

2026 BENZIE FISHING FRENZIE

PRO/AM - OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES

Saturday & Sunday, August 29-30, 2026 | Frankfort, Michigan | Pro: \$550 | AM: \$300

REGISTRATION & CAPTAIN MEETING

Friday, August 28 - Mineral Springs Park Pavilion

5:00 PM: Registration opens.

7:00 PM: Mandatory captain's meeting.

Every team must have a representative in attendance at the captain's meeting.

ENTRY FEES

Pro Division: \$550 per team

AM Division: \$300 per team

Entry fees include the 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 each day: 6:30 AM-1:30 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.

Boats must be completely inside the Frankfort/Elberta pierheads by **1:30:00 PM sharp**. Late boats will be disqualified.

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.

Teams must declare their launch location at the captain's meeting.

Boats and coolers may be inspected on either tournament day.

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.

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.

TOURNAMENT FLAG

The tournament-provided flag must be clearly visible on the **port side** of the boat during tournament hours.

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.

Pro Division: Two-angler legal limit of salmon and trout species, with no more than four lake trout.

AM Division: One-angler legal limit of salmon and trout species, with no more than two 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.

Big Fish prizes: Ties for Big Fish prizes will be broken by overall finishing order.

WEIGH-IN PROCEDURE

Weigh-in begins at approximately **1:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday** at Mineral Springs Park Pavilion.

Coolers containing **tournament catch only** must be in line by **2:30 PM**.

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

WEIGH-IN PENALTIES

Extra fish: Presenting fish over the applicable division 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

A weather committee consisting of three captains with varied boat sizes and types will advise the Tournament Director.

At least three hours of fishing between 6:30 AM and 1:30 PM are required for a tournament day to be considered valid.

If fishing is stopped because of weather, an official radio call will announce the end of the tournament.

After a weather stoppage, all boats must return to port and all coolers must be in the weigh-in line within **1.5 hours**.

CANCELLATION POLICY

If the tournament is canceled, a portion of the entry fee will be retained to cover tournament expenses.

PRO TEAMS DEFINED

A team is required to compete in the Pro Division if any of the following apply:

- The boat is a licensed charter boat.
- Any crew member is currently a licensed charter captain or was a licensed charter captain during the previous two years.
- Any crew member is an official representative of a major sportfishing brand.

Teams are responsible for knowing their Pro/AM status. Questions must be directed to the Tournament Director before registration. The Tournament Director has final authority over all Pro/AM classifications.

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.

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!