

39th Annual Cats Incredible Catfish Tournament – July 24 & 25th 2026

Ten Fish Limit – 5 Each Day / Fishing Hours are Friday – 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
and Saturday – 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

1. Eligibility: Limited to 125 two-person teams. Must fish from boats. Registration is open until the tournament is filled. Registration forms may be dropped off at the East Grand Forks Fire Department (please use the locked drop box) or by mail. The top 10 teams from the 2025 tournament are guaranteed a spot if the teams are identical until June 1st 2026. On the day the registrations exceed 125, those received or postmarked THAT day will be put into a lottery drawing to fill the tournament. The remaining registrations will be placed on the waiting list. Each contestant must sign an entry/release form. Applications must be complete when registering or they will be rejected. Tournament officials reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone.

2. Entry Fees: Entry fee is \$300/team. Cash, personal checks, money orders or visa/mastercard are accepted for entry fees. All forms of payment will be deposited on the day the entry form is processed and confirmation of entry is sent to entrants. Entries are non-refundable and may not be resold. All entries are accepted until the tournament is filled. Cash, visa/mastercard or money orders only after July 11. No team changes will be accepted after 7 pm on July 23, 2026. The committee may make exceptions and refund the entry fee if a replacement team is located and participates in the tournament. (Rule 19 may apply)

3. Replacements: Only one team member can be replaced. One member of the original team must fish. The replacement cannot be or have been on a team that has an assigned team number for 2026. The replacement can be on the waiting list. Team changes must be made in writing to include signature of both team members. Changes in the teams may be made until 8 a.m. on July 24, 2026.

4. Promoters: Tournament officials, sponsors and organizations assisting in the tournament operation, their agencies, agents, etc. are not responsible for deaths, injuries, damages, liability, theft, fire or any loss of any kind to entrants. By signing the entry form, you release all promoters, as defined, of any liability.

5. Orientation Meeting: No orientation meeting. Any necessary/pertinent rule or tournament information will be posted at the tournament check at Lafave Boat ramp.

6. State & Local Ordinances: All state and/or local ordinances will be enforced. A valid ND or MN fishing license is required by each team member. Violations will result in disqualification. Tournament Rule: Only 1 single hook. No treble hooks, stinger hooks or smelt hooks, etc. Absolutely NO fishing is allowed unless both

team members are in the boat. Violations of this rule will result in immediate disqualification.

7. Boundaries: Only on the Red River. From the Riverside Dam to the Buxton Bridge

8. Fishing Hours: Contestants can fish on the Red River only during tournament hours. Pre-fishing is allowed until 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 23rd 2026.

Tournament hours are Friday, 9a.m. - 6p.m. and Saturday 7a.m. - 4p.m. Delays due to weather are at the discretion of the tournament directors.

9. Boat/Participant Check-in: All Boats must be checked in before launching from LaFave Park and Frog Point Boat Launch.

10. Tournament Start: Boats will be permitted to fishing spots upon completion of boat check-in. No fishing lines allowed in the water before official tournament start time. Persons caught with lines in the water prior to tournament start time will be disqualified for that day of fishing. Wake rule is in effect (Rule 17).

11. Limits: Tournament limit is 10 fish per team. Only 5 fish may be weighed on each day. Persons caught fishing after their 5th fish kept will be immediately disqualified. All fish must be at least 12 inches in length. If a fish is less than 12 inches, it counts toward the daily limit but will not be weighed. Only 2 fish per day may be OVER 24 inches in length. In the event that more than 2 fish are weighed over 24 inches, the largest fish will be disqualified but will count towards your daily limit. Fish between 12 inches and exactly 24 inches are considered slot fish.

12. Catch & Release: Fish must be carried to the weigh station in coolers with water proportionate to the size of the fish. NO STRINGERS! Each team is encouraged to use 60-qt. tote to help with safety of fish. It is unlawful to release any fish that has been on a stringer or stored in a basket. Those fish are the responsibility of the contestants and will count toward the daily limit with no weight. All fish kept in live wells will be released into the river, if healthy. Weigh in often.

13. Weigh-In: Weigh-in is at the official weigh station at LaFave Park. Boats must be between the Minnesota Ave (Point) Bridge and the Sorlie (Demers Ave) Bridge by 6:00p.m. on Friday and 4:00p.m. on Saturday (wake rule is in effect). Fishermen must have their fish inside the corral by 6:30p.m. on Friday and 4:30p.m. on Saturday or assigned weigh in time at the ramp. Each team must only transport their own fish/coolers. No fish will be counted after the deadlines. Fishermen are responsible for the accuracy of the final weigh slips and that one copy remains at the weigh station.

14. Scoring: Dead fish, as determined by the officials, will count toward your daily limit but will not be weighed. Any altered fish will result in disqualification. All officials' decisions are final.

15. Prizes: Based on the total weight (pounds & ounces) for both days. If less than 125 teams are entered, prizes will be reduced proportionally. Based on 125 teams, prizes will be awarded as listed on the front of this application.

16. Ties: Ties are decided first by the heaviest fish caught and then by the weigh-in times. Heaviest fish competition ties will be decided by weigh-in times.

17. Identification: Team ID must be worn & visible at all times. Each team MUST return their tournament ID when done fishing for the day. Team number must be affixed to boat and visible. Only 1 team per boat. 1 passenger is allowed in the boat, teams may only use 4 lines per boat.

18. Protests: The tournament committee or any contestant can protest any team, contestant, tournament official or decision. The protest must be filed in writing with a tournament official within 1 hour after the weigh station closes. The tournament committee appoints a 3-person protest committee to hear both sides of any protest. A polygraph may be utilized if decided by the protest committee. The decision of the protest committee is final in all cases.

19. Sportsmanship: Competitors are expected to follow the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Disorderly conduct and drunkenness will not be tolerated. A no wake rule when passing boats is in effect prior to 5:30p.m. on Friday and 3:30p.m. on Saturday. No wake between the Minnesota Ave (Point) Bridge and the Sorlie (DeMers Ave) Bridge at all times. When there is shore fishing, the no wake rule is in effect at all times. The no wake rules will be strictly enforced and violators may be disqualified. Be courteous and leave adequate space between your boat and a competitor's boat when anchoring as well. On water tournament and public safety officials have priority at ramps. Any infraction of these fundamentals may be cause for disqualification.

20. Patrols: Officials are at many locations, observing teams. Any sign of cheating may result in disqualification.

21. If Stranded tournament boat is towed in by officials within 2 hours of the tournament end time the fish in the boat may not be weighed.

22. Rules may be changed at the discretion of the Tournament Rules Committee. The rules committee consists of 3 tournament officials who are not fishing. Violations of any rules may result in disqualification from the tournament. Rules adopted on Dec 1, 2024 by the Cats Incredible Tournament Committee.

***In the event of a major Fire Department Emergency the tournament will be turned over to a predetermined committee who will handle management of the tournament. If such event should occur tournament results may be delayed.**

Release

Upon completion of the tournament, One (1) member of a team in the top 5, drawn at random must submit to and pass a POLYGRAPH TEST and/or any other test deemed necessary to determine

compliance with tournament rules. The team member submitting to the examination **MUST NOT** be under the influence of any intoxicants. If, in the opinion of the polygraph examiner, an examination cannot be completed due to an avoidable physiological condition, such as intoxication, the winning prize will be withheld until such time that an examination may be completed. Only one member of the team will be tested. In the opinion of the examiner, the person tested does not exhibit deception, the prize earned by the team will be awarded. If, in the opinion of the examiner, the person tested exhibits deception, the team will be disqualified and neither member of the team will be awarded a prize. The opinion of the polygraph examiner will be final. Contestants agree to release the individual polygraph examiner and any polygraph company contracted to provide testing services for this tournament, IAFF Local 3423, and its sponsors of these events, from any liability arising from the administration of the polygraph examination and/or the decision of the polygraph examiner. Contestants also agree that any mention of names or use of photographic likenesses may be used by the IAFF LOCAL 3423 and their sponsors for promotional purposes.

All decisions regarding compliance with these rules and the interpretation of these rules will be made by the tournament director and IAFF LOCAL 3423 which reserves the right to make additional reasonable rules for the conduct of their tournaments if circumstances require.

Code of Ethics

Media coverage and attention will be focused on our events, especially at the weigh-in sites. Please present yourself in such a way as we can all be proud. Dress accordingly at the weigh-ins and be at the top of your behavior. The better image we project to our sponsors and America's youth, the more highlight the sport of catfishing will receive as a whole.