

## **Rules governing the Lunge Log and the Members Only Fish Contest:**

**The Lunge Log and the Members Only Fishing Contest** - The Lunge Log is a standardized voluntary reporting system through which members of Muskies, Inc. register Muskies they catch and by doing so may participate in an annual Members Only Fishing Contest (MOFC). Muskies must be 30 inches or longer. The Lunge Log serves as a valuable resource to our members and to fisheries scientists and managers who work with muskies.

All muskies must be caught on legal sports fishing tackle (hook and line) in the United States or Canada in strict compliance with all local, state or provincial laws.

The fish must be hooked and played by only one person and only that person may enter the fish. Assistance in landing the fish is permitted.

Entrant must be a member in good standing of Muskies, Inc. as defined in the Bylaws prior to catching the fish (note exception below for Lunge Log entries which do not qualify for MOFC).

Fish submissions for the MOFC have firm deadlines. Most members choose to enter their own fish via the Website, and must enter them within 30 days of the catch to count toward the MOFC (note rule for end of the year below). As an alternative, entries may be mailed to the chapter contest chairperson and postmarked within 20 days of the date of the catch. The chapter chairperson will enter them on the Muskies, Inc. Website within 30 days of the catch date or mail them to the Lunge Log Administrator postmarked within 30 days of the date of catch. The MOFC entry periods get shorter each day, starting December 12th, as all entries must be received by the Lunge Log Administrator by January 10th of the following year. The annual MOFC ends on December 31st each year.

Muskies entered more than 30 days after the catch will still be included in the Lunge Log and in each member's "My Fish List". Every muskie is an important record in the Lunge Log database.

**Lunge Log Entries by New Members** - Chapters often use fishing events to recruit new members. To encourage joining Muskies, Inc. and the use of the Lunge Log new members are allowed to make entries into the Lunge Log for muskies caught up to 7 days prior to joining M.I. These entries will NOT be included in the MOFC.

**Lunge Log Entries by Previous Members** - If a previous member rejoins Muskies, Inc. after a lapse in membership they are allowed to make entries into the Lunge Log for muskies caught up to 30 days prior to rejoining M.I. These entries will NOT be included in the MOFC.

**Release & Measurement;** Muskies, Inc. encourages members to release any healthy Muskie that is not a true trophy to them. Acknowledgment of the release is available to the member by either a patch, a yearly summary of all catches or individual certifications for each fish (unless the member indicates that he or she does not want the patch or certificate sent). This process of selecting and receiving the awards is coordinated through the Chapter chairperson.

Total length is measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the farthest tip of the tail. Members are encouraged to enter his/her own catches via the "My Lunge Log Entry" screen on the Website. A printable version of the release forms to record the information manually is available on the website. Muskies Inc. has suggested guidelines for the proper holding and

handling of fish that is to be released on the Website. The guidelines are printed periodically in MUSKIE Magazine. Stress on the fish should be kept to the absolute minimum and the fish should be safely returned to the water as soon as possible.

A Muskies, Inc. Members Only Fishing Contest Committee has been established to review all entered fish. It will arbitrate any disputes or questions and their decisions shall be accepted as final. At its discretion the committee may require additional documentation including photographs and/or additional witnesses before any entry is accepted or any awards are finalized.

All entries submitted must have a state or province listed for the body of water and at least a lure type and the name of the Lake or River. No Exceptions. Listing the specific body of water for each Muskie makes the Lunge Log a better research tool for the various departments of natural resources in the United States and Canada. All members are encouraged to list the specific lure name a Muskie was caught on. This allows members of Muskies, Inc. to learn from the successes of fellow members.

**Muskies Inc. Awards:** Annual Awards based on release points will be presented each year. Release Points or length of Muskies which qualified for the MOFC will be presented each year for the leaders in each division and displayed in the MOFC Reports on the Website and in MUSKIE Magazine. Each muskie 30 inches or longer approved for the MOFC will count toward the individual member's point total. Release Points are based on 4 points for each release and 1 point for each inch or fraction of inches over 30 inches.

**Awards based on angler point totals by division:**

- 10 Awards for Men's Masters Division
- 5 Awards for Women's Masters Division
- 10 Awards for Men's Division
- 10 Awards for Women's Division
- 5 Awards for Junior's Fry Division (age 12 or under on January 1st of year of Award)
- 5 Awards for Junior's Fingerling Division (age 13-17 on January 1st of year of Award)
- 6 Awards for Muskie Fly Fishing Division

**Awards based on length of released Muskies:**

At least one witness is required to be eligible for any MOFC award, replica, or other prize based upon length of individual Muskies.

- 1 Award plus replica\* for Men's Longest Release (all male members age 18 or older)
- 1 Award plus replica\* for Junior's Longest Release (all Junior members)
- 1 Award plus replica\* for Women's Longest Release (all female members age 18 or older)
- 1 Award plus replica\* for Longest Release of a Hybrid
- 12 Awards for Lunker of the Month. One per month. Will include duplicate awards for ties within any month.

Availability of replicas is strictly contingent upon advertising partnerships with replica artists. In the event of a tie for Longest Release in any category the value of the replica as per the advertising partnership will be divided equally between the winners and they will receive gift certificates of equal amounts from the replica artist. No adult member may win more than one Longest Release replica during his/her entire membership in Muskies, Inc. No Junior member may win more than one Longest Release replica during his/her years as a Junior member; however, they could win one additional replica during their years as an adult member. In the

event that a previous replica winner has the Longest Release of a subsequent year in their category the replica will go to the member with the next Longest Release.

#### **Division Definitions:**

Men's Masters - any male member of Muskies, Inc. who has a recorded 250 releases or more in the Lunge Log all time. Any male member that reaches 250 all-time releases during a calendar year will be put into the Master's when the records reflect that status.

Women's Masters - any female member of Muskie's, Inc. who has recorded 100 releases or more in the Lunge Log all time. Any female member that reaches 100 all-time releases during a calendar year will be put into the Women's Master's when the records reflect that status.

Men's is any male member of Muskies, Inc. 18 years of age or older who has less than 250 all-time total releases.

Women's is any female member of Muskie's Inc. 18 years of age or older who has less than 100 all-time releases.

Juniors are any male or female member of Muskies Inc. 17 years of age or less on January 1st of a contest calendar year.

#### **Muskies, Inc. Measurement Policy**

Muskie entries approved for the Lunge Log are recorded exactly as they are entered. Individuals are free to follow the stated policy of rounding off to the nearest inch for a typical catch. However, if the Muskie is approaching the size of a potential Luncker of the Month we ask that the exact length be entered.

The significance of getting down to the exact measurement, that being a quarter of an inch for the majority of Muskie captures is a moot point. Please consider the Muskie's well-being for these captures.

During the warm months stress from the catch threatens the survival of the fish. Minimizing the muskie's time out of the water is critical to the welfare of the fish.

The estimation of a Muskie's length without some mechanical measuring device or guessing a Muskie's length while in the water is unacceptable. The measuring of a Muskie still in the water is not an exact science, however, in the interest of preservation of the Muskie, it is encouraged and accepted.

Length Measurement - the most accurate measurement of length for a Muskie is in the boat and laid flat on a proper surface. A proper surface is plastic or vinyl. The carpet in a typical boat is one of the worst surfaces to lay a Muskie on. The best measurement is one where the protective surface also contains the measurement device. The most accurate measurement is when the measurement device is on a flat surface with the Muskie laid on top. Line up the farthest tip of the jaw with zero, then measure to the farthest tip of the tail. Compressing the tail so that the tips come together to determine the longest point of any section of the tail is permitted. This is common practice by nearly all to the Departments of Natural Resources from around the country. This method is used during creel census and law enforcement issues.

The use of a soft tape placed on top of the fish should not be used for the length measurement

as it follows the contour of the Muskies and will give a false increased length measurement.

Girth Measurement - When a very large Muskie has been captured, it is often of interest to the angler and to many members of Muskies, Inc. to determine the girth so that an estimate of weight may be determined. A soft tape or flexible tape can be used for this purpose. It should be one that will easily follow the contour of a Muskie's body to measure the largest distance around the body. Pull the soft tape firm but not to compress the body in any manner.

To measure the girth with integrity, multiple measurements may be needed to locate the true girth. The typical Muskie angler is often so excited that the time to find the longest measurement is not taken.

One often used standard weight formula is: Length multiplied by (?) Girth multiplied by (?) Girth divided by 800. There are a number of individuals and experts who state this formula is short and not accurate for large beefed up fall Muskies. They are correct. As of January 1, 2020, Muskies, Inc. will allow entry of accurate girth measurements into the Lunge Log but will no longer allow entry of weights. No estimated weights will be calculated or published.

The Board will charge for the release patches previously administrated free as follows:

Prices will be:

Century Club Patch: \$ 4.00

Purple bar for Century Club: \$ 1.00

50 Inch Release Patch: \$ 3.00

White stars for Century Club & 50 Inch Release Patch: \$ 1.00

Release Patch: \$ 1.00

Certificates, Annual and Individual: \$ 0.15