

2026 BENZIE FISHING FRENZIE

SATELLITE TO THE LUCKY 7 - OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES

Wednesday, August 26, 2026 | Frankfort, Michigan | Entry Fee: \$140 per team

REGISTRATION & CAPTAIN MEETINGS

Tuesday, August 25 - Frankfort Boat Launch

5:30 PM: A short captain's meeting will be held for teams fishing the NWMI Fishing Club event Tuesday night.

Tuesday, August 25 - Mineral Springs Park Pavilion

6:15-7:00 PM: General registration

7:00 PM: Mandatory captain's meeting

Each team must have a representative at the 7:00 PM meeting unless prior arrangements have been made with the Tournament Director or the team attended the 5:30 PM meeting at the boat launch.

ENTRY FEE

\$140 per team, including captain and all crew.

A 4% processing fee applies to credit card entries. Checks should be payable to **Benzie Fishing Frenzie**.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Fishing time: 6:30 AM-1:00 PM

All boats must remain within one-half mile of the Frankfort/Elberta pierheads before 6:30 AM.

The official **"GO FISH"** call will be made at 6:30 AM on VHF Channel 10.

All coolers must be in line for weigh-in no later than 1:00 PM.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

This is **not** a radio-silence tournament. VHF Channel 10 will be used for all official tournament communication.

PORT, DEPARTURE & INSPECTION RULES

Boats may depart from any marina or launch located on Betsie Bay.

No boat may leave its dock or launch before **5:45 AM**.

Boats and coolers may be inspected on tournament morning. If your boat has not been checked by 5:45 AM, you are permitted to leave the dock.

CAPTAIN & CREW REQUIREMENTS

- There is no maximum crew size.
- A maximum of nine rods may be used.
- Using nine rods requires at least three properly licensed anglers aboard.
- Every angler must carry a valid Michigan fishing license.
- Teams must have at least three licensed anglers aboard to weigh five lake trout.

OBSERVERS

Observers are not normally required but may be assigned to any team at the Tournament Director's discretion.

FISHING RULES

Maximum lines: Nine lines may be in the water at one time. A fish that is hooked and being fought is considered a line in the water.

Baits and sliders: A maximum of two baits may be used on each line. Sliders must be less than 72 inches in length.

Fishing method: Fishing must take place from a moving boat. Shore fishing and gaffing are prohibited.

Boat contact: Physical contact with another boat or with shore is prohibited unless approved in advance by the Tournament Director.

BOAT REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum boat length is 18 feet according to state registration.
- A working marine radio is required.
- Boats must return under their own power. A boat that does not return under its own power will be disqualified.

FISHING LAWS & CATCH LIMITS

All Michigan Department of Natural Resources laws and regulations apply.

All anglers are responsible for current licensing, possession and minimum-size requirements.

Tournament catch: A maximum of five fish may be weighed in any combination of legal species.

Teams must have at least three licensed anglers aboard to weigh five lake trout.

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SCORING SYSTEM

10 points per legal fish + 1 point per pound of total fish weight.

Ties: Ties will first be broken by the weight of each team's largest fish. If still tied, the applicable prize will be divided equally.

WEIGH-IN PROCEDURE

Weigh-in begins at approximately **12:00 PM** on Wednesday at Mineral Springs Park Pavilion.

Coolers containing no more than five fish must be in line by **1:00 PM**.

Each team is responsible for transporting its own cooler to the weigh-in area.

WEIGH-IN PENALTIES

Extra fish: Presenting one fish over the five-fish limit results in removal of the extra fish and one additional fish from the team's catch.

Loose ice or water: Loose ice or water inside the cooler results in a five-point penalty.

Foreign substances: Ice or any other foreign substance placed in a fish's mouth, body cavity or elsewhere for the purpose of adding weight results in disqualification.

WEATHER POLICY

This is a **"Fish at Your Own Risk"** tournament. There will be no tournament weather calls.

Each captain is solely responsible for determining whether conditions are safe for their boat and crew.

PROTESTS

All protests must be submitted in writing with a **\$50 deposit** within five minutes after the final fish leaves the scale.

All Tournament Director decisions are final.

PRIZES

Top-finishing boats will receive free entry into the **2026 Benzie Fishing Frenzie Lucky 7 "Big Boys"**, held Thursday, August 27, 2026.

First place is guaranteed one free entry regardless of the number of boats entered. For every five boats entered after the first five, one additional free entry will be added.

Boats Entered	Free Entries Awarded
1-9	1
10-14	2
15-19	3
20-24	4

- Free entries have no cash value.
- Free entries are non-transferable.
- Free entries may only be used for the 2026 Lucky 7 "Big Boys" tournament.

COMMUNITY CONDUCT

We are guests in the City of Frankfort. Participants must treat the community, its residents, businesses, facilities and marina staff with respect.

Any action by a captain, crew member or team representative that reflects negatively on the Benzie Fishing Frenzie may result in team disqualification.

QUESTIONS

Steve Joslin, Tournament Director
(231) 633-6775

On behalf of the Tournament Director, committee and our sponsors - thank you, stay safe and have fun!