

**Fishing Period:** The tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 6:30am; **there is no run time**. You must stay within a quarter mile of the Holland Pier heads before the start time. Tournament Control will make the announcement that you can start to fish at 6:30am. You must be in line at the weigh-in no later than 1:30pm. The weigh-in will be located near the DNR fish cleaning station, across Ottawa Beach Road from the boat launch.

**Tournament Control/Weather:** Tournament Control will be on **channel 06**. Any tournament information/calls will be announced on this channel. If there are questionable weather conditions, an announcement will be made at 5:45am if the lake is fishable or not. If the tournament is shortened due to weather, 2 hours will constitute a complete tournament. If called early, but still a complete tournament, you will have 1.5 hours from the time the tournament was called to get to the weigh-in line.

If canceled due to weather on May 18, we will try to fish on May 19. If we are not able to fish on either day, entry fees will be refunded by mail or PayPal.

**Mechanical Trouble:** If you experience any type of mechanical trouble before the fishing period begins, contact Tournament Control. We will refund your entry fee if you cannot fish due to mechanical trouble. If during the tournament you experience trouble, contact Tournament Control. They can help you get a tow back to port safely. We ask that you don't ask a friend to help you or we will have to disqualify both boats from the tournament. We will not allow the disabled boat to weigh in because it had assistance returning to port.

**General Rules:** Catch 15, weigh 5 fish.

This tournament is a 9-rod limit. You can weigh a fish outside your biggest 5 trying to go for one of Big Species fish prizes. Species are limited to Salmon and Trout. All DNR rules apply. You must stop fishing after your first 15 legal fish, no sorting allowed. Fish must be released if DNR size limit of 10 inches for salmon, brown trout, and steelhead or 15 inches for lake trout is not met. Captains have the discretion to keep or release a salmon, brown trout, or steelhead measuring between 10 inches and 10 ½ inches; or lake trout measuring between 15 inches and 15 ½ inches, allowing the captain to determine if the fish will still meet DNR minimum size requirements at the official weigh station. Salmon, brown trout, and steelhead over 10 ½ inches and lake trout over 15½ inches must be kept. Once a fish is measured, determination must be made immediately to keep or release the fish. Every effort must be made to keep every fish that is hooked up and advanced towards the boat. Any intentional act such as, but not limited to, shaking off, breaking off, or burning off a fish will result in team disqualification. Foul-hooked fish must be released.

**Scoring:** 10 points per fish weighed in and 1 point per pound.

**Weigh-In:** You must have your 5 fish ready to be weighed at the scale. There will be no sorting at the scale. Excess water must be removed from your cooler before coming to the scale. The weigh-in will be located near the fish cleaning station, across the street from the DNR boat launch. At 1:30 pm the line will be cut off.

**Payouts:** One hundred percent of the entry fees will be paid out in winnings. Payouts are determined by boat participation. We will be paying roughly a third of the boats participating. We also will be paying Big Fish and Big Species awards.

**Disqualifications:** Actions that may lead to disqualifications are as follows: fishing before the 6:30am start time, running gunnel to gunnel with another boat, fishing too many rods, or arriving late to the weigh-in. All final decisions rest with the Holland Steelheaders Board.

**Sportsmanship:** We expect outstanding sportsmanship at all times. This is to be a **FUN** tournament and unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Please respect the ones around you and the grounds that we use.

**Awards:** The awards will be presented immediately following the weigh-in.

Please visit us online at [www.hollandsteelheaders.org](http://www.hollandsteelheaders.org) for more information.

Holland Steelheaders  
12768 Polk street  
Holland, MI 49424

If you have additional questions, please contact Brad Stephenson 330-495-9555 .