



## August Tournament Fishing Guidelines

### Equipment:

Fresh water-fishing pole, tackle box, water bottle and fishing license will be provide for all athletes and Partners at the August Tournament.

If an Athlete and Partner owns their own fresh water-fishing pole, tackle box, water bottle and fishing license they may bring it to August Tournament. It is also **highly recommended** that the athlete and partner bring/wear a hat, rain gear and sunscreen.

### Training:

Before competing in the August Fishing Tournament it is recommended that athletes be training. Athletes should learn how to use their fishing equipment and should be comfortable with all aspects of the sport of fishing.

Before the event:

1. An athlete must be comfortable wearing a life jacket. All competitors (athletes and partners) will be **required** to wear a life jacket when in the boat.
2. An athlete must be comfortable in a boat. If an athlete is planning on fishing from a boat, he/she must train in a motorized boat so they understand what fishing and traveling in a boat is like (**you will be able to fish from land**).
3. The athlete and partner must have a basic knowledge and understanding of boat and water safety.
4. The athlete should be trained in casting a fishing line and in how to reel in a fish. (**Assistance will be provided and offered for athletes who have difficulty in reeling in the fish**)

### Partners and coaches:

A coach may act as the athlete's unified partner and may go in the boat and fish with his/her athlete.

### Licenses:

- 1) Both the athlete and partner will be required to have a Massachusetts State Fishing license in order to train or to fish recreational throughout the year. Licenses are valid for the calendar year and expire on December 31.
- 2) *Licenses are not required at the Quabbin Reservoir during the State Tournament.*
- 3) Licenses may be purchased at your local sporting goods store, Wal Mart, your town/city clerk or online at <http://www.sport.state.ma.us/> (prices vary on age of the license holder)
- 4) Individuals with an Intectual disability can receive a fishing license for free thourgh Massachusetts Fish and Game Department.
- 5) SOMA receives a group fishing license for all its fishing athletes, contact Matt Ruxton [matt.ruxton@specialolympicsma.org](mailto:matt.ruxton@specialolympicsma.org) for a copy

## **Awards and Scoring:**

The athlete or team place will be determined by the following:

1) Awards will be based on a point system. No longer will awards be given out per category.

- Athletes can catch fish in five different categories: Bass, Salmon, Lake Trout, Pan Fish and Rainbow Trout.
- They will be awarded points for the biggest fish (length) an athlete catches in the categories of:

Bass, Salmon, Trout,

And quantity:

Pan Fish

- Point system is as follows and is based off division size:  
Biggest fish: Awarded 10 pts  
Second biggest: Awarded 9 pts  
Third biggest: Awarded 8 pts  
And so forth down to 1 pt.
- In a three person division points awarded will be 10, 9, and 8.
- The athlete who accumulates the most points across the five categories in their division will finish first.

2) An award will be presented to the athlete who catches the biggest fish in each division

3) The athlete who catches the biggest overall fish in the tournament will be presented with a special award the following year.

4) Casting Competition: There will be a casting competition for all interested athletes on Saturday after lunch. Awards will be determined based on length of cast and accuracy of cast. Each athlete will be given three casts.